

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

September 2003 Volume 2003-04. No. 10; published 12 months each year. Richard & Marnie Francisco, Editors

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 PM

Sunday Forums: 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month: 12 – 1 PM

September 7, 2003:

**“Together in Gladness”
Intergenerational Water
Communion led by
Minister Erika Hewitt**



This Sunday marks UUFLG’s first water communion to mark our your summer travels and prepare to celebrate being together!

celebration of a longstanding Unitarian Universalist ritual: a homecoming and the start of a new year. Bring water from

September 14, 2003: “Pieces of Truth”

by Mark Evens

Unitarian Universalism and Islam may seem worlds apart today, but beyond the myths we may have absorbed from our culture, there is much we have in common. And there is much we could accomplish together, working both institutionally and within our own hearts. Stops on this trip will include the Middle East, Spain, Transylvania, and Berkeley, California. Mark is a fourth-year student at Starr King School for the Ministry who is studying for ordination as a UU minister.

September 14 FORUM (12 – 1 PM): “Mental Health Services for Children and Adults”

Jerry Doyle, longtime Fellowship member, President and CEO of Eastfield Ming Quong, will enlighten us about the "wrap-around" program that the agency operates and the current situation in Santa Clara County and the state.

September 21, 2003: “Holy Vocabulary!”

by Erika Hewitt, Minister

Some Unitarian Universalists have an aversion to “churchy” language, and would prefer that our congregations...er, *movement*... be secular. What do we lose when we expunge our liberal religious institutions of their “holy vocabulary,” and how can we make peace with language and concepts that have wounded us in the past?

September 28, 2003: “The Seventh Principle”

by Robyn Herr

Robyn will speak on our “Seventh Principle” as a call to community and justice. The seventh of our Principles and Purposes is often used to encourage us to look at our environment. What does this principle also tell us about how we can live in respectful community? Robyn, a third year student at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley will enlighten us on that and many other facets of our “Seventh Principle.” Robyn is from Ohio and has worked extensively with youth in the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA. She plans to enter parish ministry.

September 28 FORUM (12 – 1 PM): “The Global Sociological Effects of the Internet”

Kelly Carey, who is an Internet/Web Programming instructor at West Valley Community College, will discuss the content of her book-in-progress as well as her experiences in teaching internationally. Dr. Carey holds degrees from USF in Organizational Behavior. Our teens are especially encouraged to attend this forum



Minister's Corner by Erika Hewitt

One of the ways that congregations grow is by honoring beloved traditions while making room for new ones. I've relished your joy in longstanding traditions such as the spring Auction, Flower Communion, and the Monte Toyon retreat, but I've also been touched to see you readily adopt new traditions like Water Communion. Next month, we'll introduce yet another ceremony to the calendar: an intergenerational Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 5, 2003.

As the proud mom of 2 cats, I know how much our animal companions enrich our lives. However, we've made the difficult decision to request that dog owners bring their canine pals in *virtual form only*: a photo, stuffed animal, or collar. (If you're reluctant to bring other pets, you're free to do the same.)

Why exclude dogs? Because our congregation has covenanted "to create a compassionate and welcoming intergenerational community," which means *putting our children's emotional and physical safety first*. There are little ones in our congregation who are frightened by dogs, and it's our responsibility to ensure that those children (as well as the kitties, hamsters, and other critters that will come to church that day) feel safe and happy during the service. Of course service or working dogs are exempt from this rule and are always welcomed, because as noted, our goal is not exclusion, but to establish and create safety.

"Safety" can refer to physical protection, but in its broader "church" sense it refers to a haven where people can be free emotionally and spiritually to find their gifts and needs. Both interpretations are essential in religious community, far beyond our Blessing of the Animals service. This year, your leadership at UULFG will begin looking more closely at the ways that we create and maintain safe space in our Fellowship.

Throughout the Fall, a specially appointed Safe Congregation Task Force will examine safety in all of its forms at the Fellowship; listen to your thoughts and needs; and present their findings to the congregation. We're grateful to the members of the Task Force – **Tim Connelly, Kathy Doughty, Julie Doyle, Sharon Graham, and Bob Shebesta** – for taking on this work that is both important and sacred, as it takes us one step closer to creating a congregation where people find health and wholeness.



Welcome back to a new year and welcome home to our church family!
Shine on,
Erika

Beginning on September 11, 2003, Erika will shift her office hours from Wednesdays to Thursdays. You'll be able to stop by between 4 and 5:30 PM on any Thursday. Erika is also available throughout Thursday afternoons and evenings for home visits. Please call Erika at 623-4484, or email her at Erika@UUminister.com, if you'd like to schedule a visit.

Please also note that Minister Erika Hewitt will be at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the PCD UU Ministers Association, and at a ministers' retreat, from September 29 - October 1, 2003. Therefore she will be unable to hold office hours on Thursday, October 2, 2003.

All items for the newsletter are to be submitted to the editor by the **20th of the month at: rachylcisco@aol.com**. Please submit articles as email or email attachments (**single spaced MS Word Documents**). We graciously ask that contributors and readers of this newsletter understand that the purpose of this newsletter is to foster communication and planning among friends and members. Due to size constraints, we regretfully must edit some articles and because they would violate the spirit and purpose of the newsletter, we do not print opinion pieces.

President's Corner by Susan Parks



Hi all: We have made it through the hot I was in Tucson Arizona for a whopping enjoying your summer days. By the time you read this the annual retreat held at Monte Toyon will be a thing of the past, but we will fast be coming up on an exciting new year of services and fellowship. I also hope, as well, that you made it to our annual pancake breakfast; but if not, we will have many times throughout the year that we make our connections with one another.

days of summer. And I do mean HOT! In early August 110 degrees! I do hope that all of you have been

From our August meeting, we are now very near to approving the **“Disruptive Behavior”** policy. We are also very close to a **Board Covenant**. You can also expect the **Fellowship Covenant**; first crafted last year at the “Fall Startup Weekend” and refined by an ad hoc committee, to be posted shortly. Look for an update in the Order of Service. And we have set the Fall Business Meeting for October 26, 2003.

In the coming year, there will be many opportunities for us to connect, this I know. And I do hope you make the time. Perhaps you have questions or suggestions for the Board? If so, then please don't be shy. Come join us in the lounge for our monthly Board meetings. The next meeting will be at 7 PM, September 11, 2003, at the Fellowship. ou are also welcomes to join us at 6:45 PM for snacks and socializing. We'll see you there.

Until we meet . . . and I can be reached at (408)261-2956 or email: sparks_uuflg@earthlink.net



Fall Life Stories Class Has Openings

Sheila Dunec's Life Stories classes begin Monday, September 15, 2003. There will be both morning and afternoon classes and they will be held weekly in our West Room. The morning class is 10 AM to Noon and the afternoon class runs from 1 to 3 PM. The afternoon class currently has openings and there are possible openings in the morning class.

Ms. Dunec has been providing classes to our Fellowship for several years. She also teaches at Foothill College as well as other locations on the Peninsula. Sheila says she was inspired to create the evolving curriculum because she believes each person has unique and valuable stories to share with their primary and extended family. To find out more about the class, please telephone: (650) 324-9937.



Adult RE series coming in October: “Articulating Your UU Faith”

How's your “elevator speech”? Talking about Unitarian our personal spiritual beliefs can be difficult. Where do you start?

In October and November, Minister Erika Hewitt will lead a 5-part designed for UU's who are committed to spreading our life-affirming “good news,” as well as those seeking greater articulation of their personal faith. This series will be held on 5 consecutive Thursday nights from October 23 through November 20, 2003. The time is 6:30 - 8:00 PM and childcare will be available if a request is made by October 10, 2003.



Universalism and

Adult RE series

Please sign up for this series in advance with Erika by calling (408/623.4484) or emailing her: Erika@UUminister.com Questions are also welcome.

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



Hello and happy September! School is back in session and by the our fall/winter religious education program will be in full swing. This acquainted with the programs we offer our children and youth at the explain some terms we banter around and assume everyone Chapel,” “RECCY,” etc. In future months, I plan to write more about bringing Unitarian Universalism ideas to the next generation. The is comprised of three basic groups – the *PRESCHOOL*, the *GRADES GROUP*. The *PRESCHOOL* and the *GRADES CLASS* meet on the adult service. The *YOUTH GROUP* usually meets on Sunday evenings.

PRESCHOOL. The preschool provides childcare for our youngest UUs, who range in age from infants to four year olds. The class is designed to serve children who are not yet interested in being a part of the adult worship. The children usually join their teachers before worship begins and their time together is spent in play, stories, and seasonal crafts. The class is also available for “restless” children of all ages during our monthly intergenerational services.

GRADES CLASS. Our grades class serves children from kindergarten through eighth grade. I know that is a huge age spread, however we are a small fellowship and the children benefit from the joys and challenges of being in a group that is like a large family. On a given Sunday morning we may have children of ages 5 to 11, but generally 6 children total. To accommodate the variance in ages and number of children, we have a monthly rotating schedule. So as every Sunday is a little different, be sure to check your order of service if you have any questions about where your child is to go on a given week. The rotation is “roughly” as follows:

Every month we have an intergenerational service, where the children and the adults are together for the entire service. On the Sunday prior to the intergenerational service, the children are with two of their teachers doing activities that relate to the upcoming service’s theme. For example, in October the intergenerational service is the “Blessing of the Animals.” On the Sunday prior to the service we will teach the children about the origins of this tradition. We may talk about our pets and make pictures of our animals to bring to that Sunday service. The preparation work helps the children understand and feel connected to the intergenerational service’s theme.

On two Sundays each month we learn a story; either a Bible story or one of another world religion. In September we will work with the story of Noah’s ark. The children will explore the story first as a large, mixed age group and then the following week in smaller more age appropriate groups. That gives the older children an opportunity to explore the more complicated moral and spiritual questions the stories provoke.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, the children spend their time in “Children’s Chapel,” which is a worship service/celebration just for our children. “Children’s Chapel” is also when we recognize birthdays and other events of note in our community.

Youth Group. The youth group (“yoUUth”) serves our community’s high school age children. We generally meet on Sunday evenings. And we again follow a rotation. For one Sunday, we work to create a monthly community service event in which our group participates. In September we will prepare and serve a meal for a San Jose group called “Sunday Friends.” At our other evening meetings we will explore the Unitarian principles and how to apply them to daily life. But basically, we provide a comfortable environment for our young adults to explore ideas that are important to them.

RECCY. RECCY is the *Religious Education Committee for Children and Youth*. It is the group that makes it all happen. Our meetings are always the first Sunday of the month at 9AM. We welcome everyone to be a part of our committee and to share their gifts with our children. Additionally this program would not exist without the dedication of our volunteer teachers. Be sure to give these people a pat on the back when you see them at the Fellowship. Teachers for the Fall/Winter term are, Preschool: **Nan Bixler**; Grades: **Doug Doughty, Hollie Dunham, Chris Dunham, Karen Leary, and Mary Terra. Jim Bebe, Brandon Connelly, Joe Rafferty, and Kristin Pearson** will coordinate our “YoUUth” group. And **Phyllis Reid** will provide music instruction.

So here’s to a wonderful year! Namaste

time you receive this newsletter month I’d like to get you fellowship, and also understands: “Children’s the “nuts and bolts” of religious education program *CLASS* and the *YOUTH* Sunday mornings during


UUFLG Calendar for September 2003

- September 3: 6 -7:30 PM: Forum Committee meets in the East Room to plan fall Forums.
Contact: **Nan Bixler**, (408) 356-5697.
4-5:30 PM: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt**
- September 4: 12-1 PM: RUMs Noon brown bag lunch for men with flexible time.
Contact: **Bob Bixler**, (408) 356-5697.
- September 7: RECCY Meeting, 9AM at the Fellowship
Sunday Service Program (10:30 – 11:30): "Together in Gladness" an Intergenerational Water Communion Service led by **Minister Erika Hewitt**
10:30 AM -- Preschool/childcare
5:30 PM: YoUUth group meets at the Fellowship
- September 11: 4-5:30 PM: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt**
- September 14: Sunday Service Program (10:30 – 11:30): "Pieces of Truth" with **Mark Evens**
10:30AM -- Preschool/childcare
Mixed grades – Noah's Ark will be studied
YoUUth group community service project – Please call the DRE for time & details
12 - 1 PM Forum: "Mental Health Services for Children and Adults" with Jerry Doyle
- September 18: 4-5:30 PM: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt**
- September 20: **Newsletter Deadline – all material due**
- September 21: Sunday Service Program (10:30 – 11:30): "Holy Vocabulary" led by **Minister Erika Hewitt**
10:30 AM -- Preschool/childcare
Split Grades – The study of the story of Noah's Ark continues
5:30 PM – YoUUth group meets at the fellowship
- September 25: 4-5:30 PM: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt**
- September 28: Sunday Service Program (10:30 – 11:30): " The Seventh Principle" with Robyn Herr
10:30 AM—Preschool/childcare
Children's Chapel – Fall Equinox
Mixed Grades – Prepare for Blessing of the Animals
YoUUth group – Social event TBA
12 - 1 PM Forum: "The Global Sociological Effects of the Internet" with Kelly Carey



UUFLG Bulletin Board for September 2003

The first PCD Women & Religion meeting of the fall season will take place with a potluck lunch at the Los Gatos Fellowship on September 20, 2003. The theme for the meeting is "**Many Wonderful Ways to Be a Woman**" and the program will provide a potpourri of experiences and readings to share with one another. You are encouraged to share personal stories about ways of being strong as a woman. We'll also hear an update on what happened at the GA regarding W&R. The meeting starts at 10:30 AM with a short business meeting followed by a potluck lunch and our program. Call Ann Campbell at 374-8844 for more information.

Music News:  The adult choir will begin rehearsals on September 7 and 21, 2003, at 9:00 AM in the auditorium. Anyone interested in joining can telephone Ruth Webb: (408) 356-1735. Or just come to the rehearsals.

DAYTIME WOMEN'S GROUP: The Daytime Women's Group of the Fellowship will resume meetings on September 11, 2003, at 10:30 AM. The group is open to all women of the Fellowship. Please telephone **Lou Yabroff**, (408) 356-1921 for information.

September

2003

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6

Forum
Committee
(6-7:30 PM)

RUMS 12-
1:30 PM

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

“Together in
Gladness”
RECCY -
9AM

Office
Hours (4-
5:30 PM)

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

“Pieces of
Truth”
Forum Topic:
Mental
Health
Services

Office
Hours (4-
5:30 PM)

**Newsletter
Deadline**

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

“Holy
Vocabulary”

Office
Hours (4-
5:30 PM)

28 29 30

“The
Seventh
Principle”
Forum Topic:
Socio-effect
of the
Internet