

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

April 2005 No.4; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, April 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

No Sunday Forums this month

April 3: “The Meaning of Life” Guest speaker William Elliott is the author of the best-selling book “Tying Rocks to Clouds”. He has been traveling the world for 15 years in search of the meaning of life. His quest has brought him face to face with Mother Teresa, Marianne Williamson, the Dalai Lama, Deepak Chopra, Billy Graham, B.F. Skinner, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Steven Levine, Norman Vincent Peale, and many others. His presentation has received rave reviews from churches, hospices, and universities all over the country. His latest book, “A Place at the Table” was named “Best Spiritual Book” of 2003 by Spirituality and Health magazine. Katie Rall is lay leader.

April 10: “Baseball Theology: A Primer,” a sermon by the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers.

Herbert Hoover once said: “After religion, that which has furnished the greatest impact on American life than any other institution, is baseball.” The Frenchman, Jacques Barzun, offered this insight into people’s passion for the game: “Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.”

Now, if you are NOT a fan of baseball, this may all sound like hyperbole. However, we invite both skeptic and true believer alike to join us in this light-hearted service that looks at the deep and abiding lessons to be gleaned from the “great American pastime.” Bill Scarvie is lay leader.

April 17: “Cultivating Hope: Animating the Authentic Life.” An exploration into how our own aliveness and authenticity can be an access for the cultivation and continued nurturing of hope--individually, communally, and globally. Guest speaker C.J. Hast is a Sufi Muslim and third-year seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. She is particularly interested in furthering humanity’s rediscovery of Union through authentic interpersonal relationships and honoring of diversity. Julie Doyle is lay worship associate.

April 24: “A Theology of Doubt” The Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, preaching.

“*Cherish your doubts, for doubt is the attendant of truth.*”--Robert T. Weston. Some people never reach the stage of doubt in religious development, some seem to be born with it. The tendency to doubt *religiously*, despite its unconventional nature, is a legitimate and important stage of faith development. It comes when the mind is well-enough developed to ask questions of faith, to live with those questions, and to grow into their answers. Today we will explore and honor Doubt as “an attendant of truth” and the servant of discovery, maturation, *and --faith*. This is the first of a two-part series on modern theology. Bill Scarvie is lay leader.

May 1: “Talking About G_D in the 21st Century,” a sermon by the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers.

From whence comes our ideas about the Holy One? Most people talk about God as if they know very well what they are talking about (and you had better darned well agree with them, too!) but much talk about God is meaningless noise. In truth, the word G-O-D is perhaps the biggest word we know, capable of virtually infinite interpretation (!) Yet it is so frequently spoken and heard in the narrowest of terms by “true believers” and skeptics, alike! How do our ideas about God/Goddess/the Holy One (and our ability to express them to others) effect our own identity, our perceptions of the world, and our ability to cope with the reality of pluralism and change? The second in a two-part series on modern theology. Lynn O’Keefe is lay leader.

Membership Committee News:

The Membership Committee has scheduled, on Friday, April 15, 2005, a GAME NIGHT and Popcorn Feast. This social event will start at 7:00 PM. This is a night for families to bring the games that they most enjoy sharing. There are rumors that another novice (no real money!) game of Texas Hold 'Em will take place. If you want to learn the rules and such of this popular card game, and don't want to bet the ranch, you will be welcome to join in. Stetson's and chaps are optional.

The next Fellowship Friday Film Festival will take place on Friday, May 20th starting at 7:00 PM with wine and fellowship followed by a film (to be decided) about 7:30 PM.

Volunteer of the Month – March 2005:

The Membership Committee has selected **Glen Marchant** as volunteer of the month for March 2005. Glen has been a member since May 5, 2002 and his children Dean and Anna participate in our children's program. . Glen edits this newsletter and in the opinion of the Membership Committee, and everyone else, does a great job in getting it published on time every month. Next time you see him make sure that you say "Thanks, Glen".

The Membership Committee will select a volunteer each month for special recognition. If you have a suggestion for our consideration please contact Jim Beebe, Harry Campbell, Ann Katherine Walton or Lou Yabroff.

Membership Committee Meeting Notice:

The Membership Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2005 at the Fellowship starting at 3:00 PM. All members are invited to attend.

Nominating Committee Announcement:

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that it has completed its deliberations and selection process with respect to the upcoming election at our Fellowship's Spring Business Meeting. The following are the committee's nominees:

Board of Trustees

President Walt Main

Vice President Harry Campbell

Trustee #1- Admin & Building Irving Yabroff

Trustee #2 – Sunday Programs Lynn O'Keefe

Trustee #3 – Social Justice Pam Rhodes*

Note: the other board members continue to serve until June 30, 2006

Endowment Committee

Trustee Ann Campbell*

Trustee Cal Clauer*

Trustee Lida Kluzek*

* Will serve a one year term ending on June 30, 2006. Others will serve a two year term ending on June 30, 2007

Each of the volunteers above has agreed to serve in their respective positions as described in our bylaws.

If you feel that you would like to run for one of these positions you may either place your name on the ballot by contacting a member of the Nominating Committee and asking to have your name added to the list for a specific open position, or you may be nominated from the floor at the Spring Business Meeting scheduled for May 15th.

Harry Campbell, Chairperson

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATE

Our three Small Group Ministry groups continue to thrive. Two new members, Edy Young and Gracia Trevey, have joined the Tuesday morning group.

Each group undertakes service projects as part of their individual group's covenant. As a current service project, the Tuesday morning group is watering and caring for the indoor plants at the Fellowship. The Wednesday evening group recently hosted Jim Scott's concert, a fund-raiser for the Fellowship and a fun time for all, and the Sunday afternoon group is collecting food for St. Luke's Pantry as well as socks and underwear which St. Luke's will distribute to those in need.

Our Small Group Ministry groups provide ways to improve our Fellowship and surrounding community while deepening friendships between the members in each small group.

If you have an interest in joining one of our Small Group Ministry groups, please contact a member of the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee: Coralee Linton, Susan Parks, Katie Rall or Bill Scarvie.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Social Justice Committee held a Soup Supper Jan. 28 organized by Edy Young, and supper featured three kinds of soup, salad, and desert. For the program, Pam Rhodes English presented information about environmental problems facing the SF Bay and solutions to these problems, including current pending legislation and the ways we can personally help. Phyllis Reid's husband, Bob, who is a water expert with the West Valley Sanitation District, was there to answer questions afterwards. There was also a petition to sign urging the Navy's clean-up of the wetlands at Moffett Field.

The attendees enjoyed the camaraderie of the Soup Supper and becoming informed. Many became new or renewing members of Save The Bay. If there is enough interest, Social Justice will sponsor a "Bird Walk" for children at the south bay wetlands led by an Audobon-trained volunteer teacher. (See announcements) If there are not enough children who want to attend, we may see about arranging a Bird Walk for all ages.

If you have a social justice issue that you would like to present, please notify the Social Justice Committee regarding the topic and your presentation. Call Edy Young at 268-5018 or Pam Rhodes English at 266-5942.

The Sox for Tots drive collected socks and contributions so that 50 homeless children at the San Jose Family Shelter received three pairs of socks, each. These children range in age from newly born to age 12. That means that we contributed 150 pairs of socks in a range of appropriate sizes. This is a contribution of about \$300.00 in value. The children of the Fellowship bagged each pack of three socks so they could be distributed as Easter Gifts. This activity was sponsored by The Children's Religious Education classes, The Thursday Women's Group and by Social Justice. We thank those members who donated their time collecting contributions, wrapping the socks and making the delivery to the Family Shelter. We thank each of you who made a contribution. There are children who are truly grateful for new socks. The administrator and manager of the San Jose Family Shelter were very thankful for your concern and expression of generosity.

Getting a Head-Start

First Steps: The interim minister task force volunteers (optimistically hoping to be elected on March 27) met recently. In brief, we shared with each other why we had volunteered, and what we are hoping for in an interim minister. We found we had a lot in common on these two topics: We care deeply about the Fellowship and want it to survive and thrive, which is why we volunteered. In an interim minister, we are looking for a mature person experienced in successfully working with a fellowship as wonderfully diverse as ours. We look forward to serving the Fellowship by helping select the very best candidate who meets our needs.

What to expect next: Our Interim Minister application will be submitted to the UUA by April 1, 2005. By mid-April, we should receive a list of three qualified candidates. We will continue to communicate with you as this process moves forward. Thank you (in advance) for your support of our efforts on behalf of the Fellowship.

New and Prospective Member Orientation:

There will be a two session meeting to introduce new and prospective members to our Fellowship and the UUA. The first session will take place on Sunday, April 24, 2005 from 11:45 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers will be the featured speaker at the first session and he will talk about and answer questions relating to our UU Principles and UU Traditions.

The second session is scheduled for Sunday, May 8, 2005 and it will be in our Lounge starting at 11:45 AM. Several members of our Fellowship will talk about membership, religious education, service, volunteer opportunities, small group ministries and financial matters, and they will answer any questions that participants may want to ask.

So, if you are interested in attending these orientation meetings please let Harry Campbell know. He can be reached at (408) 374-8844 or via email at harryrcampbell@comcast.net.

DRE SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The DRE search committee of Ann Campbell, June Curtis, Julie Doyle, Sabine Omvik, and Joe Rafferty have been meeting and would like to invite the families of the children in the RE program and any other interested persons to a meeting after fellowship on Sunday, April 13 at noon. Child care will be provided. We are interested in your ideas for our RE program and its future. We are interested in the qualities you would like to see in our next DRE. We are compiling a list of questions for the children to answer with your help, because we want them to feel their ideas are welcome as well. Please join us for snacks and a short but important time together. Thanks

SERVICE PROJECT: HELP RUN A SUMMER CAMP IN TRANSYLVANIA!

Travel with leaders well-known in our district to the Unitarian Heartlands of Transylvania August 3-15, where a "Young Faces of Hope" summer camp is planned for village children.

The trip is sponsored by Project Harvest Hope, founded at the Oakland and Berkeley churches, and dedicated to improving economic conditions for our sisters and brothers in faith by, among other things, operating a dairy farm where heifer are raised for distribution to villagers.

Trip leaders are Janne Eller-Isaacs, former co-minister in Oakland, David Keyes, who has served several district congregations as interim minister, and Jay Roller, former administrator of the Oakland church, now living in Transylvania. Local host will be Kinga Reka Zsigmond Szekely, who as the Balazs Scholar at Starr King School four years ago.

One purpose of the summer camp is to counter the influence of fundamentalist groups that attempt to attract Unitarian children to their Bible camps. In addition to the five-day camp, pilgrims on this trip will visit places of importance in Unitarian history, and worship, sing, dance, hike and relax. Pilgrims will gather in Budapest and complete their journey in Bucharest.

For a brochure and application, visit www.projectharvesthope.org, or write:
Project Harvest Hope c/o Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave., St. Paul MN 55104.

Tidbits from the West Room

Good to have the travelers home safe and back in our midst. PHYLLIS REID AND FAMILY, BILL ROBERTSON AND FAMILY, PAM RHODES AND HUSBAND BILL, AND BILL AND KAREN SCARVEY.

Missed the “pledge luncheon”? It was well orchestrated and a good kick off for our annual pledge drive. REV. BEN made an excellent presentation both during the service and luncheon. Thanks, BEN.

Welcome to MARION PETERSON who has just joined our Fellowship! We need YOU.

Did you know that HARRY CAMPBELL has taken over the data base management from WALT MAIN? This gives a bit more time for WALT and his presidency job. Thanks, Harry.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO PHYLLIS REED for being our DRE this past year. PHYLLIS will continue to work in the children’s program, now as a teacher. HOLLY DUNHAM will fill in as DRE. Thanks to HARRY CAMPBELL for preparing a good looking picture of the individual children for PHYLLIS.

HUGH WARNER has recently moved to a retirement community in Mt. View. He is delighted that he no longer cooks for himself, and is enjoying his new friends at meal time and in the recreation programs. Thanks to his son JEFF and daughter ANN for bringing him to Fellowship each Sunday.

Thanks to the Children’s program and the Social Justice group for preparing the SOX for TOTS drive. 150 pairs of sox were prepared and delivered to the San Jose Family Shelter in time for Easter. EDY YOUNG reported that there were 50 children who would each receive 3 new pair of socks. Thanks to all who contributed to this project.

THANKS TO ALL OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS!!!

The CARE COMMITTEE asks you to keep in our minds and hearts and send good thoughts to those individuals who are unable to attend Fellowship including: DAVE AND LUCILLE REITER, TOM KEENAN, NAN BIXLER, BETTY FELDHEYM, DIANA PAYNE, MARGARET HOWARD, AND FRANK LEVY.

Congratulations to SUE FERA on becoming a new grandmother in January. Her granddaughter is KYLIE SAIGE RITTER.!!

The JIM SCOTT program was a rousing success! You missed a good program and a fun evening!

CAL CLAUER enjoyed having his daughter visit from VT for a long week-end.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 1—LYNN O’KEEFE
4—BOB SHEBESTA
14—RYAN WANG
14—ISABELLA BRADLEY
21—LINDA RAFFERTY
24—CHRIS DUNHAM
26—BEULAH PEASE
26—LIBBY RAFFERTY
28—JIM BEEBE
30—FIDELE GAILEY
30—JOHN OMKVIK

Come to a UU Camp in the Colorado Rockies!

July 24 - 30, 2005

Camp Laforet is an annual gathering of caring people who cherish community and life's profound experiences. Camp Laforet is held at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale, Colorado where the Crystal and Roaring Fork Rivers meet, between Glenwood Springs and Aspen.

The program has something for everyone: workshops for adults, youth and children and a multitude of activities including drumming, dances of universal peace, white water rafting and more!

Check out the website: www.camplaforet.com

The Unitarian Universalist Scholars Panel has funds available for Unitarian Universalists who are working on Ph.D.'s. The purpose of these grants is to encourage the kind of vision provided for our movement by people like James Luther Adams. Thus, we look for people who are doing the kind of advanced study that has potential for making a difference to the future of Unitarian Universalism.

April 10, 2005 is the deadline for requests. To submit your request, please contact: Alicia McNary Forsey
Chair, the Unitarian Universalist Scholars' Panel

Amcnary1@cs.com

An Opportunity for Teachers

Would you enjoy working with children in a setting where you can discuss moral and ethical issues? Interested in politics, the environment, world religions, and community development? Do you have a bag of fun tricks and exciting activities just waiting for a small group of children in a somewhat informal setting? Then this job is for you!

The Job: Teach most Sunday mornings from September 2005 to mid-June 2006 for one hour (plus preparation, set-up and clean-up). Attend one evening meeting per month. Curriculum, teaching assistants, and materials costs are provided.

Salary: \$60/class and \$40/meeting

Classes: Pre-school/kindergarten, 1-3 grade, 4-6 grade, and Teen Group

Requirements: Applicants need teacher training and must be philosophically in agreement with Unitarian Universalist principles (www.uua.org/aboutuua/principles.html).

To Apply: Send cover letter (including a description of teaching philosophy), a resume, and contact information for three references to: UUFSCC RE Committee by e-mail to dre@uufsc.org. Attachments in PDF or MSWord format. No drop-ins.

Review of applications will begin April 20, 2005. The UUFSCC is an equal opportunity employer.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County

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email: DRE@uufsc.org <<mailto:DRE@uufsc.org>>

INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO? The Board minutes and agendas are listed under "Board Meetings" on the left hand side of the home page of our website www.UUFLG.org.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE BOARD? There will be a guest commentary time for members at the beginning of each monthly Board of Trustees meeting. Contact Walt Main for more information and to schedule your 3 or 4 minute slot.

Walt: wmain@earthlink.net

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

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Apr 1** 2:00p - 4:00p Recorder Group Practice West By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.
- Apr 2** 4:00p - 8:00p Rental: Recital
- Apr 3** 9:30a -10:15a Finance Committee Meeting Lounge. All are welcome. Contact Cal Clauer 265-4472
11:45a - 1:00p Sunday Services Committee Lounge. All are welcome. Contact Nan Bixler
- Apr 4** 10:00a - 3:00p Life Stories Classes West. Contact Shiela Dunec for info. (650) 324-9937
10:30a - 1:00p Monday Mums East. Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
- Apr 5** 10:00a - 12:00p SGM meet Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.
3:00p - 4:30p Membership Committee meeting - all members are invited. Contact: Harry Campbell
- Apr 6** 7:00p - 9:00p SGM meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- Apr 7** 12:00p - 1:00p RUMS Lunch on the deck. Brown bag lunch on the deck (or inside if it is cold or rainy) for men with flexible time. Contact Bob Bixler 356-5697, rbixler@jps.net for information.
- Apr 8** 2:00p - 4:00p Recorder Group Practice West. By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.
- Apr 10** 1:00p - 3:00p SGM Meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Susan Parks
11:45 - 1:00p Sunday Service Committee meeting Lounge. Contact Nan Bixler
- Apr 11** 10:30a - 1:00p Monday Mums East. Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
7:15p - 9:00p Women's Spirituality Group Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell
- Apr 13** 5:30p - 7:00p Bylaw Task Force Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Apr 14** 10:00a - 12:00p Women's Group West. All women are welcome. Contact Lida Kluzek
4:30p - 6:30p Committee on Ministry Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Bill Scarvie or Julie Doyle
6:30p - 9:00p Board Meeting West. Contact Margo Smith 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net All are welcome
- Apr 15** 2:00p - 4:00p Recorder Group Practice West. By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.
7:00p - 10:00p Friday Night Fellowship and game night. Contact: Harry Campbell
- Apr 17** 11:45a - 1:00p Parent Discussion of RE Program. Ann Campbell 374-8844
- Apr 18** 10:30a - 1:00p Monday Mums East. Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
- Apr 19** 10:00a - 12:00p SGM Meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.
- Apr 20** 7:00p - 9:00p SGM meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- Apr 22** 2:00p - 4:00p Recorder Group Practice West. By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.
- Apr 24** 11:45a - 1:00p UUFLG New and Prospective Member Orientation Session One (Sanctuary). Contact: Harry Campbell at 374-8844
12:30p - 2:30p SGM Sunday Meeting-East. .
- Apr 25** 10:30a - 1:00p Monday Mums East. Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
7:15p - 9:00p Women's Spirituality Group Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Ann Campbell
- Apr 27** 5:30p - 7:00p Bylaw Task Force Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Apr 29** 2:00p - 4:00p Recorder Group Practice West. By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill

GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, MAY 14 8am-12noon

I hope that you are all saving your garage sale items! That means, books, good clothes, plants, dishes, jewelry and other great treasures. You can bring them by the fellowship on Friday night, May 13 from 4-7pm. We can use help that evening and on Saturday morning to move the items out and to sell them. Please come by to shop and share in the fun Saturday morning. You can sign up to help out on the poster in the hall way of the fellowship. For questions; Call Julie Doyle or Connie Springer.

UU FELLOWSHIP OF LOS GATOS AUCTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The annual auction will be held on Saturday, May 28 6-9pm. There will be a BBQ in the early evening, the silent auction, and then the great bidding event! Please plan on coming and give us some fun dinners, pies, pieces of art, vacation rentals and whatever your creative spirit comes up with to help raise funds for this good fellowship. You can use the blue donation form for your items and if you have questions, call Jo Cooley or Bill Scarvie. If you would like to help with set up or the BBQ, call Doug Doughty, Leo or Doris Boyd or Jim Beebe. Child Care will be provided.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

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(408) 358-1212



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



Fellowship News

April 2005

The Newsletter is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos (UUFLG). The Newsletter is available to everyone on the web at www.uuflg.org. Members may elect to receive a printed copy. Individual friends and visitors may receive the printed Newsletter free for three months. After three months, the suggested subscription rate for non-members is \$10 per year. (Send to: Newsletter, c/o Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos, 15980 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032.) The subscription expiration date appears on the name line of the mailing label.