

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, December 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

December 4: “To Be Recognized”

What does it mean to completely recognize people of color in our communities? This sermon explores the first step to facing oppression, recognizing ourselves so that we may be present to others and how our UU faith calls us to understand and find meaning in the reflection of our experiences.

Mitra Rahnema is currently a third year Starr King School student and in candidate status within the UUA ministerial fellowshiping committee. She is a 31 year-old Iranian--American woman, born and raised UU. She grew up in Southern California, then moved to Portland, OR for eleven years before moving to the bay area to attend seminary. Mitra serves on the steering committee of the Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries and as a UUA JUST Change consultant. She also works at UC Berkeley Psychology department doing social research on parental involvement in children’s lives. Linda Krenicky is Lay Leader.

December 11: “Elizabeth and Mary and the Angel”

This is part one of a sermon series on Incarnation. There is a power in each one of us, through which we may transcend the narrow bounds of individual selfhood. By this power, we can raise our own lives, and the lives of others to higher levels. Jewel Peyton will tell us a Hannukah story and light the Menorah. Worship Associate: Katie Rall

December 18: “Responding to the Angel’s Song”

Part two of the sermon series on Incarnation. I will suggest some ways in which we might implement our own “raising power,” and realize that the center of our lives is not in ourselves, but elsewhere...We will celebrate the Naming and Dedication of Shelby Sparks. Worship Associate: Julie Doyle.

December 24: 6:30pm “Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service”

We will sing Carols and hear Christmas stories at this Intergenerational Service. The Recorder Group will play and we will have a violin solo from Kari Sparks. We will close with the lighting of candles passed back through the congregation as we sing “Silent Night” in the candle-lit darkness. Service leaders: Rev. Nancy and DRE Kari Sparks. For refreshments there will be warm, spiced cider, and we invite you to bring some Christmas cookies to share. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, this service will take the place of the Sunday morning service on the 25th.

Treasurer's Note:

We have just completed the first quarter of our fiscal year, and are already enjoying the benefits of our commitment to full time professional ministry and religious education. While our pledge payments and planned expenses are running on or ahead of budget, we are faced with a substantial shortfall going forward. This is due primarily to the loss of rental income from a regular weekly scheduled tenant and a reduction in Sunday non-pledge collections & contributions. The board and finance committee are exploring ways for us to reduce non-essential expenses in several areas (the on-line newsletter distribution is one of them), but we will need to increase the income side in order to make up the difference.

I would like to ask the Fellowship to help in two ways. First, inquire within your circle of friends, co-workers & neighbors to see if there is anyone or organization that is looking for a rental venue to hold meetings. We would prefer regular weekly or bi-weekly rentals vs one off events. Second, we are looking for significant creative fundraising ideas that could help us reach beyond regular Fellowship members.

Please share any rental referrals or fundraising ideas with the finance committee.

Thanks for your continued support
John Omvik - Treasurer

The UU Women's Morning Group will have their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 8th at 10.00 AM . This will be a party, but we'll have the usual brief check-in to let other members know what we've been up to in the past month. Also, please come with a short holiday season remembrance to share - time 2 or 3 minutes. Phyllis F will bring a holiday treat, and you come prepared to sing a few carols. Hope you can join us! Contact Joanne Crane, 268-2199 if you have questions.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: This year - December 11 and 18, 11:30AM-1:30PM. Please come and bring your baked goods and your craft items and your \$\$\$.

Be prepared to buy crafts and gifts from your fellow UUFLG'ers. This is a fun, no-stress opportunity to pick some gifts for the holidays while you help out the fellowship. Questions, please contact Tim Connelly, 408-314-2685.

Life Stories Class Has Openings

As we go to press, the winter Life Stories session has a few openings. Sheila Dunec's popular class meets on Mondays from 10 am to noon in our West Room beginning January 9th for a ten week session. There are flyers in our foyer which lay out the goals of the class and the registration information. Ms. Dunec may be reached at (650) 565-8087.

Wanted -- Pianist

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

For church services and for choir rehearsal.

For a job description and additional information, contact:

Bruce Stowell
408 984 8193
bstowell@pacbell.net

Minister's Musings for December, 2005

It is written of Ebenezer Scrooge, after his "intercourse with Spirits...that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge..." and that "his own heart laughed."

I will always remember that childhood Christmas when a well-intentioned uncle gave me an elegant edition of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. I was nine years old, a voracious reader who prized books above all presents, so the grown-ups were surprised when I quietly tucked it back under the tree. One glance at a full color plate, close up of old Scrooge's face, glowering at me from the first page, gave me an impression which was confirmed in years later - A Christmas Carol is not a book for children.

It takes a certain maturity to appreciate Scrooge's experience of re-birth on Christmas morning. I know, none of us are as ornery, or stingy, or mean as Scrooge, and certainly we don't need three hellacious nightmares to open our hearts to the spirit of Christmas! But, for those of us who are older, and we hope wiser, Scrooge has something to say.

To wit: Let us open our hearts to the spirit of Christmas, to the spirit of hope and peace and love, and let us "keep" Christmas by giving the gift of that spirit to others from open and generous hearts. And, may our own hearts laugh with the spirit of giving, and may our laughter be deep and rich enough to last the whole year through.

Yours in the faith,
Nancy

Announcements

Building Your Own Theology Course

"Theology comes out of the tough and tender experiences of life: First comes the experience, and then the reflection on the experience, which can lead to deeper experiences."

This course will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, starting on January 11, 2006, and going to March 1 for eight sessions. We will be using the Second Edition of this old favorite. Walt Main and Rev. Nancy will lead the discussion group.

The cost of the work book is \$16.00. There will be a sign up sheet in the front hall, and we will need to know how many folks are joining by December 28th so that we can order the books. A group of about 10 people is most desirable.

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Please plan to return your GAYT boxes to the Fellowship on the second Sunday in January. That's the 15th.

Thank you.

Words From Your DRE

Dear UU Parents, Children, Family, and Friends,

Feliz Navidad! Buon Anno! Boas Festas!
Joyeux Noel! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
This has been an exciting year for me and I wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday.

Also, I want to thank everyone that participated in the Clean Up Party on November 12. Thank you Margo Smith, Michelle Sierra, Barbara Feldman, Joe Rafferty, Linda Krenacky, Leslie Jones, Sharon Graham, and my husband Jon Sparks. We got down and dirty by throwing away old and unusable supplies, sorted the remaining materials, and washed the toys and cupboards for the health and well being of our UU children. If you would like to donate toys or supplies to our religious education program please talk to any one of the people that participated in our cleaning process, or see me. Only complete games with all the pieces, clean, and usable materials will be accepted. Thank you for your support.

Furthermore, from now on in my newsletter I would like to write about any special announcements that you have regarding your children. Did he participate in a special activity at our fellowship? Did she make the basketball team or perform in a theatre act that you would like to share? Is there a special birthday that you would like to announce? Please e-mail me and I will publish it in our next newsletter. And, speaking of announcements, my daughter Shelby Michelle Sparks will have her "Dedication in Naming Ceremony" this December 18th. This is when she will become an official Unitarian Universalist, be baptized by our minister Nancy, have her Godparents be announced, and her family and friends their to celebrate this special time. Plus, it will be her first birthday! Please join us on this special day.

And, on a personal note, I would like to ask for help from the fellowship. Jon, Shelby, and I are looking for an affordable house/land to purchase in the area so I can be your DRE for many years to come. If you know of anyone that would like to sell, or exchange like-kind property (we own property in Oregon), please send him or her our way. Many thanks!

If there are any questions or comments about the RE Program of Los Gatos, or if you would like to volunteer to teach, please e-mail me, the Director of Religious Education, at dre@uuflg.org.

Special RE Dates to Remember:

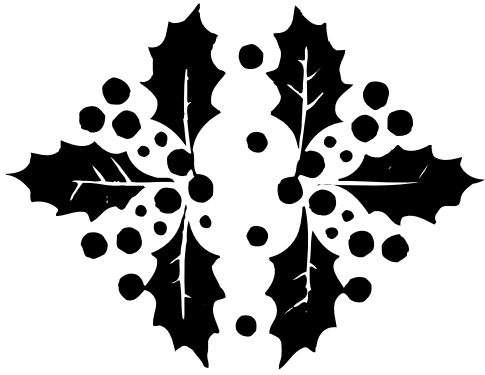
12/11 Multicultural Food Party—bring a food dish from your home country to share with the children.
12/18 Holiday Art—If you have an art project that you would like to teach the kids we would love to have you.
12/24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm—childcare will be provided, and if your child would like to sing or perform that night please contact Phyllis Reid.

Happy Holidays,
Kari Sparks, DRE

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.



IT'S "GREENING" TIME AGAIN.

That is decorating the Fellowship building for the holiday season. Saturday Dec. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00, the whole Fellowship is invited to help. Grown ups and kids, let's all get together to make our Fellowship home festive.

We already have quite a few decorations, but we'd especially like more Holiday Banners to hang on the walls. If you have a banner you're not using, would you please bring it with you.

The Morning Women's Group is sponsoring this activity. Call Ruth Webb for information 356-1735.

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls!
July 16-29, 2006

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 :

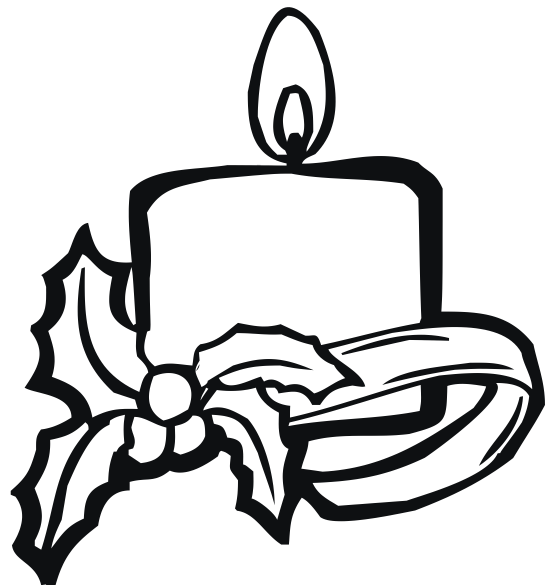
<http://www.uunex.net/>
Email : info@uunex.net
Telephone : (716) 791-4453

The PCD-UUA Stebbins Summer Gathering at Asilomar, invites you to a workshop selection meeting Saturday Dec. 10, 2005 at the Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church (www.mduuc.org). There will be a potluck lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 and workshop presentations 12:30 to 2:00).

We are looking for some new workshops. Do you have a workshop you would like to present? Is there someone who could give a workshop you would like to attend? Please come and bring a friend.

Whether you would like to present a workshop or not, please join us for a friendly time and to help us select this year's group of workshops. We will be stronger because of your presence. For a copy of the workshop brochure, call Dick LeBlanc at 510-234-3524. For more information about our program, call Jann Rose Schaub at 925-938-5454 or check our website at www.serve.com/stebbins.

The conference, July 29 to August 3, 2006, "Finding the Way Forward: Connecting Forgiveness, Self Discovery and Global Healing", is pleased to announce two theme speakers: Reverend Cathleen Cox Burneo, community minister with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley; and Dr. Fred Luskin, cofounder and director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project.



NEWS FROM THE DECK-----

A good group of people helped Kari Sparks clean up the children’s work and play area. Good job, and many thanks.

Sabine Omvik had a wonderful time in Germany visiting all her families and friends.

A big thank you to Allison Levy for donating the 2 lovely leather couches now in the lounge.

It was good to see the unveiling of the 3 newly upholstered chairs on the stage along with the new piano bench cushion. Thanks Jim Stahl. Thanks to all who helped on the sanctuary beautification committee. Our 2 beautiful stain glass windows have now been enhanced!

Leo Boyd has taken on the responsibility of tending the garden above the butterfly garden. This space is between the wall and the sidewalk next to the street. Also in the garden department Ann Campbell has planted a New Zealand Tea Tree in the deck area, between the exit driveway and the deck. Thanks, gardeners.

Allison Levy has just moved into the Terraces Retirement Community. Frank, her husband, is living in the care center across the street and has easy access to her apartment via his wheelchair.

Edy Young, and Lou and Irving Yabroff have recently moved into the Saratoga Retirement Community. Everyone is still unpacking and getting settled in their new apartments.

Warm healing wishes to all who are not able to be with us at church on Sundays.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS-- Dec 5 - Zane Bradley, Dec. 11 - Charles Walton, Dec18 - Cal Clauer, Dec 21 - Hugh Warner, Dec 25 - Jan Wygant and Marilyn Wilder.

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“GOD JUL”
“BUON ANNO”
“FELIZ NATAL”
“JOYEUX NOEL”
“VESELE VANOCE”
“MELE KALIKIMAKA”
“NODLAG SONA DHUIT”
“BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA”
“*****BOAS FESTAS*****”
“FELIZ NAVIDAD”
“MERRY CHRISTMAS”
“KALA CHRISTOUGENA”
“VROLIJK KERSTFEEST”
“FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN”
“BUON NATALE-GODT NYTAR”
“HUAN YING SHENG TAN CHIEH”
“WESOLYCH SWIAT-SRETAN BOZIC”
“MOADIM LESIMHA-LINKSMU KALEDU”
“HAUSKAA JOULUA-AID SAID MOUBARK”
“*****N PRETTIG KERSTMIS*****”
“ONNZLLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA”
“Z ROZHDESTYOM KHRYSTOVYM”
“NADOLIG LLAWEN-GOTT NYTTSAR”
“FELIC NADAL-GOJAN KRISTNASKON”
“S NOVYM GODOM-FELIZ ANO NUEVO”
“GLEDILEG JOL-NOELINIZ KUTLU OLSUM”
“EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR-SRETAN BOSIC”
“KRIHSTLINDJA GEZUAR-KALA CHRISTOUGENA”
“SELAMAT HARI NATAL - LAHINGU NAJU METU”
“*****SARBATORI FERICITE-BUON ANNO*****”
“ZORIONEKO GABON-HRISTOS SE RODI”
“BOLDOG KARACSONNY-VESELE VIANOCE”
“MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR”
“ROOMSAID JOULU PUHI -KUNG HO SHENG TEN”
“FELICES PASUAS - EIN GLUCKICHES NEUJAHR”
“PRIECIGUS ZIEMAN SVETKUS SARBATORI VESLLE”
“BONNE ANNEBLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDADRFELIZ NATAL”
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~ Author Unknown ~

CALENDAR ITEMS

Dec 1	10:30a -1:00p 12:00p -1:00p	Minister's Office Hours – Lounge. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226. RUMS Lunch on the deck. Brown bag lunch on the deck (or inside if it is cold or rainy) for men with flexible time. Come and enjoy an hour or so of sociability. Contact Bob Bixler 356-5697, rbixler@jps.net for information.
Dec 3	1:00p -2:30p 10:00a -1:00p	Building Comm. Mtg. Building Committee meeting - 1st Thursday of the month. Bob Bixler chair. Decorating for the holidays - B Come help decorate the Building for Xmas. Contact Ruth Webb for info.
Dec 4	10:30a -11:30a	Sunday Service – Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net
Dec 6	10:00a -12:00p 1:00p -2:30p 1:00p -2:30p 6:30p	Chalice Circle Meeting By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall Bylaw Task Force – Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main Building and Grounds Committee Meeting - S All interested are invited. See Bob Bixler. Sunday Service Committee Meeting - Lounge. Nan Bixler, chair, 356-5697
Dec 7	7:00p -9:00p	SGM Meet – Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle
Dec 8	9:45a -12:00p 10:30a -1:00p 6:30p -9:00p	Women's Group – West. All Women are invited. Call Joanne Crane at 268-2199 for more info. Minister's Office Hours – Lounge. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226. Board Meeting – West. Contact Margo Smith 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net All are welcome
Dec 11	10:30a -11:30a 11:30a -1:30p	Sunday Service – Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net Holiday Boutique. Following Sunday services. Please come and bring baked goods and craft items. Be prepared to buy. This is a fun opportunity to help the Fellowship make with its budget short fall and pick some gifts for the holidays. If you have questions, contact Tim Connelly, 408-314-2685.
Dec 12	12:30p -2:30p 7:15p -9:00p	SGM Sunday Meeting-East.. Women's Spirituality Group – Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
Dec 13	10:30a -1:00p 3:00p -4:30p	Tuesday Mums See Kristina Strand for information Membership Committee Meeting (in West Room) Everyone is welcome to attend. For information contact Harry Campbell (Secretary of the UUFLG Membership Committee).
Dec 15	10:30a -1:00p	Minister's Office Hours – Lounge. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.
Dec 18	10:30a -11:30a 11:30a -1:30p	Sunday Service – Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net Holiday Boutique. Following Sunday services. Please come and bring baked goods and craft items. Come prepared to buy. This is your fun opportunity to help the Fellowship with its budget deficit while you pick up some gifts for the holidays. If you have questions, contact Tim Connelly, 408-314-2685.
Dec 20	10:00a -12:00p 1:00p -2:30p All Day	Chalice Circle Meeting. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall Bylaw Task Force – Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main Deadline for items for next Newsletter. Submit items to Glen Marchant at: UUFLGnews@att.net. Submit articles as single spaced MS Word documents, .rtf (Rich Text Format), or plain text, and limit to less than 200 words.
Dec 21	7:00p -9:00p	SGM meeting – Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
Dec 22	10:30a -1:00p	Minister's Office Hours – Lounge. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.
Dec 24	6:30p -7:30p	Christmas Service – Building. Rev. Nancy Roemheld will hold our Christmas Service. All are welcome
Dec 25	Christmas	No Sunday Service.
Dec 26	7:15p -9:00p	Women's Spirituality Group –Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
Dec 27	10:30a -1:00p	Tuesday Mums See Kristina Strand for Information
Dec 29	10:30a -1:00p	Minister's Office Hours – Lounge. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.

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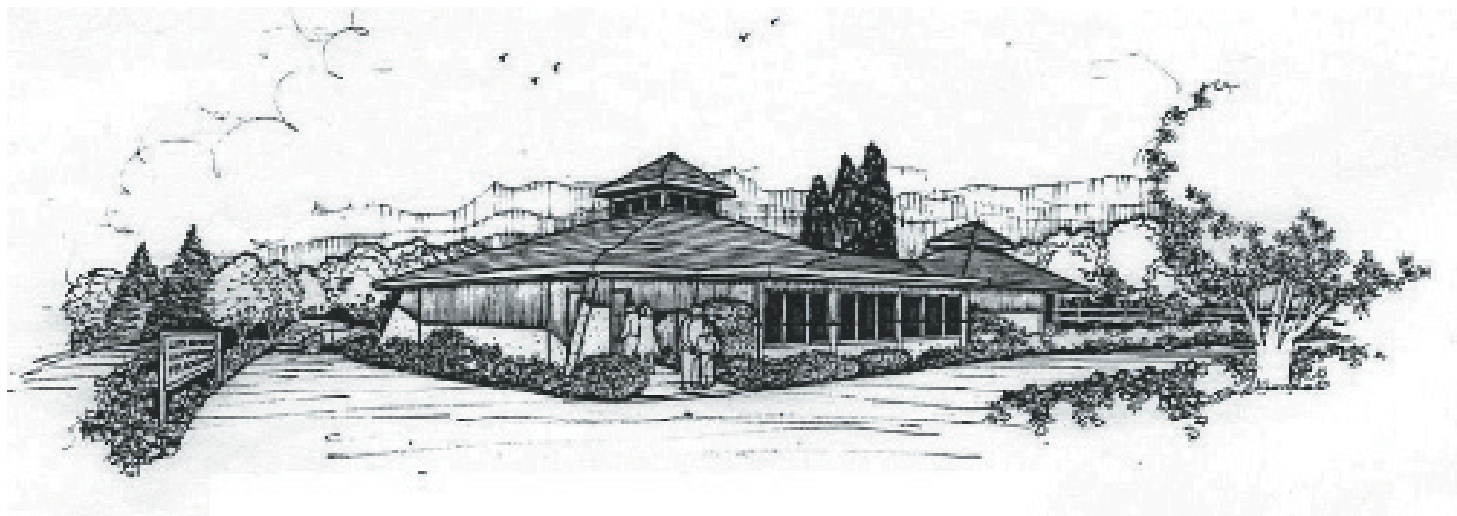
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



Fellowship News

December 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.