

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

June 2007 No.6; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

June 2007

Sunday Services at 10:30

June 3, at 10:30

Briefer Than a Kiss

Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister
Larry Chinn, musician; David Peyton, flute

Over and over again our lives are filled with goodbyes. Each of them is a gift wrapped in the paper of grief or confusion, sorrow or relief. Often all those at once. But with each goodbye we have a chance to know ourselves a little better.

June 10, at 10:30

All Saints Sunday

Rev. Colbert and All Our Saints
Dave Coldren, musician; Nightingales; Tunitarians

Today we celebrate our very full year and productive interim year. We honor the many people who have gifted the Fellowship with their leadership, their time, and their talents. We'll be sure to thank our retiring board members and "install" our new board leadership. We'll be gifted by our congregation's musical saints, the Nightingales and our recorder group the Tunitarians. Joining us at the piano, the always stirring music of Dave Coldren.

After the service there'll be a "Last Sundae" to top off our last Sunday with Carolyn. She promises to bring the ice cream if you'll bring your favorite toppings.

Everyone is invited... kids too. There will be child care for our youngest children (under 5) in the East room.

June 17, at 10:30

Father's Day

***Stopping At Every Lemonade Stand:
Showing Kids That We Care***

Mary Patterson, Executive Director, Project Cornerstone
Worship Associate, Linda Krenicky
Larry Chinn, piano; Susanne Mulcahy, song leader
(hymn-sing this date, as well, 9:45 a.m.)

In our homes, our neighborhoods, our schools, our businesses and our fellowship, there are endless opportunities to interact with children. Hear simple ideas and think about the ways that you can connect more positively with kids.

June 24, at 10:30

Weaving Ourselves Into the Web of Life

Glen Marchant, Susanne Mulcahy and Jan Raissle
Larry Chinn, piano

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it is tied to everything else in the universe."

John Muir

Do you remember the first time you watched a spider weave its web? Or learned where thunder and lightning come from? The first time you looked in a microscope? Or held a baby animal in your hands? Science education throws open the windows to understanding the deep interconnectedness of all things. Today will be a day of hands-on discovery, fun and wonder for children of all ages!

This will be a Share the Plate Sunday. For more information about the Youth Science Institute, see pg.6.

Weavings from the Web. . .

*Intricate and untraceable
weaving and interweaving,
dark strand with light:*



*Designed, beyond
all spiderly contrivance,
to link, not to entrap:*

*Elation, grief, joy, contrition,
entwined;
shacking, changing, forever
forming, transforming:*

*All praise, all praise
to the Great Web.*

~Denise Levertov~

And all praise to the members and friends of this congregation! As I wind down my brief sojourn with you I want you to know that, beyond all spiderly contrivance, we have done good and transforming work together.

We've both moved forward in our lives. You have, as one long time member remarked after the Annual Membership meeting May 20th, "Wow, that was a great meeting! After almost 50 years as a congregation, I think we're finally growing up." I can't comment from a deep knowledge of your history, but I do agree that you have woven yourselves together this year with a renewed sense of community and purpose.

I, too, have moved forward this year. I came to you in a state of transition as I moved from settled ministry back into Interim work. You have renewed my commitment to this specialized branch of ministry. Our work together will benefit the next congregation I serve, which, if you haven't heard, will be the Livermore UU Church.

In the next few weeks as we review and evaluate our time together, above all else, I want you to know that I've experienced all the emotions mentioned in Levertov's poem.

Elation at what we've accomplished. Grief that we must part. Joy in the journey. Contrition for the work not done. All entwined together, changing both of us forever.

And I am grateful for it all.

Praise, all praise to the Great Web.

See you in church,
Carolyn

P.S. My schedule and my contract with UUFLG means that I will be in the pulpit through June 10th (All Saints Sunday). I look forward to the Talent Show and Farewell Evening. Then I head out to General Assembly and a week of vacation in Oregon. When I return July 2, I'll be finishing UUFLG projects and beginning the job of packing and moving. Victoria begins her ministry with you on August 15. You are in very good hands!

General Assembly in Portland Oregon

The giant gathering of the UU tribes will be held this year close enough, and in a great city, that you may want to join the throngs going from our Pacific Central District. Our congregation will be represented by two delegates; Katie Rall and Ruth Webb. Carolyn will be going as the ministerial delegate. GA is an experience everyone should have at least once. There are workshops, lectures, worship, nationally known speakers, wonderful music, and people from all over the world. Our own Bill Scarvie, now moved to Washington, will be conducting a workshop. It is incredibly empowering and renewing to participate, learn, sing, and celebrate with several thousand UU's.

There is still time to register at the UUA website: www.uua.org/ga. If you'd like to know more don't hesitate to give Carolyn a ring.

2007 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual 2007 UUFLG Membership Meeting was held as scheduled on May 20, 2007. There were 30 members in attendance, more than satisfying quorum requirements of 20.

As described in the mail announcement of the meeting sent to members earlier, there were three planned items for the membership to decide. In addition to the 30 voting members present at the meeting there were 16 absentee ballots received from members prior to the meeting.

The three previously identified topics for consideration, along with the results, were:

1. Election of Board Members for 2007 to 2009
President - Ann Campbell
Vice resident - Jim Stahl
Trustee #1 Building - Coralee Linton
Trustee #2 Sunday Programs- Chris Magee
Trustee #3 Social Justice - Jim Beebe

Election of the proposed board members was unanimous.

2. Election of Nominating Committee for 2007/2008
Sharon Graham
Joe Rafferty
Lida Kluzak
Tim Connelly
Dick Powell

Election of the proposed nominating committee members was unanimous.

3. Approval of UUFLG Annual Budget for 2007/2008
Option 1 budget proposal (\$169,945)
Option 2 budget proposal (\$155,554)

The option 1 budget (\$169,945) was passed by a vote of 74%, with 26% voting for the option 2 budget.

One additional item was proposed in the meeting by the Social Justice Committee – for the UUFLG to endorse an effort to persuade the city of Los Gatos to join in the Sierra Club ‘Cool Cities’ campaign on global warming.

The proposed endorsement was approved by unanimous vote.

Jim Stahl – Vice President



Los Gatos Cool Cities Resolution Passes Unanimously

A resolution brought by the Social Justice Committee to endorse the Los Gatos Cool Cities project passed unanimously at today’s membership meeting. The Cool Cities campaign, initiated by the Sierra Club to “solve global warming one city at a time”, asks cities to sign the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, assign a green ribbon task force to inventory the green house gas sources in the city, recommend a target to lower emissions, and create a climate action plan for the city.

A number of Bay Area cities, including San José, Palo Alto, and San Mateo, are already engaged in becoming ‘Cool Cities’ and a team of about a dozen people is working to add Los Gatos to that list. They asked that we join other UU congregations, such as San Mateo, who have endorsed their local Cool Cities projects.

The UUFLG Social Justice Committee gave their endorsement April 14, 2007 and agreed to seek an endorsement of the Fellowship as a whole. That endorsement means that we are publicly taking a position in support of the Los Gatos Cool Cities project and that the Fellowship may be listed as a cosponsor of the project. The Social Justice committee will monitor this project and keep you informed of activities and progress.

I'm Proud to Have Made My Pledge. Now, How do I Pay It?

First, on behalf of the whole congregation, many thanks for your support of your religious home and community! Pledges for the new Fellowship year, which begins on July 1, have been very generous. So far, members and friends have contributed over \$134,000 in comparison to \$114,000 pledged by this time last year. It is exciting to realize that 38 member families, and friends raised their pledges this year. And there are also 19 new pledges! Your Stewardship Team is very grateful.

Now, here's a variety of ways that you may consider to fulfill your pledged contribution.

1) Most folks simply write a monthly check made out to UUFLG with Pledge, 2007-2008 in the memo line. It can be mailed to the Fellowship, Attention, Book keeper or dropped in the offering basket on Sunday.

2) Some folks prefer to make their contribution all at once in one yearly check. As above, make it out to UUFLG and note on the memo line that it is for the 2007-2008. Mail it to the Fellowship, attention, bookkeeper, or drop it in the offering basket.

3) Some prefer to donate stocks in fulfillment of their pledges. Drop Irving Yabroff an e-mail at <iwyabroff@comcast.net> to receive complete instructions on transferring stocks at a brokerage firm or securities held in your own name.

4) You are always welcome to pick up a cash offering envelope on a Sunday morning and tuck cash in it to drop in the offering plate. That way it will be credited toward your pledge or added to your ongoing contributions.

Remember, your contributions are tax deductible and you will receive quarterly statements and an end of year tax statement. You may, at any time during the year, you may adjust your pledge up or down if your circumstances change. Just let us know so we can make adjustments in congregational budget.

Again, your gifts are appreciated and essential as we welcome our Settled Minister, Victoria Ingram, and offer our Support Staff, Office Administrator, Musicians, DRE, Childcare, and Custodian, decent compensation and continue to maintain and improve our aging building, our equipment, and our programs.

The 2007-2008 Stewardship Team: Connie Springer, Sharon Graham, Linda Krenicky, John Omvik, JJ Martin, and Walt Main.

Administrivia

Recycling Update

Here in Los Gatos, with the new garbage company, we now have mixed recycling. This means that all our recyclables can go into the same container – ***no more separating cans from plastic from glass from paper.*** We have containers which are marked for disposal of mixed recyclables in the building. Please use those to dispose of your recyclable items properly.

There are restrictions on what can be recycled. The list of what is recyclable and what is not recyclable is posted on the bulletin board next to the West Room, below the calendar, for your reference.

From the keyboard of Adrienne Gormley

The Thursday Morning's Women's Group will meet Thursday, June 14, at 9:45 a.m. Discussion topic is in Spring UU World, Page 41-44, "Heart of Our Faith", and also we will talk about our Fathers. Pauline Stonehill will lead the discussion. Pauline will bring refreshments and Lynn will do table décor. Contact Ruth Webb, convener, for information or participation: 356-1735.

Doris Boyd

Children's RE: What a Great Year!

I just wanted to say a few words about our year and the summer plans. We had a wonderful year filled with great lessons and fun for the children. We were so lucky to have Nina Kalmoutis join us this year as our Religious Educator. She taught with the capable assistance of David Coldren and Jenny Heath. We will miss her next year, but wish her all the best in her new role as Intern Minister at the UU Fellowship of Redwood City. Nina had many creative ideas for our active K-5 a.k.a. Bubblesox class. We appreciate Chris Dunham stepping in on short notice to cover the Bubblesox class during Nina's extended visit to Greece. Joe Rafferty and Leslie Jones taught the middle school kids. We started off with a bang, but have had attendance drop off a bit with two youth moving. We are really hoping to build our numbers next year. Tell your friends about us! Nan Bixler and Michelle Sierra, as always, are doing a wonderful job in our preschool room. They have welcomed many new families this year. We sincerely hope to see these new families over the summer and perhaps join our congregation.

End-of-Year Pool Party

The children's RE families are invited to join together at Leslie Jones' house for a pool party. It will be after regular services on Sunday June 3rd from noon to 3P. We are asking for a \$5 per person donation to cover cost of pizza (pay at the party). The Fellowship will supply the drinks. If you would like to help with other food and/or activities, contact Leslie Jones (lesbehel@pacbell.net 927-9966).

Summer Plans

Summer is a time off from school and it should be time off from curriculum at church too! In keeping with this theme, we will provide child care every Sunday in the summer beginning June 17 until August 12 in the preschool room. If any parents are interested in organizing some games or crafts for older children, please contact Leslie or Sabine.

Family Friendly Fun

The membership committee and the RE committee are joining forces to encourage some family friendly activities in order to get our kids and adults together to socialize. It is our hope that organizing some social activities will help our children (and adults) bond and foster their desire to come to church. This is also a great time to invite your friends. They can get to know us outside church. This is especially good for kids. Having friends at Fellowship is often the glue to keep them coming. Some of the fun ideas suggested are: a movie night, skating, picnic at Vasona (October), and a parent night out (Fellowship provides sitters). If you have suggestions, please contact Sarah Mozelle.



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? A guest commentary time for members can be made available at the beginning of each monthly Board of Trustees meeting. Contact Harry Campbell (harryrcampbell@gmail.com) for more information.

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.

YSI: Science and Nature in Our UUFLG Backyard

Founded in 1953, Youth Science Institute is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is *“To inspire enthusiasm for science and a love of learning.” We partner with nature to teach kids science and earth stewardship.* As a Silicon Valley leader in nature-based science education, YSI educates more than 30,000 pre-K through 12th grade children each year in classrooms and our three Science and Nature Centers.

All YSI programs are delivered by a professional team of highly trained instructors with substantial experience working with children. We provide programs year-round: School and Group Programs, After-School Science Classes, Winter and Summer Science Camps, Family Science Safaris, and Community Education Events.

YSI’s service area is almost exclusively Santa Clara County, and our three Science and Nature Centers are spread across Silicon Valley in Alum Rock, Sanborn and Vasona parks in San Jose, Saratoga and Los Gatos, respectively. These neighborhood museums feature live mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles in some combination, along with state-of-the-art interactive exhibits, tools for exploration and discovery, artifacts and specimen.

In addition to our Centers, YSI maintains a native plant trail at YSI Vasona, an organic garden at YSI Sanborn, and a raptor aviary at YSI Alum Rock housing our rehabilitated, non-releasable, feathered ambassadors. We also hold community events throughout the year, including an Insect Fair in May at Sanborn and a Wildlife Festival in October at Alum Rock, which are enjoyed by more than 3,000 children and their families.

Current studies and media reports highlight a national crisis concerning both science education and the increasing impact of “nature deficit disorder.” YSI programs provide local solutions to these critical issues, by filling the gap in nature-based science learning that is present in classrooms today.

Students from pre-school through high school benefit from our proven “learning by doing” experiential approach and use of small-group methodology across a broad curricula of science topics. We provide the learning environment and experiences that develop children’s desire to explore and their critical thinking skills, while providing the experience of the value of teamwork.

We firmly believe that critical thinking skills are absolutely necessary for a child’s academic success. In turn, we believe that academic success leads to the best opportunity for economic success. Students who enter the workforce with critical thinking skills and comfort with exploration and teamwork enhance their own ability to succeed, and play a critical role in contributing to the economic vitality of the Bay Area and our nation.

Simultaneously, YSI programs help children understand and appreciate the delicate interrelationships between themselves and the world around them. This inspires them to be competent, caring, involved citizens, with the capacity to contribute to their local community and to the health of the planet as future stewards. And, once a child has a sense of connection with nature, that child will have a life-long resource for enhancing and sustaining personal health and vitality.

Learn more about YSI at youthscience.org.

YSI is grateful to the UUFLG for its “Share the Plate” support, and to the UU members and friends who are part of the YSI family:

Jon Kaplan, Board Member; Esther Kaplan and Jan Raissle, Science Matters! Team; Glen Marchant, Instructor; JJ Martin, Seagate/Physics Program Sponsor; Susanne Mulcahy, Executive Director; and Max Kaplan and Dean and Anna Marchant, our UU/YSI kids!

***Thank you for wearing your name tag on Sunday mornings,
and for parking on the street when possible to make room for our newcomers.***



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CHAIR

Please join us on Friday, June 15, at 6:30 for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and farewell to Carolyn.

The evening will begin with a potluck dinner, with soup provided by the members of the music committee (Phyllis Foxcroft, Fidele Galey, Linda Krenicky, Susanne Mulcahy and Ruth Webb). On June 3rd, you'll see us walking around with clipboards to sign up volunteers to bring bread, salad, and dessert.

Following dinner, we'll gather in the sanctuary to enjoy the many talents and gifts of our members and friends. Here are a few who have already volunteered to entertain us: Dean Marchant, Susanne Mulcahy, The Nightingales, Cassandra Omvik, Andreas Omvik, Ruth Webb, Phyllis Foxcroft, and Pauline Stonehill. We hope to hear from our children's RE classes, too. If you would like to share a talent, please contact Linda Krenicky by June 8.

Mark your calendars for the monthly hymn-sing, on June 17, Father's Day. We will focus on songs from the supplement to the hymnal, and will begin at 9:45 a.m.

Many thanks to all of you who continue to donate to the Music Fund. We were recently able to purchase a hand-held drum, and it has already enhanced the music.

Bless you all for lifting your hearts in song!



Linda Krenicky
Music-Lover/Music Chair
lindakrenicky@comcast.net
408-370-1516



Social Justice committee bids farewell to Bill Scarvie

The committee took the opportunity of the Social Justice potluck with Victoria to honor Bill and Karen Scarvie for their long and valuable service to our community and to bid them a fond farewell as they move to Bainbridge Island, Washington. Bill has been serving as the Social Justice Trustee and committee chair where his inspired and dedicated leadership will be sorely missed.

Stepping into the vacancy Bill leaves is the committee co-chair team of Sue Fera and Connie Springer and Social Justice Trustee Jim Beebe. Sue and Connie have begun to formulate goals, ideas, and plans for the year ahead which we will present to the committee at our next meeting. We hope to have an exciting new project to tell you about soon. Stay tuned for details.

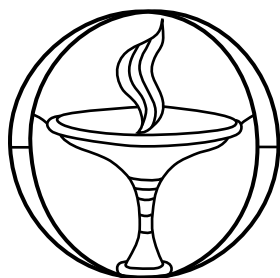
We invite everyone with an interest in social justice work to attend our meeting June 10, from 12:15 to 1:30 in the Lounge. Bring your lunch if you'd like. If you have any questions contact Sue Fera or Connie Springer.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

15980 Blossom Hill Road

Los Gatos, 95032

(408) 358-1212



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



Fellowship News

June 2007

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.