

# **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**



## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

November 2006 No.11; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

### **November 2006 Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am**

#### **Nov. 5: “Mixing Politics and Religion”**

Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister  
Ruth Webb, Musician

Only two more days until the off year election and then it will all be all over. Or will it? The conversation about how and when and if we should mix our religion and our politics is one we must continue to wrestle with. For some, a fierce separation of church and state is mandatory. For others, involvement in social issues is soul work. Come take a seat ringside and join in the conversation as we look at the history, the law, and the potential for a holistic approach.

#### **Nov. 12: “The Eight Rules for White Water Rafting”**

Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister  
Phyllis Foxcroft, Musician  
The Greenbough Singers will gift us with music today.

We enter the stream of life and it carries us along, it buoys us up and we are blessed. Until you come to the rough parts. The rapids. the dangerous places. Until you come to White Water. But there are ways to navigate through the hard places. Ways to ride out the riffles, ways to come out further down river, wet but exhausted. There are rules for the journey. There are preparations and precautions.

#### **Nov. 19: “Sharing Our Abundance”**

An Intergenerational Service  
Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister  
New Member Welcome  
Phyllis Foxcroft, piano

In the season of harvest and thanksgiving we welcome our newest members, share a bread communion, hear a short homily, and learn about the Guest At Your Table program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. People are welcome to contribute bread from their countries of origin for the communion table. After the service there will be a reception for our new members. See page 3 for information on becoming a member.

#### **Nov. 26: “Seven As One: An Invitation to Deeper Living”**

Shelly Page, guest Speaker  
Linda Krenicky, Worship Associate  
Ruth Webb, Musician

Our guest asks, “Have you ever thought about the order of our seven UU Principles? Does the order matter in the grand scheme of things? We’ll explore the notion that order does matter as we look at the seventh principle (the interdependent web) and wonder what the implications would be in how we live and act in the world if it became the first principle?”

Shelley is a third year student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, preparing for a UU parish ministry career.

More information about our guest on page 3.

## Weavings from the Web. . .

The Fellowship is alive with preparations for Settled Ministry. Though it will be almost a year before you welcome your future minister, this interim year gives the congregation a chance to prepare the ground, as master gardeners do in the fall of the year. It is now that old growth is pruned away. The garden is tidied and made ready for new plantings. The tired ground is nourished for the rain that will carry food to the roots of new growth waiting as seeds just below the surface.



Gardeners know that these tasks can't be neglected or their future garden will not live up to the vision they long for and have worked so hard for, year after year.

Like good gardeners, the members and friends of this place of longed for growth and deeply rooted values, are paying close attention to the work of this Interim time.

Your Search Committee, meeting weekly, and working on multiple tasks between meetings, has brought a solid and well thought out proposal to the board that honors the vision of Fair Compensation that will be offered to your next minister on behalf of the congregation. Soon they will be sending out a packet that proudly tells prospective candidates who you are and what you hope to grow here.

The Membership Team has initiated a Newcomers Series that will be repeated two more times during this Interim year. It is a stimulating and joyful occasion for all involved... both newcomers and your dedicated Membership Team.

The need for clear and comprehensive Safe Congregation policies and procedures is being honored as a task group works to craft both a Safe Congregation Manuel and the creation of a standing Safe Congregation Committee.

The board, recognizing the need for an on site Administrative Assistant, have authorized daily coverage of the Fellowship Office, Monday through Friday. Adrienne Gromley, your Administrator will be easy to reach. She will help centralize information,

***\*\*\* Please remember to wear your name tag on Sunday mornings  
- it makes it easier for visitors to talk to you when they can see your name!***

***\*\*\* If it is convenient, Members are encouraged to park on the street to make space for guests.***

handle the requests for available space at the building, and work with your leadership and me to support the program areas.

There is a growing recognition that the future of this precious garden you call your religious home, requires many, many gardeners. It is time to Mentor new folks into the joys of creating your future. Time to include eager workers in the care and feeding of your patch of the garden. If you are presently in charge of an area, invite others to join you as you work together to make it bloom and flourish.

Then, like all the best gardeners, pour through catalogues together, dreaming of the delights you will share as your work and your planning and your learning and your joy creates your future.

It is good to be together,  
Carolyn  
Interim Gardener

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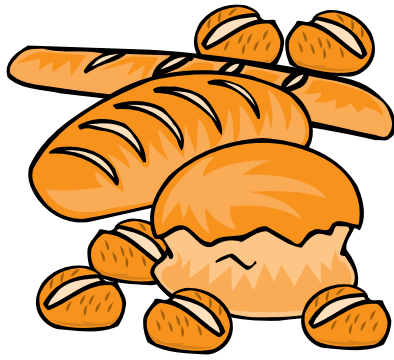
## The Path To Ministry

On October 16, the Settled Minister Search Committee posted our notice on the Unitarian Universalist Association website that we are now looking for a Settled Minister. This announcement, called The Congregational Record, tell the world of UU Minister that we have a position available.

About mid November, we expect the first replies from those ministers who would like to know more about us. We are developing a packet of information about our Fellowship to send to those interested ministers to continue the exploration of mutual interest. Unlike the search for the Interim Minister, when we worked closely with the UUA, we will be working directly with those ministers.

We'll continue to keep you informed as we enter this exciting phase of the search process.

Your Search Committee: Jim Beebe, Ann Campbell, Tim Connelly, Jo Cooley, Leslie Jones, John Omvik, and Jim Stahl.



## Calling All Bakers

Bring “Breads of The World”  
And Your Favorite Toppings  
For Sunday, November 19

This special pre-Thanksgiving service celebrates our world wide connections with a special bread communion. You are invited to bring the breads of your heritage; Russian rye, challah, pita, French bread, Irish Soda bread. You get the idea. We’ll tell you a little about our UU Service Committee’s justice work, and distribute Guest at Your Table boxes for you to have on your tables during the holiday season.

We will also be welcoming and recognizing our newest members and celebrating with a reception after the service. Your favorite jams, jellies, and bread toppings will grace our social time after the service.

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## Meet Shelly Page,

Our November 26th Guest Speaker.

Shelly hails from the Finger Lakes region of Western New York. A UU for 24 years, she has served in a wide variety of lay leadership roles including founding mother of the UU Church of Canandaigua. Her professional background includes almost thirty years in corporate and not-for-profit marketing and communications positions. She is an experienced worship leader in her home church as well as guest preacher at over twenty UU congregations in New York, California, Oregon and Washington. Shelley has a BS from Cornell University.

## An Invitation to Join The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos on Sunday, November 19

If you have hung out with this congregation long enough to feel it is your religious community and church home you may want to be part of our brief New Member Welcome and Recognition Ceremony, November 19. We think membership is an important decision so we want folks to take their time deciding. But if you feel you’re ready to become an official, voting member, we warmly welcome you.

Here are the steps to becoming a member:

- ~ Have an understanding of the Purposes and Principles of Unitarian Universalism.
- ~ Speak to the minister or a member of the Membership Committee to clarify any questions you may have.
- ~ Sign the Membership Book.
- ~ Complete a Pledge and Membership card for the months remaining in the fiscal year; December through June, 2007.
- ~ Let us know the names of your children who are part of the Religious Education program so we can include their names with yours in the Order of Service.

Call Rev. Colbert at 377-1399 or Lou Yabroff, Membership Chair, 741-7586, or sign up at the Greeters Table.

Note: Membership is a choice. As a member you may vote on congregational decisions, chair a committee, be elected to the Board or Nominating Committee. There are important decisions that the congregation will be making that will shape the future of the group. One of those decisions will be the calling of a new settled minister.

However, all are welcome to take part in programs and your gifts of time, talent, and treasure support all we do and are very much appreciated.

## Social Justice Advocates

We are making steady progress on several fronts in our social witness. On Saturday, October 14, Lynn O'Keefe and Karen and Bill Scarvie attended PCD's Moral Beacon Day at the UU Society of Sacramento. We joined over a hundred other congregational leaders in a day of networking and workshops. Our "Change the Story, Change the Future" workshop, which was inspired by David Korten's book, "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community," had a total attendance of 25, a full house. Feedback to Bill and Rev. Kurt Kuhwald, co-leaders, was enthusiastic and gratifying.

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, October 15, as it will on the third Sunday of every month. Edy Young presented a draft of the committee charter for 2006-07. It will be posted in its final version on our web site. Our October share-the-plate offering to the Resource Center for Non-Violence was over \$300. Edy will identify the beneficiary for the November offering, and Connie Springer will do so for December. January is our annual Guest at Your Table event to benefit the UU Service Committee, and the share-the-plate offering will give newcomers and non-participants in the Guest at Your Table program an opportunity to contribute to this worthy world-wide witness.

Don't let the opportunity to turn faith into action by signing up for our last Habitat for Humanity workday of the year on Saturday, November 18. Contact Kristina Strand ([kers@mindspring.com](mailto:kers@mindspring.com)) for details.

The Thursday Women's group has committed to reducing their individual carbon footprint over the coming year. We urge you to join them in this effort. If you don't know where to start, try the New American Dream's "Turn the Tide" program. They suggest nine simple actions that almost anyone can take. You will find them online at [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org).

Yours in faith,  
Bill Scarvie  
Trustee for Social Justice Advocacy

The next UUFLG's **Habitat for Humanity** service project takes place on November 18th (8:30 to 3:30). Anyone over 14 years of age is welcome, no experience required. Those 14 to 18 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please contact Kristina Strand to sign up to help either by leaving a message at (408) 395-5886, or by sending an e-mail to [kers@mindspring.com](mailto:kers@mindspring.com). Kristina will contact you with further details regarding the project as the date approaches.



## News From The Garden

Fall is planting time in California, and we are doing some planting. Have a look at the Northeast corner of the grounds. We've taken out the dead and dying bushes and have replaced them with our own Lily of the Nile (agapanthus) plants. If all goes well we'll plant geraniums along the border donated by Edie Young. We should have a nice show of color and they will get a good start with the winter rains.

The Butterfly Garden is showing signs of neglect so we plan to get that fixed up in the coming weeks, again to benefit from the rains. I'm looking forward to turning off the balky drip system.

The landscape and grounds committee would welcome any new members who would like to help with the garden. Contact me, Ruth Webb, 356-1735.

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**The Stitch and Bitch group** meets Wednesday, 11/25/06, from 12:15 to 2:15 in the West Room. Bring your stitchery project and a brown bag lunch or just come see what everyone else is working on. All are welcome. Call Connie Springer, 269-4943, with any questions.

# Results of Our Survey and Cottage Meetings

10/20/06

A survey of Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos was conducted during the first two weeks of September, 2006. There were 70 survey responses. Combined with the information derived in the Cottage Meetings from people who did not also complete a survey, we have contributions from approximately 80% of the Fellowship Members and Friends.

The survey was structured to gather information for two important on-going activities – the search for a settled minister and development of a Fellowship long-range plan. It included 56 questions organized in six sections.

The survey results are far too extensive to include in detail here. A small sample of results will demonstrate the type of information that is now available to help in our Settled Minister Search and Long Range Planning. A full report of the results will be available at the Fellowship and on the UUFLG web-site ([www.uuflg.org](http://www.uuflg.org)).

The median reported length of reported association with the Fellowship was around six years and the median age of those responding to the survey was in the early 60's. We report we are an educated group.

There were several questions relating to importance and satisfaction of Fellowship activities. For example, the answer to the question: **How well do we adhere to our Mission Statement's five principles?** is shown in the graph.

Other questions related to individual beliefs. Spiritual beliefs of those responding to the survey span a full spectrum with the largest self-identifications relating to Humanism or Naturalistic Theism. Mysticism, Earth-Centered Spirituality, and Pantheism most closely follow the top two choices.

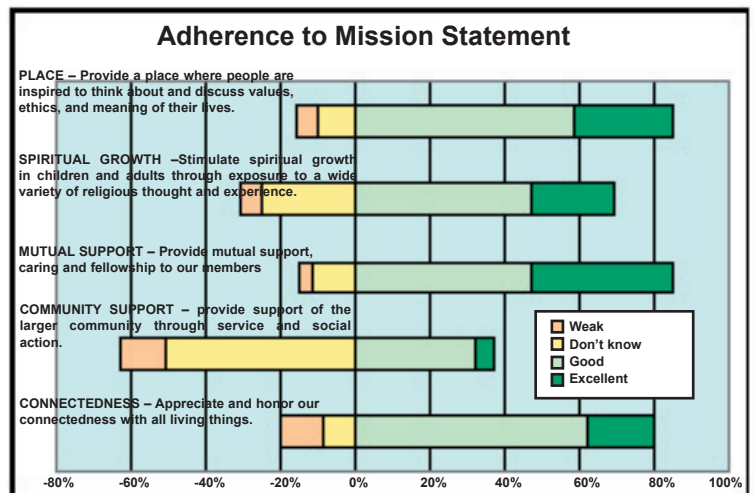
In the section of questions about Sunday services, most said they would like the minister to conduct the service three times a month with a guest minister or speaker on the fourth Sunday.

In the Ministry section, in one question survey responders were asked to set priorities for seven specified Minister functions. The resulting priority, in descending order of importance, were:

1. Spiritual leader
2. Intellectual Leader
3. Facilitator
4. Pastor
5. Social activist
6. Administrator
7. Role model

In addition to answering the specific posed questions, survey responders also contributed 54 individual written comments and suggestions.

The response to the survey and the Cottage Meetings has been outstanding and we gathered a treasure trove of information to help us go forward. Thank you one and all.



29-Oct	30	31	1-Nov	2	3	4
			7:00p -SGM Meeting	10:30: Bldg & Grounds Comm 12:00: RUMS lunch 7:30: Meditation: Uus welcome	2:00: Recorder Group Practice	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:45: HYMN SING 10:30: Sunday Service 12:15 <i>The Great Turning</i> Book Study Group	10:00: Life Stories	10:00: Chalice Circle Meeting 2:00 Membership Committee 3:45 Long Range Planning Committee 7:00 Getting to Know UU Potluck		9:45: Thursday Morning Women's Group 6:30: Board Meeting 7:30: Meditation: Uus Welcome	2:00: Recorder Group Practice	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45: HYMN SING 10:30: Sunday Service	10:00: Life Stories 7:15 Women's Spirituality Grp 7:30 Great Books: Uus Welcome		7:00: SGM Meeting	7:30: Meditation: Uus Welcome	2:00: Recorder Group Practice	8:15: Habitat for Humanity Workday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30: Chalice Circle 9:45: HYMN SING 10:30 Sunday Service	Deadline for items for next Newsletter.	10:00: Chalice Circle 4:00 Long Range Planning Committee	12:15: Stitch & Bitch	7:30: Meditation: Uus Welcome	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group - W.	
26	27	28	29	30	1-Dec	2
9:45: HYMN SING 10:30: Sunday Service	7:15: Women's Spirituality Group			12:00: Caring Committee 7:30: Meditation: Uus Welcome		

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## TIDBITS FROM THE UU DECK

The Membership Committee has sponsored a 3 meeting series of UU information to the Newcomers Group. It has been an interesting, informative, and helpful time to the 14 Newcomers who attended. On Nov. 7th, they will have their closing meeting by sharing in a pot luck supper. Special thanks to the facilitators Katie Rall, Julie Doyle, Ann Campbell, Jim Beebe, and Lynn O'Keefe, and to Barbara Kalmoutis, the registrar. Special thanks to Rev. Colbert who led the series. She has announced that she will hold a similar series in January '07 and again in the Spring. This is a wonderful opportunity that you won't want to miss, just ask some of the attendees!

Thanks to all those of us who made the "one line devotional" streamers hanging on the West wall in the sanctuary. They were made at a UU Retreat under the leadership of JJ Martin. IF you have not picked up your streamer, see Lou Yabroff.

Are you thinking about coming early on Sunday morning to join Linda Krenicky in singing? Try it, you'll like it!!!!

There are some new plantings along the East side of our property. They are a gift from one of our members, and we thank her for adding to the beauty of our campus.

It was good to have a visit from Joanne and Norman Crane who are down from Ashland, OR. They are enjoying their new home in a retirement community there.

A quiet memorial time was held for Bob Lindsay who passed away recently in Ashland, OR. JJ Martin was the worship leader, with music from Ruth Webb on the piano and Norman Crane singing and playing the guitar. Flowers were arranged by Pauline Stonehill, and Nan Bixler with refreshments. It was good to remember Bob and his many contributions to our Fellowship.

Have you noticed the drinking fountains in the entrance hall have been removed? Thanks to Bob Bixler and Irving Yabroff for this task. Have you noticed the long table in the foyer? The Building and Grounds Committee are doing some experimenting with the space and traffic flow. Let us know what you think. Ann Campbell is the chairman of this sub-committee.

We are sending best wishes to Therese Gordon, a long time member of this Fellowship, who is moving to an assisted living retirement community in Lodi. Therese

will be near her daughter Katherine and family. Lou Yabroff will be getting her new address to keep in touch.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!!

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## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CHAIR

I've got great news for all music lovers! The Sunday Services Committee and the Board have approved the establishment of a music fund. What this means is that you can earmark funds to be used only for the Fellowship's music program (this is considered a "restricted gift"). The money will be used to expand and enrich the music, such as supplementing our music library, adding to our rhythm instruments, inviting professional musicians to play from time to time. All those who contribute to the fund will be considered "Music Boosters", and will receive a special lapel pin to recognize their generosity. To earmark funds, please note "Music Boosters" on the memo line of your check. This will ensure your gift is credited properly. You can drop your check in the offering basket, or give it to me. I will always be happy to receive your gifts!

This month, we will continue the Sunday morning pre-service hymn sing, the Greenbough Singers will join us on November 12 (anticipate beautiful seasonal music and some awesome harmonies), and we'll explore the supplement to the hymnal, Singing the Journey.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday service will be completely musical—what a treat is in store for all of us! It will be a wonderful way to enter the season, lifting our voices in awe of the beauty of a California winter.

I'd like to thank all who have been able to join the hymn sing prior to the service on Sunday mornings. The energy and joy this half hour generates is phenomenal. If you haven't made it yet, you're missing out on some great community-building. Come when you can—you'll love it!

May you find music in every day of your life,



Linda Krenicky  
Music-Lover/Music Chair  
[lindakrenicky@comcast.net](mailto:lindakrenicky@comcast.net)  
408-370-1516

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**

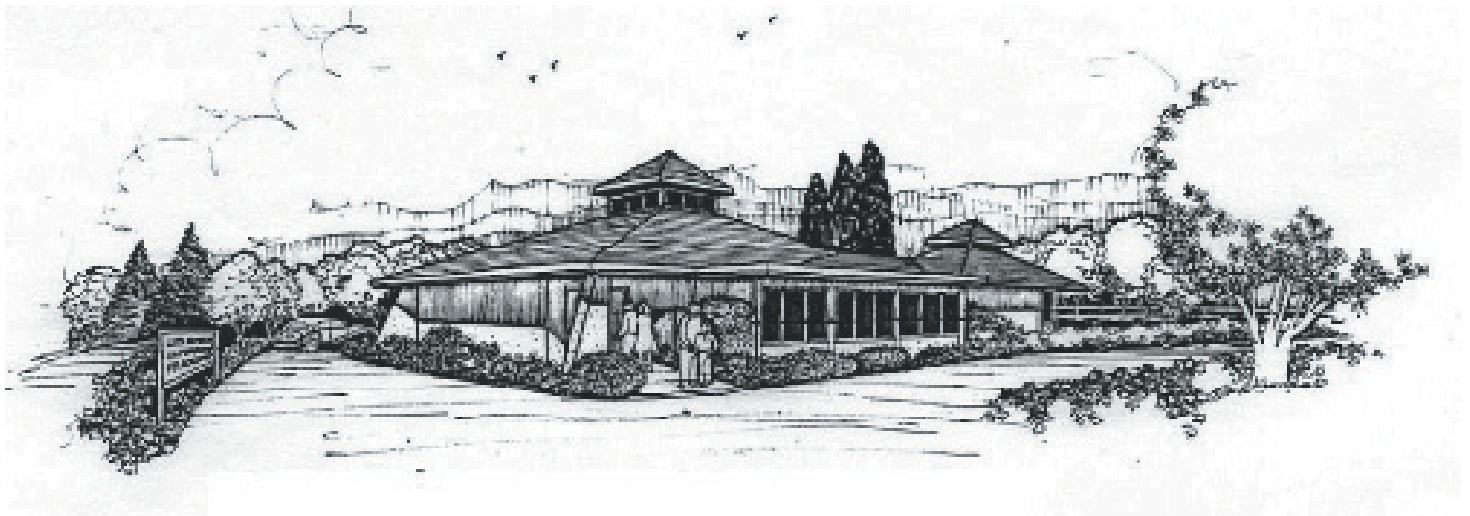
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person”*



**Fellowship News**

**November 2006**

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](http://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.