

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

October 2005 No.10; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, October 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

October 2: “Coming Alive to Life” At Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, the Ram’s Horn, the *shofar*, is sounded. It calls us to work together to make a better world. Rev. Nancy Roemheld, preaching - Katie Rall, lay leader - Ruth Webb, pianist - Jenny Wang and Katherine Chan, violin and piano duet.

October 9: “God in the Midst of Things” This sermon springs from conversations I’ve had with church members, and this one in particular, from a letter I received from one of them. Rev. Nancy Roemheld, preaching - Pam Rhodes-English, lay leader - Phyllis Foxcroft, pianist.

October 16: “All Kinds of People at the Welcome Table” Unitarian Universalism is unique among “main stream” religions because its adherents are bound to one another not by *doctrine*, but by *covenant*. That is, we commit ourselves to a set of *common principles* instead of a system of common belief. We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We support one another in our individual search for ultimate truth. We recognize that there are many legitimate paths to that truth, that there are many wisdom traditions that may help us find our way, and that the quest for the eternal never ends. In other words, our spiritual lives are a work in progress. In this service we will hear the stories of Unitarians and Universalists, past and present, searching for Ultimate Truth within the context of one or more of the World’s great wisdom traditions. We will also explore how the promise of Unitarian Universalism may help resolve the paradox of the 21st century: How can we avoid violent competition for increasingly scarce resources through global cooperation and support the world’s cultural, ethnic, and spiritual diversity at the same time? Lead by Bill Scarvie - Lynn O’Keefe, lay leader

October 23: “In the Big Inning” This concerns baseball as a metaphor for life. Rev. Nancy Roemheld, preaching - Lynn O’Keefe, lay leader. During this service we will have a “Welcoming Ceremony for New Members.” If you’ve been thinking about joining and would like to take part in this ceremony, please call Rev. Nancy at 370-3226 to see about signing the Membership Book.

October 30: “Saying Goodbye” The wheel turns, and the new year is coming up fast. Now’s the time to review the old year, and say goodbye to those persons and things we are leaving behind, before stepping forward into the new year. Some goodbyes need saying again and again.

If you’d like, bring pictures or other tokens of your Honored Dead to place on our altar. Lead by Hollie Dunham and Walt Main.

Notice of Fall Business Meeting

The Fall Business Meeting will be held October 23, beginning at 12:15 -- or as soon after that as a quorum gathers. The business to conduct will be 1) the usual election of three nominating committee members and 2) the adoption of some bylaw changes. If anyone has other business they want on the agenda, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can include notice in the agenda that will be mailed out.

Walt Main

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (Bill Scarvie, Julie Doyle and Linda Krenicky (provisional member)) will begin holding potluck suppers on Oct. 14, with another to follow on Oct. 27. Two other meetings will be held in November. After great food we will be discussing two of the issues that concerned our fellowship members in the survey last spring: What will it take to make UUFLG a truly caring community and what opportunities are available for service? Be thinking about those questions and let us know what dates work best for you. Some are Thursdays, some are Fridays. Hope to see you at one of the potlucks!

Our CoM Covenant of Good Relations: We share in the ministry of the congregation and support its larger covenant. We work together, listening to all that is around, sharing what is heard and felt, and speaking with one voice. By communicating openly, listening carefully to each other, and respecting what is said, we will be a model for Right Relations.

The **Tuesday Morning Chalice Circle** is collecting needed items for some of the displaced Hurricane Katrina survivors that are currently staying at Spartan Village in San Jose. The item that they are most in need of is working TV sets so they can stay caught up on the latest news. They are also in need of clean clothing for ages 1 - 80, that is in excellent wearable condition (something that you would want to wear!). We will be collecting these items on Sunday, Oct. 2 in the Fellowship parking lot in the back of Lynn O'Keefe's red pick up truck. If you would like to donate money instead, please make out a check to the American Red Cross and give it to Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.

Chalice Circle Update

Do you realize that our Small Group Ministry Program known as Chalice Circles has been meeting for nearly 18 months? We have shared about various topics including Hope, Being in Community, Death and Dying, Love; holiday related topics; and special topics such as the Iraq War and Hurricane Katrina. We are currently performing the yearly evaluation of our program. All participants should return the evaluations to any group facilitator or place them in the Chalice Circle mailbox in the East Room. We will share the results of the evaluation with you at the next Annual Business Meeting. If you are not a participant and would like to know more about Chalice Circles, please check out our informational table at coffee hour on Sunday mornings and pick up an informational brochure.

Minister's Musings

My mother used to say, "Never marry a man who embarrasses you in public!" That's good advice. So what do you do when the government of your beloved country embarrasses you in public - and goes beyond embarrassment to mortification? Can you get a divorce? Or, perhaps, take the advice of poet, e e cummings, who said, "There's a helluva good universe next door - lets go!" The trouble with that is, unless you go alone, you'll have human beings with you, and before you know it, there will be apples and snakes (or their equivalent) and folks hurting each other.

When I was a child, and a precocious reader, during World War II, I would look at the daily paper. I'd look at the pictures and the headlines and the "body counts." The body counts were easy to read: **Enemy casualties, 2,354 - US casualties, 430.** Our body count was always much lower than the enemy's and my big brother told me that meant that we were winning the war.

I also read The Weekly Reader at school. We read about "the war effort," and how Mrs. Roosevelt was working on finding a cure for "infantile paralysis" (polio), because the President was paralyzed from that disease and had his legs in braces. We knew he was brave.

Now, I am amazed and pleased to find that The Weekly Reader is alive and well, AND on the Web! As luck would have it, the lesson is on "Teaching Citizenship's Five Themes." Those themes are: Honesty, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility and Courage. Among the explanations: "Out of honesty, compassion, and respect comes **Responsibility**, which includes private, personal responsibility and public responsibility. Responsibility is about *action*, and includes much of what people think of as good citizenship. Courage is important to good citizenship. Human beings are capable of moving beyond mere goodness toward greatness. Courage enables people to do the right thing..."

So, from this elementary lesson I find the answer to my first question: What can you do when the government embarrasses you in public? - Its important to remember, **you are the government.**

Yours in the faith, Nancy

Announcement: Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 1, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. at the Fellowship. This will be a get-together, "A Get Acquainted With the New Minister Gathering" to address the question **Where Do We Go From Here?** We will do a brief "time line" so that the minister can learn something about your history, and then talk about where you would like this congregation to be in five years? ten years? and on into the future.

We will have child care and beaucoup refreshments. "Be there or be square!"

The Ninth Annual PCD "Men's Retreat"
theme is "How can we feel more satisfied and fulfilled by the groups we belong to?"

This year's 3 day retreat will be held October 21-23 at Westminster near Walnut Creek. For information see our website at www.pcd-uaa.org, click on "Men's Pages", and then to "Men's Retreat."

Please see the registration form for details.

You may also contact: Bryce Perry at 650-493-3833 or bryceperry@aol.com, or Tony Bushman at tonybushman@yahoo.com.

Costs only \$225.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
Board of Trustees Report
DRE Ballot
August 29, 2005

**MEMBERSHIP APPROVES HIRING OF
KARI SPARKS AS OUR NEW DRE**

On August 11, 2005 the Board of Trustees resolved to support the Search Committees selection of Kari Sparks as our new DRE and to seek approval by mail ballot to hire her. The mail ballot was sent to the members on August 14th. On August 29, 2005 Walt Main and Margo Smith counted the 52 ballots which were returned, of the 102 that were sent. The results were 50 ayes and 2 nays, to approve hiring Kari.

The Board congratulates Kari and wishes her a long, successful and rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted by Margo T. Smith, Secretary

WORDS FROM YOUR DRE

It is good to be back! As some of you might know, my husband, newborn baby Shelby, and I have been living on the Oregon coast for the past year. There I taught fifth grade, and my husband acquired real estate.

When Shelby came in late December my priorities shifted. My need for spending more quality time with Shelby and my husband, being a part of a nurturing community, instilling spiritual beliefs in my daughter, and my search for truth and meaning grew. While I was in Oregon I attended the UU in Corvallis, thus leading my family and I back to our fellowship in Los Gatos—my UU birthplace.

When I heard that you were hiring for a new DRE I acted on this great opportunity. This will be my chance to give back to our fellowship that has given so much to us all of these years. I will be able to use my teaching skills and teach our UU children our Unitarian Universalist principles, and direct others to do the same.

As we aspire to learn more about our world, I have decided to focus on teaching “Timeless Themes” throughout this year. During our curriculum Sundays we will be reading and learning about stories from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. Human issues, which inspired these scriptures, are ageless.

Furthermore, if you’d like to participate in our Curriculum Sunday teachings, or attend the preschool, please contact me at dre@uuflg.org, or sign your name on the Sign Up Board located in our hallway. “As we give we live,” is my motto. Please give back to our children for we need volunteers.

- Kari Sparks

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Social Justice Committee held their monthly meeting on Sun., Sept. 11. Several projects are in the works:

Habitat for Humanity

Fourteen people have taken Habitat for Humanity sign-up forms (3 visitors). Eleven members have signed up so far. Sign-ups will continue through September when we hope to know how many different volunteers we have. (We need 20 for house construction. All 20 do not have to be UU members.) People can also volunteer for other jobs individually or with a few other people.

RE Youth and the Afghanistan Women's Project

The RE youth will be studying Afghanistan and are working with the S. J. Committee on different projects. They are working with Julie Doyle selling Afghan treats at Coffee Hour and will be crafting creations to sell. All of the proceeds will go toward supporting Rosemary Stasek's projects for women in Afghanistan.

Bulletin Board

Edy Young and Jo Cooley will be working with Connie Springer on designing a new bulletin board to feature Social Justice activities.

The Environment

The film, "Being Caribou" was shown at the Fellowship on Fri., Sept. 16. Afterwards, viewers were urged to call, write, and e-mail key senators regarding opposition to drilling for oil in the Arctic.

Flood Relief

As of Sept. 11, the UUA/UUSC had collected donations for Gulf Coast Flood Relief totaling \$520,656. Gifts in response to the flood in Transylvania totaled \$19,747. Members are encouraged to make their donations through the UUA/UUSC and can go to uua.org for information.

Split-Plate 9/28

Our Fellowship's first Split-plate Collection occurred before we were properly prepared. In spite of our confusion, our Fellowship collected \$788. for flood relief in Transylvania. Thank you and congratulations to

everyone for your generosity! We apologize for the lack of clarity in the announcement and promise to do better. Because there was insufficient notice and lack of clarity, it was decided that for that one time, the entire amount of \$788. would be sent to Transylvanian Flood Relief.

We will resume Split-plate collections when we are better prepared.

The next Social Justice Committee Meeting will be: Sun. Oct. 16 - 12:15 - 1:30.

Those interested in the happenings of the **Building and Grounds Committee** met last Sunday and identified over 20 items that we hope to get done this year. The Committee will hold it's first meeting at 1 PM on Wednesday Sept 28. All later meetings will be held at the same time and place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. All interested members and friends are welcome.

Bob Bixler, Chair

Editor's Note:

I would appreciate comments about the revised two column look of parts of this newsletter. I've had mixed opinions, and want to establish more enjoyable readability.

- Glen Marchant

Welcome to our new minister Reverend Nancy Roemheld!! Nancy was officially welcomed to our Fellowship on Sept. 4th, at our annual pancake breakfast by Bill Robertson, chairman of the Search Committee. Other members on the search committee were Cal Clauer, Pam Rhodes English, Linda Krenicky, Irving Yabroff, and Walt Main as an ex-officio member. There was a good gathering of folks welcoming Nancy to our community. Thank you Rev. Nancy for accepting this assignment in Los Gatos.

Let's everyone wear our name tags, to help Rev. Nancy get acquainted with each of us.
Need a name tag? Sign up with the greeters on Sunday mornings before services.

Thanks to Harry Campbell and Joanne Crane for planning and organizing the pancake breakfast, and to all of us who brought side dishes. Also a thanks to Ruth Webb and Bob Bixler who had set out the yellow jacket traps.

Coralee and Jerry Linton enjoyed vacationing in Oregon.

Jim Beebe's son and grandson were here for a brief visit from Wisconsin.

Harry and Ann Campbell will be spending a vacation in France for a month. Daughter Emily is teaching "English as a second language" in a local school in Southern France.

Welcome home to Edy Young after her 3 months vacation in Utah.

Ann Katherine and Charley Walton had a great time in London and the British Isles for 3 weeks.

Phyllis Foxcroft had an unusual experience in Maui doing some "Para Sailing". Ask her about it.

Len and Pauline Stonehill's sons Jeff and Randy, were here to help celebrate Len's birthday.

Joanne and Norman Crane are having a very special 3 weeks in New Zealand. They have been on a farm, and were out shearing sheep!

Hope everyone is supporting the social justice activities going on!!

Thanks to Phyllis Reid and Hsiao-in Wang for arranging the band for Sunday Services on Sept 18th. It was WOW!!

Have you noticed the big grin on Bill Scarvie's face? He is quick to brag about William Scarvie IV, as being the cutest grandson this side of the Missouri River. Congratulations!

Bob and Madie Shebesta were in town last week and Irving and Lou Yabroff shared dinner and a good visit with them. They both are busy, Bob at HP, and Madie has signed up for Hospice training. They are going to the UU church in Sacramento. Little Nate, 5 year old, is still in remission with childhood leukemia, and starts to school this year. They send their greetings to all of us.

We send healing thoughts and prayers to Cathy Clauer, Nan Bixler, Ann Joy, Barbara Kalmoutis, and Robin Connelly. Thinking of you messages go to Margaret Howard, Diana Payne, Betty Feldheym, Terry Gordon, Frank Levy, and Lucille Reiter.

If we could, we would sing Happy Birthday to the following:

Oct, 1- Tim Connelly, Oct 3 – Gratia Trevy, Oct 6-Joanne Crane, Oct 7 –Nan Bixler, Oct.8- Andreas Omvik, Oct 8- Barbara Kalmoutis, Oct. 10- Margo Smith, Oct. 12 – Karen Leary, Oct 22 – Becky Sheldon, Oct 22-Linnea Bradley, Oct 27- Emily Doughty, Oct 29 – Pat O'Hare, Oct 29 Billie Bitney, Oct 30 – Joe Rafferty.

So consider yourselves hugged, loved, tickled, and spanked from all your friends!!

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Oct 1** 1:00p -6:00p Important Planning Workshop Building. Theme of this workshop is “Looking to the Future with Anticipation and Zest”. It is led by Rev. Nancy Roemheld, our minister. We will discuss what we want her to help us accomplish during this fiscal year. All UUFLG members are more than welcome.
- Oct 2** 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net
- Oct 3** 10:00a - 12:00p Life Stories Morning Session West. Sheila Dunec*
1:00p - 3:00p Life Stories Afternoon Session West. Sheila Dunec*
- Oct 4** 10:00a - 12:00p SGM meet Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O’Keefe.
3:00p - 4:30p Membership Committee Meeting West. Everyone is welcome to attend. For information contact Harry Campbell (Secretary of the UUFLG Membership Committee).
- Oct 5** 7:00p - 9:00p SGM meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- Oct 6** 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. Come and enjoy an hour or so of sociability. Contact Bob Bixler 356-5697, rbixler@jps.net for information.
- Oct 9** 9:00a - 10:15a Finance Committee meeting..
10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net
12:30p - 2:30p SGM Sunday Meeting-East. .
- Oct 10** 10:00a - 12:00p Life Stories Morning Session West. Sheila Dunec*
1:00p - 3:00p Life Stories Afternoon Session West. Sheila Dunec*
7:15p - 9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Oct 11** 10:30a - 1:00p Tuesday Mums. See Kristina Strand for information
1:00p - 2:30p Bylaw Task Force Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Oct 13** 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
- Oct 14** 6:00p - 9:00p COM Focus Group Potluck.
- Oct 16** 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net
12:15p - 1:30p Social Justice Meeting West. All are welcome. See Pam Rhodes English for Info
- Oct 17** 10:00a - 12:00p Life Stories Morning Session West. Sheila Dunec*
1:00p - 3:00p Life Stories Afternoon Session West. Sheila Dunec*
- Oct 18** 10:00a - 12:00p SGM Meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O’Keefe.
- Oct 19** 7:00p - 9:00p SGM meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- Oct 23** 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net
- Oct 24** 10:00a - 12:00p Life Stories Morning Session West. Sheila Dunec*
1:00p - 3:00p Life Stories Afternoon Session West. Sheila Dunec*
7:15p - 9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Oct 25** 10:30a - 1:00p Tuesday Mums East, See Kristina Strand for Information
1:00p - 2:30p Bylaw Task Force Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Oct 27** 6:00p - 9:00p COM Focus Group Potluck.
- Oct 30** 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net
12:30p - 2:30p SGM Sunday Meeting-East.
- Oct 31** 10:00a - 12:00p Life Stories Morning Session West. Sheila Dunec*
1:00p - 3:00p Life Stories Afternoon Session West. Sheila Dunec*

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

October 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.