

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

February 2005 No.2; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, February 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

No Sunday Forums this month

Feb. 6: Blessing of the Animals Celebration: An Intergenerational Service. The Blessing of the Animals must be one of the most ancient of rituals for surely people have always, since the beginning of time, had a relationship with animals --not merely for physical sustenance (food), but for spiritual nurture, too (companionship, wonder and awe.) Who can look at a whale or a butterfly and not be moved by their very existence? And so, we will honor our relationships to all the fuzzy, furry, feathery, and scaly critters who bless our lives with their presence in ours. The Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers and Julia Doyle, worship leaders. Special music for the occasion by Ruth Webb. *Please read the article inside for special instructions for this service which invites to invite your favorite pet to church!!!*

Feb. 13: “A Few More Thoughts Around Creation...” will be discussed by Csaba Todor, a Unitarian minister from Transylvania who is a visiting scholar/student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley during 2004-05. He graduated from Kolozsvár’s Theological Institute in Transylvania-Romania in 1999 and started his interim ministry in a small rural community. He is now serving in a mid-size community, about 400 members. His wife, Eva, is his cantor in Transylvania. They have a daughter, Eszter, who is 2-1/2 years old. Perhaps this visit could be the impetuous for us to re-establish ties with our Partner Church in Romania. Bill Scarvie is Lay-leader.

Feb. 20: Lea Frey, local author of Dear Voices, will talk about the five-way friendship of former high school friends and the letters that chronicled, from 1944 to the present, a touching journey through troubled times and led to understanding and compassion. Frey is a retired Los Gatos High School French and German teacher who is currently in her 11th season as the language coach at Opera San Jose. The first time author and her husband have been Los Gatos residents for over 40 years, as are her two sons and their families. Ms. Frey is donating half of the proceeds of her book to Friends Outside, a local organization that works with the incarcerated and their families. Our Fellowship has supported Friends Outside for many years. *This Sunday happens to be the day for a pick-up of clothes and small household donations for F.O., which should be left on the deck before the Service.* Katie Rall is Lay-leader.

Feb. 27: “Where Love Is: A Case for Same-Sex Marriage”, a sermon by the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers. Unitarian Universalists have often been on the cutting edge of theological constructs and as advocates for social change. This sermon will present a brief history of both our denominations’ history and my personal journey in supporting equal rights and equal rites. With this service UUFLG joins over 50 other California UU congregations in the “Standing On the Side of Love” campaign. Lynn O’Keefe, Worship Associate

Mar. 6: “Dwelling in the House of Tomorrow”. Kate Throop, Acting Director of Lifespan Faith Development for the Pacific Central District, UUA, will speak to us about how we can enrich those among us who are the UUs of tomorrow—our children and youth. She has worked as a religious educator in large and small congregations in Texas, Florida and Sacramento, and has been an active lay leader in PCD since 1995. *After the service, Kate will host a question and answer session related to our own plans for Religious Education.* Hollie Dunham, Lay-leader.

The View From The Board

It's going to be an exciting spring. Lots of discussion going on, leading up to decisions on what do we want to do for ministry when Ben's contract expires, whether we want to hire another DRE, and whether we want all that enough to actually pay for it.

A Blue Sky budget has been worked up to include minister and DRE and carrying forward the expenses we're now incurring. As of this writing, that budget was still being tinkered with, but any way you look at it, it's big. No, bigger than that. You'll be surprised.

The canvas will target getting enough pledges to balance that Blue Sky budget. If we don't hit the target, the budget will be revised down before the spring business meeting, now scheduled for May 15. You'll be voting on a balanced budget.

And maybe we can make some savings. It's been pointed out that we continue to do lots of things mostly because that's the way we do them. It's time to look around and see if there are sacred cows we could slaughter without doing ourselves serious harm. For example: do we really need an order of service to hand out every Sunday? Couldn't we get by with an old-fashioned hymn board? Bring us your ideas.

Walt

Membership Committee News:

The Membership Committee is please to announce a special games night on Friday, February 11, 2005: **GAME NIGHT and Valentine's Day Cookie Exchange**. The event will start at 7:00 PM. This is a night for families to bring the games that they most enjoy sharing. Also, please bring a dozen or two Valentine's Day cookies to share and exchange (this is, of course, optional). There are rumors that a 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. Stetsons and chaps are optional.

Volunteer of the Month - January:

The membership committee is pleased to announce that they have selected **Jan Wygant** as volunteer of the month for January 2005. Jan is a long time (30+ years and counting) friend of the Fellowship and her ongoing volunteer efforts have been key to getting the newsletter distributed each month. Next time you see her make sure that you say "Thanks, Jan".

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 have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at the Fellowship starting at 3:00 PM. All members are invited to attend.

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating committee continues deliberations in order to secure the best possible slate of candidates for election to the UUFLG board of trustees at our Spring membership meeting on May 15, 2005.

The positions to be filled in 2005 are: **President, Vice President, Directors 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Admin & Building, Sunday Programs, Social Justice and Lifespan Education)**. The duration of the first four positions is 2 years (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007). The other 5 board positions will be filled in 2006 for a 2 year term.

If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee – Jim Beebe, Harry Campbell (chairperson), Tim Connelly, Lynn O'Keefe, Bill Robertson, or Sabine Omvik (alternate).

The Nominating Committee will develop a job description and selection criteria for each of the positions to be filled. They will then contact prospective candidates in January and February to ensure a good fit between the requirements of each position and the capabilities of the candidates. Hopefully the selection process will be complete by the middle of March 2005.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR DRE by Phyllis Reid, Director of Religious Education

I'm writing this on Jan. 16th because I'm off to Palm Springs for the rest of the week while my husband attends a conference there. So even though the month is only half over, I'll be telling you here of our RE activities for the whole month.

I've been doing a series of lessons in a multi-age setting that are based on the "Timeless Themes" curriculum, in which the children explore stories about the life of Jesus. Most of our children are aware that the majority of their classmates in school are Christian, and I think it's useful for them to be familiar with some of the basic tenets of Christianity and then discuss how the views of UUs may differ from mainstream Christianity. The stories about Jesus are presented as "stories", and I've been able to tell them where scientific research has been unable to substantiate the stories, and point out that Christians accept them on faith. We've had some great discussions that I think have been useful for the children as we search for what we consider to be true as UUs, in keeping with our 4th Principle- affirming and promoting a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

On Jan. 9th, Craig Scott presented an excellent "Time for All Ages" about his work with animal rescue and endangered species that really seemed to capture the interest of the children. Following that, Edy Young spoke with me about her desire to have the Social Justice Soup Supper on Jan. 28th involve the children in some way. I told her that there was going to be a intergenerational "Blessing of the Animals" service on Feb. 6th with Rev. Kocs-Meyers, and we agreed that doing something on an animal theme could be appropriate. We scheduled Edy to help me on Jan. 23rd while the children prepare a vegetarian soup for the supper and drum up support for having the kids attend the supper. Our lesson on that Sunday is about "Jesus and the Temple", and we'll be discussing the concept of animal sacrifice and how it is very possible that when Jesus turned out the money-changers in the temple, he may have been motivated by a desire to be instrumental in abolishing the practice of animal sacrifice. I read a very informative book (from our own UUFLG library) on this subject, called "The Lost Religion of Jesus; Simple living and non-violence in Early Christianity," by Keith Akers, which some of you may like to read. Jesus just may have been an early animal rights activist, and this could have been a large part of the reason Jewish religious leaders at the time considered him to be such a threat. Food for thought.....

The children have been very much affected by the tsunami disaster, and we have lighted our chalice and candles of concern for the victims every Sunday. I was very moved when one child told us that her family had donated \$250 toward disaster relief, and that they would be able to afford it because of having cancelled a skiing trip. I mention this because I have been in charge of collecting the money for the USC "Guest at Your Table" fund drive, and as of this date I've only received 3 donations. Many of you may have contributed directly to USC for disaster relief, and are unable to make a separate donation to GAYT. However, I'll continue collecting checks until the middle of February if you bring your check to the Fellowship. Or you may mail me your check along with the donor information tab on the box to: Phyllis Reid, 1817 Schooldale Drive, San Jose, CA, 15924.

We want to be able to make our "Socks for Kids" drive an annual event, and must begin planning for it. We ask that you be prepared to bring donated socks to the Fellowship beginning on Feb. 13th. The children will begin wrapping the socks in the shape of Easter Eggs on that day. For families, you can bring socks in the sizes of your children's socks, and others can bring socks of any size. Edy Young will be providing envelopes for use by those of you who want to give a cash donation for the purchase of socks. We plan to have all the socks wrapped and ready to present to children in the Children's Shelter for Easter. This is another opportunity for the children to be directly involved in a social action project.

During the month of February, we will be resuming our twice monthly curriculum classes after our teachers' well-deserved winter break. I'm so pleased that our teachers from the last semester will be continuing to teach in the spring. Please remember to thank Chris Dunham and Sabine Omvik (older grades class), Hollie Dunham and Leslie Jones (younger grades class), and Ann Campbell and Joe Rafferty (YoUUth- ages 12 and up) for their willingness to give of themselves in this way. Special thanks always to Nan Bixler for her leadership in the Preschool program and to Michelle Sierra for being such a great assistant to Nan.

**Namaste,
Phyllis Reid**

Bad news: Sharon won't be able to lead the auction effort this year due to upcoming surgery. The good news are that she will be able to consult with whichever hero does step forward to take up this burden, so that person won't be all alone. Is that you? If not you, who? Recruit someone, and send me the name.

- Walt

Blessing the Animals, February 6th: PLEASE READ!!!!

This is a service that has been conducted with great success by churches of all kinds for a long, long time. If we all exercise good common sense and a little loving discipline we can celebrate 'the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part!' (from our UU Principles and Purpose) If you are planning to bring your animal/s to participate in the service on Sunday, February 6th (and we encourage you to do so), please consider the following suggestions:

*Do bring only pets who will respect the inherent worth and dignity of the other participants (e.g., are fairly well behaved.)

*Do bring only one pet per person.

*Do leash all non-caged pets.(We'll have dogs on one side, cats on another.)

*Do bring your fish, hamsters, gerbils, rats, snakes, spiders and all etc. in cages, bowls, or containers of some sort. There will be room for them on the altar or tables in front or sides.

*Do bring implements (like plastic bags) to clean up after your pet.

*Do exercise good judgement --be prepared to escort your pet out if necessary.

*Do call Phyllis Reid (408.448.4820) or, Ben Kocs-Meyers (510.528.4094) if you have questions.

IF YOU DO NOT OWN A PET or are unable to bring your pet for whatever reason (deceased, not-trained, too big): Please bring your favorite stuffed animal, or a picture for the altar, to share with us. Thank you.

DATE SET FOR YARD SALE

May 14 is the date. Mark you calender now and, if you haven't already, start saving your stuff. This is the date of the city-wide sales so we expect lots of shoppers to be out.

We need good, unbroken, and clean stuff such as books, clothes, housewares, baby items, toys, plants, jewelry, tools, decorative items and small pieces of furniture. No textbooks or very large pieces of furniture please.

We are also looking for volunteers to help sit up, sell, cashier, organize, and clean up. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for the Fellowship and have fun at the same time. If you want to help please contact Julie Doyle: julie17810@cs.com, 353-2828 or Connie Springer: cfspringer@earthlink.net, 269-4943.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."
Mahatma Gandhi

MARRIAGE EQUALITY CELEBRATION

Friday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

Be inspired and learn what you can do.

Celebrate with:

Molly McKay and Davina Kotulski (Equality California), Kate Kendal (Executive Director - National Center for Lesbian Rights), Sonya Sukalski (Unitarian Universalist California Legislative Ministry), the UUCB Chancel Choir, Revs. Michelle Favreault, Bill and Barbara Hamilton-Holway, and couples who were married last year or had appointments to marry at San Francisco City Hall.

With a Chocolate Reception!!!

As part of the UU California Legislative Ministry's effort to send 1,138 valentines to our elected officials in Sacramento - one valentine for each of the Federal rights same sex couples would like to have some day, - we'll make valentines to send to our officials.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is hosting this event and invites all UUs in the Pacific Central District to attend. A good will offering will be received for Equality California's Marriage Equality work.

SAVE THE DATE!!! • PCD District Assembly 2005 • April 8 - 10, 2005

“THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART”

“Without the abundance of the heart, nothing great is possible!” Paul Tillich with GINI COURTER, UUA MODERATOR as our Keynote Speaker! Co-Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore and Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church (in Hayward).

Location: San Ramon Marriott • 2600 Bishop Drive • San Ramon, California 94583 • 925-867-9200

Make your reservations now at <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/OAKSR>

“PACPACA.” is the group code for online reservations. \$89 / night, single or double occupancy - please make your reservations as soon as you are able!

Registration Rates:

\$90.00	Registration Fee
\$35 - \$135.00	Sliding Scale Registration Fee
\$30.00	Youth (13-18 years)
\$30.00	Child (6-12 years)
\$20.00	Nursery (0-5 years)

Featuring:

Friday Professional Days for Ministers, Religious Educators and Administrators! Friday night worship with the Revs. Katie Kandarian and Eric Meter!

Saturday morning Awards Breakfast! Over 20 wonderful and thought provoking Workshops! The PCD Annual Meeting! Saturday night Banquet and Keynote Address by UUA Moderator Gini Courter! Sunday morning worship with the Rev. Greg Stewart of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada!

as well as

See Old Friends & Make New Friends! Music and Dancing! Nursery Care! Children's Camp and Activities! Teen Discussion Group and Activities! and ...

MUCH MORE!!!

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY IS FOR EVERYONE! Registration material will be available at the end of January. Look for our new online registration system at: www.pcd-uua.org on January 31st! You may make your hotel reservations now at the San Ramon Marriott - remember to tell them that you are with the PCD-UUA District Assembly!

We hope to see you there!

Pacific Central District - UUA • 6536 Telegraph Avenue, C-102 • Oakland, CA 94609 • (510) 601-1437

It is 2005 and NOW is the time

• to share this faith • to shine our light • to grow in love

Register today for: **HOME GROWN: a Conference on New Congregation Formation in the Pacific Central District** which will take place on Saturday, February 5 at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland from 10 am till 3 pm.

This event is being designed with two main goals.

One is to engage PCD leaders in learning about models for planting new congregations. In the past decade we have been fortunate to see a thriving new congregation emerge in Petaluma. Yet we know that this region of ours, from the Oregon border to Northern Nevada, through the San Joaquin Valley to the Monterrey Coast and the Hawaiian Islands represents a vast geography and demography with a multitude of places where our faith is desired and needed. In order to create new centers for UU activity in the PCD, we see a need for an expanded circle of leaders to learn the mechanics of church starts so that we may plan effective efforts to share our good news.

The second goal is to begin the work of “getting strategic” about new church planting. Deciding where and when to direct our resources, developing means for expanding our resources and prioritizing the steps to be taken in the coming years will benefit from the wisdom of the group that gathers in February.

To register and receive the packet of pre-readings for the event, we ask that you send a \$25 check (to cover the cost of lunch and handouts) to: PCD-UUA.

Pacific Central District
6536 Telegraph Avenue, Suite C-102
Oakland, CA 94609 (510) 601-1437

IF YOU KNOW OF OTHERS INTERESTED IN LEADING THIS WORK, PLEASE LET US KNOW. If you have ideas or resources to share with the group that gathers, let us know. If you have a million dollars waiting for a good cause, LET US KNOW!

until then, may your new year be blessed,

the Rev. Michelle Favreault

Pacific Central District Growth Consultant • 536 Telegraph Avenue, Suite C-102 • Oakland, CA 94609 • 510-593-0568

PCD Women & Religion Spring Retreat

March 11-13, 2005

Enchanted Hills Camp, Napa, CA

Opening the Gender Box - Honoring our True Selves

This year, we explicitly welcome all who identify as women as well as all who have XX chromosomes. Join a caring circle in a time away from the everyday world. Take a pause for reflection and connection.

How are we boxed in by gender? What does society do to us? What do we do to ourselves? How can we open the boxes and break free? What is our resistance?

As always, we will have workshops led by those attending the retreat, as well as lots of time (but never enough!) for silence, solitude, meditation, speaking our truths, listening to one another, laughing, crying, singing, dancing, drumming, and walking in the redwoods, with old friends and new.

For further information contact Marnie Singer Home: (408) 246-5250 Cell: (408) 605-3225 Work: (650) 859-2640
- marniesinger@sbcglobal.net

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

Feb 1 Tue

10:00a -12:00p SGM meet - L By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.

3:00p -4:30p UUFLG Membership Committee Meeting (West Room) Everyone is welcome. Contact Harry Campbell at 374-8844 if you have any comments or questions.

Feb 2 Wed

5:30p -7:00p Bylaw Task Force - Lounge All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main

7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty

Feb 3 Thu

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.

Feb 4 Fri

2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West room By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.

Feb 6 Sun

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

Feb 7 Mon

10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West room Contact Shiela Dunec for info. (650) 324-9937

10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East room Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886

Feb 10 Thu

10:00a -12:00p Women's Group - West room 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 room Contact Margo Smith 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net All are welcome

Feb 11 Fri

2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West room By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.

7:00p -10:00p Valentine's Day Game Night and Cookie Exchange (Building) See newsletter for details or call Harry Campbell at 374-8844

Feb 13 Sun

11:45a -1:00p UUFLG Nominating Committee Please contact Harry Campbell at 408-374-8844 if you have any questions

Feb 14 Mon

10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West room Contact Shiela Dunec for info. (650) 324-9937

10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East room Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886

7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group - Lounge Contact Ann Campbell

Feb 15 Tue

10:00a -12:00p SGM Meeting - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.

Feb 16 Wed

5:30p -7:00p Bylaw Task Force - Lounge All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main

7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty

Feb 18 Fri

2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West Room By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.

Feb 20 Sun

11:45a -1:00p UUFLG Nominating Committee Please contact Harry Campbell at 408-374-8844 if you have any questions

1:00p -3:00p Open meeting w/ PCD to hear about interims, grants, etc -Sanctuary Meet with PCD reps contact Walt Main

Feb 21 Mon

10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East room Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886

Feb 25 Fri

2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West room By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.

7:00p -10:00p FFFF (Film not yet selected) Entire Building Please contact Harry Campbell at 408-374-8844 if you have any questions

Feb 28 Mon

10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West room Contact Shiela Dunec for info. (650) 324-9937

10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East room Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886

7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Ann Campbell

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
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(408) 358-1212



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



Fellowship News

February 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.