

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

January 2005 No.1; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, January 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

No Sunday Forums this month

Jan. 2: “Learning from the Jesuits” We UUs pride ourselves in our story of dissenters religion, from Servetus to Emerson. But at the same time the first Unitarians were articulating their own theology, the Society of Jesus in Europe was developing its own theology dissenting from Catholicism. From them, we can learn a lot about multiculturalism and spreading the word about liberal universalism. J.J. Martin is lay leader.

Guest speaker, Denis Paul, is a third year student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. He lives in Oakland.

Jan. 9: “Global Climate Change: Raising our Prophetic Voices” The UUA’s latest study action initiative is entitled “The Threat of Global Warming.” What do we, as a community of faith, have to contribute to this issue? The prophetic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam might serve as a model for UUs in studying and acting on this issue. Katie Rall is lay leader.

Guest speaker, Craig Scott, is a newly fellowshipped UU minister; on Jan. 30, 2005 he will be ordained at the UU Church of Berkeley where he and his wife are members. While a student at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley he was active in the leadership of TREES, a student-led organization to raise awareness of ecological concerns within faith communities. He is also a board member of the Seventh Principle Project, an affiliate organization of the UUA dealing with issues of faith and ecology. Before attending seminary he was a practicing attorney and also employed by UC Berkeley. He and his wife, Karen, have two grown daughters.

Jan. 16: “The Courage and Faith of MLK,” the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, preaching.

This year marks the 76th anniversary of the birth of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., honored by tomorrow’s National Holiday. I think churches have a special obligation and responsibility to remember King, to ensure that the meaning of his life and legacy - and the holiday, which took great struggle amid broad controversy to establish - not be neglected. Please join me for this holiday service commemorating him. I invite you to join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of my ordination into the UU ministry following the service. Lynn O’Keefe is worship associate.

Jan. 23: “Cause, Effect, Good, Evil, Crime, Punishment?” Richard Allen Davis, Cary Stayner, Andrea Yates, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. Lee Malvo and John Allen Muhammed. Timothy McVeigh. Osama bin Laden, Hitler, Stalin, Mao. Are evil-doers evil? Were they born killers? If so, how? If not, then what happened? Are good and evil absolute, or relative and protean? What role does chance play? How well-conceived is our justice system’s response to crime? Is it making things better? It’s time to rethink it all. Bill Scarvie is lay leader.

Guest speaker Leland Bond-Upson is a rational religious Humanist progressive Unitarian schismatic with affection for Universalism and Buddhism. A Starr King School graduate, he preaches regularly at UU Petaluma and around the Pacific Central District. He is interested in politics and religion, enjoys baseball, movies, and comedy, and never feels better than when tramping high in the mountains. Married a long time, with four children, almost grown.

Jan. 30: “Abortion: A Question of Life and Liberty,” the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, preaching. Every argument has its own rules but one universal rule is that each side’s greatest strength is the other’s most obvious weakness. Abortion is an issue which, given the current political and religious climate, commands our earnest engagement and steadfast attention. On this Sunday, following the 32nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, I wish to (re)examine the challenges inherent in the Abortion issue. Julie Doyle is worship associate.

View from the Board

Here I sit on Solstice Eve, looking back on the last six months, and I find we've accomplished some things.

- We've found and hired an excellent Sunday Minister, the Rev Ben Kocs-Meyers, brought to you by your hard-working Minister Finders.
- There's more material both in the newsletter and on the web site, due to the efforts of Bill, Brian, and all the contributors. Never forget the contributors; we wouldn't have a newsletter without them.
- We have a calendar and room reservation system that anyone with a browser can access from home, revived (we used to have a calendar on the web) by Irving.
- Also due to Irving's efforts, we have an email announcements system, so that people wanting to make announcements can do so without maintaining their own email lists.
- On the monetary side, our expenses are staying nicely under budget, and the income is doing very nicely, thank you all.
- Harry and Ann Katherine have published a new membership book, making great efforts to verify all the information, and including pictures of most members. Though the information is constantly changing, the new Green Book is a whole lot upper to date than the Blue Book you've been marking up for the last couple years.
- And, we had three new members join this month.

Not that everything is peaches and cream.

- Our DRE, Phyllis, is leaving in March. The RECCY folk are recruiting the usual five-member search committee, which you'll get to elect, probably by mail ballot, when they're ready.
- Our Sunday Sound man, Brian, has had three years of twisting knobs and replacing batteries, and would like somebody else to take up that job. Since it's a volunteer position, don't wait for a search committee to find you... just tell Nan you'd like to do it.

And there are some ongoing efforts you'll be hearing more about as we roll into spring.

- The Nominating Committee has been formed, with Harry Campbell as chair. Though they're not required to start meeting yet, don't be surprised if you're asked "How'd you like to be trustee X?"

The Finance Committee has decided not to act as the Pledge / Canvas / Stewardship Committee this year, and had asked the Board to form that committee. What fun. If you're any good at asking for money, get in touch right away.

- There's a Tech Bunch looking into church management software, with an eye to getting this data base off my machine and perhaps onto the web, where it would be more generally accessible. At the same time, the Tech Bunch is looking at upgrading our web site technology, with the objective of making it more attractive and user-friendly.
- The History Project is gathering stories. Do you have a contribution to make?

You get the idea: we've done things, we're doing things, and we're going to have a fine year.

Happy New Year!

Walt

Membership Committee News:

We will have our monthly Membership Committee sponsored Fellowship Friday Film Festival (FFFF) on Friday January 15th starting with social half-hour at 7:00 PM and the film beginning about 7:30 PM. The film for January is the recent comedy Napoleon Dynamite. Plot Outline: An alienated teen decides to help his new friend win the class presidency in their small town high school, while he must deal with his bizarre family life back home. This is a very highly rated film (7.3/10) on the Internet Movie Database web site.

The Membership Committee also asks members and friends to reserve the following dates for all-Fellowship social activities: On Friday, February 11, 2005 the Membership Committee is sponsoring a 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 to share. Also, please bring a dozen or two Valentine's Day cookies to share and exchange (this is, of course, optional).

Notice: The new UUFLG 2004-2005 Member Photo Directory is now available. Each member is entitled to a copy and you may pick them up after the Sunday service. For the next 3 Sundays Harry Campbell or Jim Beebe will have the directories in the West Room or on the Deck. We have printed a few (very few!) extra copies and if you want a second copy of the directory you may purchase one for \$2.00.

The Membership Committee will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2005 at the Fellowship starting at 3:00 PM. All members are invited to attend.

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating committee has started its deliberations in order to secure the best possible slate of candidates for election to the UUFLG board of trustees this coming May at our membership meeting.

The positions to be filled in 2005 are: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Director #1. The duration of each of these positions is 2 years (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007). The other 5 board positions will be filled in 2006.

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. The 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.

Ciao,
Harry

Reflections on RE Changes

The year is still new and the days are still short. Evenings are long and quiet now that we are past the bustle of the holidays. A perfect time to reflect on our past and future. As most of you know, our Director of Religious Education, Phyllis Reid, is retiring in March. We will fill the remainder of her contract with an acting DRE and begin a search for a permanent one to start July 1st.

As I reflect on the past 5 years I’ve been involved with the Fellowship, I remember the times before our first DRE when we had paid teachers organized by volunteers. The teachers were wonderful and the volunteer leaders were harried. We had only one teacher per classroom and 2 floating aides. Today we have a part time DRE and, with the recent exception of an aide in the pre-school room and Phyllis who usually teaches, we have all volunteer teachers. We’ve worked with the structure to come up with rotating curriculum and multi-age classes and intergenerational services.

In the beginning we tried to cover adult RE as well, however the budget was only 5 hours per week out of 20. A few years ago we dropped the DRE time to 15 hours per week and the total focus has been on children and youth programs.

Enough background. Now is the time to consider our options and brainstorm some possibilities, and I need your help. These are just a few questions that we can explore over the next few months. Of course it is always a balance of resources, both monetary and human, but the questions can be pondered and the budgetary realities can be factored in later.

Do we:

- continue with a DRE that focuses on children and youth?
- have the right balance of classrooms and outside activities?
- want a DRE to focus more on adult education?
- change the DRE hours?
- find a minister that will also serve as a DRE?
- pay teachers and have no DRE?
- have paid teachers with oversight from the DRE?

I’d like to hear from you. You can email or phone or catch me at the Fellowship. We will also plan a meeting sometime in February or March to discuss options and get feedback.

If anything is more certain than death and taxes, it is that all things are in a constant state of change. It is the way we react to the change that can make it positive. Because of the tremendous support of all in our community, I am positive that our RE program will continue to thrive, along with our kids - including the ones at heart.

Hollie Dunham

Lifespan Education Trustee

IMPROVED ANNOUNCEMENT LIST

The Announcement List announced in the November newsletter has been improved to make it easier to subscribe to and use. The improvements include:

1. All UUFLG members who have email have been subscribed without requiring confirmation by them. Some members were having trouble confirming their subscription. If you would rather not be subscribed, instructions are shown for unsubscribing.
2. Anyone, whether they are subscribed or not, may post an announcement by sending an email to: announcements-uuflg.org@lists.uuflg.org. The easiest way to do this is by clicking on the Announcement List link at the left of the home page of our website, www.uuflg.org, and following instructions. Your announcements are then sent to all subscribers immediately without handling by the administrator.
3. The instructions include how to subscribe if you are not already subscribed. Anyone can subscribe. You must be subscribed to receive announcements by email. However, anyone can view the announcements by looking at the Archives. Instructions for that are also given.

Posting announcements is a good way to broadcast information about Fellowship activities to most of the membership and to many of our friends. Remember that the purpose of the Announcement List is to post information that has not been adequately covered or disseminated in the Newsletter or in the announcements in the Sunday Order of Service.

The Committee on Ministry wants to thank those fellowship members and friends that have attended the potluck dinners in November and December. They will resume again in January and if you have not yet attended, please let us know which Friday would work best for you. They will be starting again on Jan. 14, 21, and 28. It is important for us to get to know each other better and to hear how others are feeling as we continue on our mission of caring.

Erika Anne Hewitt was ordained at the Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church of Hayward on Sunday, December 5th. She was welcomed into the ministry by UU Ministers Rev. Dr. David Keyes, Rev. Doug Kraft, Rev. Katie Kandarian, and Rev. Beth Banks. Attending the ceremony were many family members, friends and members of our UU Fellowship of Los Gatos. We wish Erika the best on her UU journey as an ordained minister.

Wondering what to do with all of those items you cleared out of your home in the New Year's pledge to simplify?
The Morning Women's Group service project, Friends Outside, can use them.

Donations will be collected at the Fellowship Sunday, February 20. Please bring clean, usable items of men's, women's, and children's clothing, small household appliances, and kitchen utensils in bags and boxes. Questions? Call Pam Rhodes (408)266-5942

LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

The Fellowship "Living History" writing project sponsored by the Morning Women's Group is coming along. Over one hundred letters have been sent to members and former members of the Fellowship, asking them to participate. We have received over 20 positive responses and expect more. We are asking folks to write down their memories of Fellowship events in an informal style, so that we can collect them and make them available for the future. Anyone interested in contributing to this project can contact Ruth Webb, 356-1735, Lou Yabroff, Nan Bixler, or Joanne Crane. After January 1st we will be sending out guidelines for writing the articles to those who have indicated an interest. Our deadline for submitting your story is Feb. 15th. So be sure to contact Ruth to get on the list, and start thinking about your story now.

Stay tuned. You will be hearing more about the project as we go along.

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND CHIT CHAT FROM THE WEST ROOM

PHYLLIS REID has announced that come March she will no longer be our Director of Religious Education. PHYLLIS, we will miss you in that professional capacity. Thank you for a job well done. .

BRIAN SMITH, our PA manager has resigned . BRIAN has served in this capacity for almost 3 years. We appreciate your faithfulness and good works that have made our morning services a “pleasure to hear”.

KAY CHON has been visiting her husband WON and daughter in the Seattle area.

KARI SPARKS visited in this area over the Thanksgiving Holidays. She was the guest of honor at a baby shower for her.

Congratulations to NAN and BOB BIXLER on their 63rd wedding anniversary in November.

ROBIN CONNELLY is delighted to have her father near by in Cupertino at a retirement home. He has moved from Emeryville and the family is delighted to have Mr. ROSENBERG living near them.

JOANNE and NORMAN CRANE spent Thanksgiving with SHARON and BOB LINDSAY in Ashland, OR. They send their greetings to everyone.

MADIE and BOB SHEBESTA had dinner with LOU and IRVING YABROFF recently. They have become involved with the down town UU Church in Sacramento and are enjoying their new church home. They send greetings to all of us here at UUFLG.

Have you seen some new and different colors in our Butterfly Gardens? There are some very deep purple iris in bloom. They haven't gotten the word that spring is not here yet, so enjoy them while in bloom!

The candle light Christmas dinner was lots of fun. Everyone enjoyed excellent and delicious food, good fellowship, and singing lots of Christmas carols. We missed YOU.

DORIS and LEO BOYD will be having holidays in Iowa with a son and family who have recently transferred there.

Thanks to all the folks who participated in Greening our church home, on Dec. 11th.

JIM BEEBE'S son MIKE was home a few days from Iraq. He has been called back to Iraq for an emergency task. He is not in the military. JIM says he hopes to return in January.

In sadness, LOU YABROFF returned to Wichita, KS, at the news of her older brother DALE's death on Dec. 19th. Dale was 88 years old. LOU returns on Dec. 23rd.

What is new with YOU? Talk to Lou.

Jan. 16, 11:30 am. Members and friends are invited to celebrate with Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers the 10th anniversary of his Ordination as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Ben had chosen the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. for his Ordination because King was a major influence in Ben's life and vocation. Join us in the West Room after the Service to mark the occasion over cake and coffee.

Nan Bixler

“Wisdom begins with the acknowledgment of uncertainty.”
David Hume, 18th Century Scottish philosopher

Dear Fellow UU Church Members and Friends,

Bah! Normally I do not have much holiday cheer. But now I have something to cheer about. Hey!

I am the minister of the Sunnyvale Fellowship and a Chalice Lighters donor. This note is an invitation to support the most exciting Chalice Lighters proposal I have seen in years.

There are two reasons for this:

1--All our donations will help us get free money from the UU Funding Program, but we need to raise \$14,000 soon to meet this matching challenge. The grant will go into our PCD resources and support our programs for church growth and for support of our district services.

2--The Fresno church has a great program, which will reach out to low-income children in the community and invite them to enjoy the Chalice Camp summer experience for the first time.

Whether you are a current Chalice Lighter who has yet to send a check, or a potential giver to our PCD program to strengthen and expand liberal religion, please dig deep. Help the PCD snag that matching grant and to help the UUs in Fresno to widen the circle of compassion, community, learning, and fun for many area kids. UU outreach, service, justice, and fun, rolled into one! Send your check in any amount, with Chalice Lighters noted in the memo line, to:

Pacific Central District Chalice Lighters
6536 Telegraph Avenue, C-102
Oakland, CA 94609

Questions? I probably cannot answer them, so ask our PCD staff: pcd@pcd-uua.org.

Yours in the spirit (finally),
Roger Jones, minister, UU Fellowship, Sunnyvale

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco is hosting a workshop to certify counselors in Prepare/Enrich, a much-in-demand couples counseling program. The workshop, ideal for seminarians, lay ministers or counselors, as well as ministers, is scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 11, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Go to www.lifeinnovations.com to sign up or get more information, or contact Sandi Pilon at the San Francisco church, 415-776-4580.

Dear Friends,

You are invited to 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 til 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 holidays be blessed,

the Rev. Michelle Favreault
Pacific Central District Growth Consultant
6536 Telegraph Avenue, Suite C-102
Oakland, CA 94609
510-593-0568

CALENDAR ITEMS

- January 2 9:30a -10:15a Finance Committee Meeting - Lounge
11:45a -12:15p Nominating Committee - Lounge
- January 3 10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West
10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East
- January 4 10:00a -12:00p SGM meet - Lounge
3:00p -4:30p UUFLG Membership Committee Meeting - West
- January 5 5:30p -7:00p Bylaw Task Force - Lounge
7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting - Lounge
- January 6 12:00p -1:00p RUMS brown bag lunch in the lounge. Men with flexible time are invited
- January 7 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West
6:30p -9:00p Discussion of Future Minister and Potluck - West
- January 10 10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West
10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East
7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group - Lounge
- January 13 4:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry - Lounge
6:30p -9:00p Board Meeting - West
- January 14 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West
7:00p -9:30p Friday Fellowship Film Festival (FFFF) - (Napoleon Dynamite (Comedy)(B)
- January 16 11:30a - Celebrate Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers' ordination 10th anniversary with cake and coffee - West
- January 17 10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East
- January 18 10:00a -12:00p SGM Meeting - Lounge
- January 19 5:30p -7:00p Bylaw Task Force - Lounge
7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting - Lounge
- January 21 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West
6:30p -9:00p Discussion of Future Minister and Potluck - West
- January 23 1:00a -9:30p Rental: Recital
- January 24 10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West
10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East
7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group - Lounge
- January 28 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice - West
6:30p -9:00p Discussion of Future Minister and Potluck - West
- January 31 10:00a -3:00p Life Stories Classes - West
10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 7 - Bejan Fanibanda
Jan 7 - Kris Olsen
Jan 20 - Hshao-In Wang
Jan 22 - Coralee Linton
Jan 24 - Ann Katherine Walton
Jan 26 - Irving Yabroff
Jan 27 - Axel Rafel
Jan 30 - Heather Bradley

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.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
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Return Service Requested



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



Fellowship News

January 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.