

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

December 2004 No.12; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, December 2004

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

No Sunday Forums this month

Dec. 5: “What Do You Expect?: A sermon for Advent (and everyday!)” by the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers. Our expectations guide us in the practical ways to prepare for what we know can reasonably be assumed. But chances are that no matter what we do, the future will still surprise us. The truth is, we don’t know, can’t know, all that is to come or what surprises----hopeful or frightful—the future holds. The writer, Percy Hayward wrote: “The goal is already present in the path that leads you to it. When you choose a direction for your life, the distant fulfillment of that choice....is already yours....Thus, in our spiritual pilgrimage, the goal and the path to it, are one.” The sermon reflects on some of the requirements to get to where you want to go, spiritually, this holiday season.

Dec. 12: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Jo Greiner, outreach director at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Los Gatos and co-founder of the Los Gatos Interfaith Outreach speaks of the needs of Los Gatos homeless and barely—housed. They are served lunch and given groceries every Tuesday morning in the courtyard of the Church on University Avenue next to Old Town. The program isn’t limited to providing food. Medical, educational, and counseling support are key components. One of our Small Group Ministries has decided to resume our regular participation, collecting food on the third Sunday of the month. A colorful card with canned food suggestions is posted on the Social Justice bulletin board in the hall. Jo also encourages us to bring socks and underwear which is especially needed during this cold season. Lynn O’Keefe is Lay-Leader.

Dec. 19: “The Law of Volcanoes”, the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, preaching. Midway through the twenty-one poem cycle of love poems by Adrienne Rich comes this line: “Every peak is a crater. This is the law of volcanoes.” As we stand poised before the mountain of expectation called Christmas, I propose we pause to consider what is at the core of our celebrations and ask ourselves, “From whence comes our power to transcend darkness into light?” The Children will provide the prelude and linger for a while longer than usual as hymns, carols, and all things Christmas will be sung and shared before the sermon. There will be an ingathering of new members during the service.

Dec. 24: 6:30 - 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service for the entire family. This will be a lay led service with a time of music, readings and quiet reflection to give you a respite from the bustle of holiday activities. Come to experience a calm, caring time with your Fellowship family.

Dec. 26: “We’ll Take a Cup of Kindness Yet....”—for the UU Old Times.

It is time to bring in a New Year, and in the words of Scottish poet Robert Burns in his song, “Auld Lange Syne”, we can do it with a cup of kindness. Our own UULGF history project will be featured with a story written by one of our members, giving us insight from our past. Others will share a poem or story of how bridges are made from our past to our future, and we will share a cup of kindness with one another in anticipation of the New Year and the opportunities it holds for us. J.J. Martin will lead.

Membership Committee News

Friday Film - December 3rd at 7:00 PM

We will have our monthly Membership Committee sponsored Fellowship Friday Film Festival (FFFF) on Friday December 3, 2004 starting with social half-hour at 7:00 PM and the film beginning about 7:30 PM. The film for December is a great foreign film by Francois Truffant entitled The 400 Blows. Truffant made this, his first feature film, in 1959, and it established him as one of the great film makers of all time. Considered to be one of the most influential films of adolescence, the 400 Blows follows a 13 year old Antoine as he turns to a life of small-time crime to escape the neglect he receives at home from his parents and the harsh criticism of his teacher. As young Antoine ventures out on his own he discovers the freedom he longs for is not so easily attained. This film is in French with English sub titles. A discussion of the film will take place afterwards.

Christmas Holiday Dinner - Friday December 17th at 7:00 PM

The Membership Committee is pleased to sponsor a pre-Christmas Holiday dinner. It will be a catered dinner of Turkey, Roasted garlic mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry relish, green beans with shallots, rolls and delicious pumpkin pie.. Preparations will start at 6:30 PM and the buffet will start at 7:00 PM. After the dinner we will sing Christmas carols and this should be a very fun social event. Remember this is not a potluck, so the only thing you may want to bring is your beverage of choice. Space is limited so make your reservations early (40% of the seats have been sold already in mid November). Each adult will be charged \$12 and children 5 to 12 years old will be half price. It is necessary to RSVP to Harry Campbell (harryrcampbell@comcast.net or 408-374-8844) as soon as possible but no later than December 5th.

November Game and Dessert Night - a big success!

About 20 members and children of the Fellowship had a great time at our first game and dessert Friday Night Fellowship this year. A raucous group played a game called Taboo and some of our youngest members showed their prowess at Chess, Monopoly and Candyland. The Membership Committee supplied the delicious pecan, apple and pumpkin pies with ice cream and/or whipped cream. A very, very good time was had by all.

Membership Committee Meeting for December

The Membership Committee will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 7th at the Fellowship starting at 3:00 PM. All members are invited to attend.

Ciao.

Harry

Dear Friends,

We are please to announce that our most recent **Chalice Lighter Call** has been issued to support the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno expand a liberal religious presence in the San Joaquin Valley through an innovative **Chalice Camp** and new member integration project. The overall goal of the call is \$14,000, which will allow us to meet a challenge grant for the Fund for Unitarian Universalism that sponsors our growth work in the Pacific Central District.

We are striving to expand the breadth and depth of our Chalice Lighter Program which we see as a neighbor helping neighbor effort. In recent years we have helped to support congregational programs for growth with funds for staffing, building projects and outreach. This fall we are casting a vision of 1 of 2 at \$10...that is we want one out of two individuals in each congregation to sign on as (at least) a \$10 contributor to Chalice Lighter Calls, which happen three times a year.

If you are already a Chalice Lighter THANK YOU! Please make out your check to PCD with the memo: Chalice Lighters and send it to: Pacific Central District, 6536 Telegraph Avenue, Suite C-102, Oakland, CA 94609

If you would like to sign on as a Chalice Lighter today, or to serve as an outreach coordinator for the program in your local congregation: Contact the PCD Office at (510) 601-1437 or email PCD Growth Consultant Michelle Favreault at MFavreault@pcd-uuu.org

Peace,

Rev. Grace Simons for the PCD Growth Committee

Leadership School Reunion

Saturday, February 12, 2005
Starr King UU Church
22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA

Worship, wisdom circles, lunch,
Community building, singing,
Reminiscing, sharing and more!

For more information
Contact Julie Springer at
julspring@comcast.net
or 408-927-5893.

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

I attended a meeting of DRE's in Walnut Creek last week where the main topic of discussion was to be the promotion Social Justice in our RE programs. Marie Houck, the Sunnyvale DRE gave a talk based on "The Prophetic Imperative", by Richard Gilbert. Two opposing views on religion were presented: Should religion be primarily focused on an inward and personal journey toward an ever greater connection to the divine within, or is it's purpose primarily social, with the focus on always striving to reach out to humanity and meet the needs of others? One quote that especially spoke to me was "Everything begins in mysticism and ends in politics". (Sorry, I'm not sure who said it.)

I've been drawn toward the inner journey of late, and have found a book by Sue Monk Kidd helpful. It's called "When the Heart Waits, Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred Questions". In it the author speaks about having received a Christmas card long before when she had been seven months pregnant and was losing patience. The card showed Mary, great with child, and the words inside were "Let it Be", and seemed to tell her not to fret so, but to allow the life within her to grow and emerge in it's own time. Coming upon the old card in the attic years later when she was embarking on a midlife spiritual journey she says:

"I sensed that the words 'let it be' were about to take up residence in me and sing their sacred little aria of letting go.....Such beautiful words. They show us how to begin our own incarnation journey. We're being asked to nurture the implanted seed of the divine nature and bring it forth in our souls. Each of us is a Mary."

I know that with all the hustle and bustle of the holidays it is difficult to take time to nurture the spirit within. How can we possibly find the time for reflection? But my wish for all of you is that you'll find time for providing the 'womb'- the dark stillness and receptivity necessary for the birth of the inner True Self. This is my deepest wish for myself as well.

However, during this season we are especially aware of the needs of others as well. By the time you read this we will have had the kick-off Sunday for our "Guest at Your Table" fundraiser that benefits the UU Service Committee. To quote from some promotional material: "For more than 60 years, the UUSC has been a leader in advancing human rights. Through partnerships, education and advocacy, UUSC creates opportunities for social change at home and overseas. The Service Committee works with grassroots partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and the US to make a difference in people's lives and to educate US opinion leaders, policy-makers and others about human rights issues. UUSC also helps US citizens advocate for justice at the state and national levels, and in their home communities".

By placing the Guest at Your Table box where you have your meals, you are inviting to your table someone who needs your support in the struggle for human dignity. We'll keep our boxes for 6 weeks and begin collection of donations in early January. We ask that you count your own money at the end of that time period, replace cash with a check made out to UUSC, fill in the information on the box regarding donor's names, etc., and turn it in to Phyllis Reid. I'm encouraging people to use their donations toward a UUSC membership at a cost of \$25 (or \$10 for seniors, students and youth). Households that contribute \$60 or more have their gifts doubled through a matching grant. That's just \$2 a day or \$10 a week during the GAYT period. Currently, only about one household in ten is a UUSC member, and we have only twelve members in our Fellowship. The UUSC is hoping to double membership this year, which I think is a worthy goal.

May you all be blessed with the joys of giving yourself time for inner reflection, and of giving to others from your abundance. **Namaste, Phyllis Reid**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is a summary of our current financial position. Our Income is \$6000 ahead of budget due to \$4000 of new pledges since the August 8 Membership meeting plus early payment of some pledges. Contributions to date are on target. Expenses are \$6300 behind budget due mainly to activities which are spending less than anticipated. The resulting net income is approx. \$12,300 over budget so far. In all, we are doing very well financially, so far. Let's continue to watch our income and expenses through the rest of the year. Any surplus will give us a good start on our Pledge Drive for next fiscal year.

Note that our current Financial Statements can be viewed on our website. They will be updated every month in order to keep us all informed of our financial situation.

Need a tax deduction for 2004? Here is a way to increase your pledge to the Fellowship by 10 % or more and get a tax write off for the increase so it won't cost you a dollar. Here is how to do it. If you have investments in stocks, mutual funds or bonds that have appreciated in value over the past years and you would like to reinvest your money in something different then pay your increased UULGF pledge with part of these investments. You will be able to deduct your entire payment this year thus saving the Federal and State income taxes you would pay on the appreciation if you sold the investments. Depending on the amount of appreciation this might amount to 10% or 20% or more of your pledge. It's a win – win deal for you and the Fellowship. Talk to one of the Finance Committee about it and the tax saving possibilities but, hurry it's got to be done before the year ends to be included in the 2004 tax year.

ANNOUNCING TWO NEW WAYS TO COMMUNICATE

If you look at the home page of the UUFLG website (www.uuflg.org) low on the left side of the screen, you will see two new links: "Announcements List" and "Discussion List". Click on these links and you will see two new ways to communicate with your fellow UUFLG members and friends. Here's how they work.

Announcement List

This capability allows anyone to send an announcement by email to announcements@uuflg.org, and it will be sent by email to all subscribers to the list after review by the List Administrator. The purpose of the Announcement List is to supplement the announcements made in the Newsletter and the weekly Order of Service. Thus, if you have an announcement or article that missed the deadline for either the newsletter or order of service, send it to the Announcements List. You also may want to post some announcements that are in the Order of Service in order to reach those who didn't attend the Service.

While anyone can post an announcement, only subscribers will receive announcements. So, if you wish to subscribe, click on "Announcement List" on our website, enter your name and email address and click on the "Join Our Announcement List" button. You will then receive an email message inviting you to subscribe by clicking on a long highlighted name in the message. Do that and you will be fully subscribed. You can unsubscribe in the same manner at any time. This Announcement List will replace many of the past broadcast email announcements to all members, so if you want to receive such future announcements, be sure to subscribe.

Discussion List

This capability provides an opportunity to easily share ideas and opinions with both members and friends of the Fellowship by email. To put a message on the Discussion List, email your message to discussion@uuflg.org. Your message will be automatically entered into the Archives. It will also be emailed to all subscribers. Anyone can view the Archives by clicking on the "Discussion List" link on the home page of our website and then clicking on the highlighted title "UUFLG Discussion List". Instructions will appear for viewing the Archives, subscribing and unsubscribing as well as many other administrative tasks and options.

Only UUFLG members may subscribe. The two advantages of subscribing are: you will receive by email a copy of all messages which are sent in, and you will be able to view the subscriber list.

Questions and support for either of these Lists can be obtained from Irving Yabroff at iwyabroff@sbcglobal.net. Irving is the List Administrator.

All are invited to use these two new means of communication to draw our community closer together and share ourselves more fully with each other.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND CHIT CHAT FROM THE DECK

Thinking of you with good thoughts and prayers

DEAN JOY, DIANA PAYNE, BETTY FELDHEYM, JIM KRENICKY, FRANK LEVY, KIM WILDER, GEORGE GORDON, SHIRLEY ROSENBERG, ED LUCEY'S daughter-in-law who recently had back surgery, BOB REID, WANDA ALEXANDER.

PAM RHODES and husband Bill English are in Thailand for a family visit and vacation.

BILLIE BITNEY and daughter attended a family reunion in the Seattle area.

ANN CAMPBELL had an interesting time in Rapid City, South Dakota. She was an assistant at one of the voting polls.

The November 19 "Pie and Ice Cream with Games" night was lots of fun. We had plenty of games, delicious pie and ice cream, lots of laughter and good conversation. Thanks to JIM BEEBE, ANN WALTON, HARRY CAMPBELL and LOU YABROFF. Watch for the next activity sponsored by the membership committee.

Every time we laugh together, every time we work together, we lay down another layer of goodness. Those layers add up to friendship and love.

What is new with YOU? Talk to Lou.

CHALICE LIGHTER PROGRAM

So many of us are working to grow and strengthen Unitarian Universalism here in the Pacific Central District. Can your congregation use some extra funds to help with that "special project" designed to spur growth in your community?

The Chalice Lighter program grants funds raised from Chalice Lighter calls. The Chalice Lighters issue "calls" three times a year and grants the proceeds from those calls to congregations who have been able to articulate their vision with specific, growth oriented projects. In order to compete for these funds, you must submit a Chalice Lighter application by the deadline date.

The next deadline is December 31, 2004. If you have a project that you think would qualify for a grant, please fill out the application and return it to the PCD office with your supporting documentation.

One criteria that is considered in the grant making process is "Percentage of Congregation who are current Chalice Lighters." The Chalice Lighter brochure contains sign-up instructions on becoming a Chalice Lighter. These brochures are available from the district office - please contact me if you would like hard copies of the brochure. I hope that everyone will encourage their congregants to participate in this valuable program.

The Chalice Lighters is one program that empowers our congregations to spread our "Good News" and strengthen and promote Unitarian Universalism here in the Pacific Central District - won't you help us achieve our goals by joining us? As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the district office at your earliest convenience!

**Onward and Upward,
Chuck**

Charles B. Rosene, District Administrator
Pacific Central District - UUA
6536 Telegraph Avenue, C-102
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 601-1437

The Women's Group will meet in the West Room on Thursday, December 9 at 10:00. All Fellowship Women and friends are invited. Our topic for discussion will be Dancing Through Life (re: Rick Masten), beginning on page 37 in the November-December issue of UUWorld.

DECORATE THE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Come and help decorate the building at our annual "Greening of the Building" party. Everyone, is welcome, adults and children. On Saturday, Dec. 11th, we'll be working from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can come anytime, stay as long as fits your schedule. Just bring a decoration that you can add to a multi-cultural theme, not necessarily limited to Christmas: lights, banners, garlands, ornaments, greenery et al. Phyllis will have an activity for children who are not helping to decorate. If you want to bring hot chocolate, popcorn, or munchies to share Robin Connelly is coordinating that. 374-6285. Questions? Call Ruth Webb, 356-1735, or see Robin Connelly, Lida Kluzek or Pat O'Hare.

Holiday Boutique Sundays: Dec. 5 and 12 at 11:30 AM

"For two Sundays in December we will be having our traditional 'Holiday Boutique'. If you have any appropriate item to donate (see below), please bring it to the Fellowship on either Sunday (Dec. 5th and Dec. 12th) before the Sunday Service. The Susan Parks led Small Group Ministry Group will be helping with this year's boutique along with Jo Cooley (workshops) and Sharon Graham (consultant).

The Boutique will be open for only one hour: from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM on both Sundays. Types of items to donate can be any relatively small item that is holiday oriented, tree decorations, baked items, possible gifts, etc. Some low priced items are good to have so that the children can afford to buy gifts for their parents or friends on their own. (If in doubt, please bring it anyway).

Finally, since this is a Fellowship Fundraiser, please drop by the Boutique to see what items you might like. Also, see the announcement about special Fellowship Holiday Cards in this Newsletter or the Order of Service.

Contacts: Tim Connelly (374-6285) or Susan Parks (261-2956)"

Special Fellowship Holiday Cards At the Holiday Boutique

"The Small Group Ministry Group, whose members are named below, have been working with several other people to create special Holiday Cards for sale at the Holiday Boutique. The cards will feature several photographs of the Fellowship 'Butterfly Garden' and our building taken by Harry Campbell. Packages of four (4) assorted cards will be sold for \$10.00. Get your order in early, since we are only printing 50 packages of cards (unless "large" advance orders come in early)..

The cards will have a theme of peace in sixteen languages. Advance orders can be sent to trconnelly@sbcglobal.net. Our Small Group Ministry Group is comprised of Susan Parks (leader), Chris Washburn, Coralee Linton, Hudson Washburn, Tim & Robin Connelly. The graphic design work has been done by Shaun Haven. "

CALENDAR ITEMS

December

Date	Time	Event
1	7-9 pm	SGM Meeting
2	noon	RUMs brown bag lunch at noon on the deck. All men with flexible time are welcome to come for an hour or so of sociability
3	2-4 pm	Recorder Group Practice
	7-11 pm	Fellowship Friday Film Festival
4	10-11am	Landscape-Grounds Meeting
5	9-11 am	RECCY Meeting
	11:30a-1p	Holiday Boutique in the Hall
	11:45am	Sunday Service Committee meets with Ben Kocs-Meyers promptly in Lounge. Nan Bixler, chair.
6	10:30a-1p	Monday Mums
7	10a-12p	SGM Meeting
	3-4pm	Membership Committee Meeting
8	5:30-7pm	Bylaw Task Force
9	10a-12p	Women's Group
	4:30-6:30p	Committee on Ministry
	6:30-9pm	Board Meeting
10	2-4pm	Recorder Group Practice
11	11a-2p	Greening of the Building
12	11:30a-1p	Holiday Boutique in the Hall
	12-1pm	Care Committee
13	10:30a-1p	Monday Mums
	7:15-9pm	Women's Spirituality Group
15	7-9pm	SGM meeting
17	2-4pm	Recorder Group Practice
	7-10pm	Christmas RSVP Dinner and Sing along
19	12:15-1pm	Meeting with Ben Kocs-Meyers
20	10:30a-1p	Monday Mums
21	10a-12p	SGM Meeting
22	5:30-7pm	Bylaw Task Force
24	2-4pm	Recorder Group Practice
	6:30-7:30pm	Christmas Eve Service
25	3-7 pm	Rental: Private Dinner; West Lounge
27	10a-1p	Monday Mums
	7:15-9pm	Women's Spirituality Group
28	6-8pm	SGM Facilitator Meeting
31	2-4pm	Recorder Group Practice

December Birthdays

Dec. 1	Sally Eccles
5	Zane Bradley
11	Charlie Walton
18	Cal Clauer
21	Hugh Warner
25	Jan Wygant
25	Marilyn Wilder
26	George Gordon

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

December 2004

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.