

# **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**



# **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

January 2006 No.1; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

## **SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, January 2006**

**Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am**

### **January 1: “To Meet the Coming Year”**

We can't change the past and we can't be wholly responsible for the future, but we can do the best now that our hearts and minds can know. Rev. Nancy Roemheld, preaching - Linda Krenicky is Worship Associate.

### **January 8: “Challenges in Afghanistan”**

Rosemary Stasek returns from Afghanistan to tell about the continuing challenges of working in a country that is never quite secure, in a culture that is never fully understandable, among people who are never entirely sure of the best path for their country to take. Rosemary spoke here at an October 2004 Sunday Service. Since then she has been working with the Kabul Beauty School through “A Little Help...”, a non-profit she founded to help women around the world. Our Social Justice Committee has chosen this agency as one we will support this year. The youth group is also engaged in fund-raising for the Afghanistan project. Check out <http://www.stasek.com/alittlehelp> for photos and more on Rosemary's work. Her home base is in Mountain View, where she has served on the City Council. Lynn O'Keefe is lay leader for this service. Lynn O'Keefe is lay leader.

### **January 15: “Power and Love”**

One of the great problems of history is that power and love are usually contrasted as opposites. Martin Luther King's synthesis of power and love to bring about social change in our country was effective “back in the day.” How are we doing now? Rev. Nancy Roemheld, preaching - Julie Doyle is Worship Associate.

### **January 22: “To See One's Self Go By”**

There is, in every human relationship, and in every private life some place for humor, for what mystic Howard Thurman called “the sparkle in the water of life.” Rev. Nancy Roemheld, preaching - Chris Washburn is Worship Associate.

### **January 29: “A Synergy of Spirit”**

What gifts do you feel called to share? What activities would feed your soul? Come and discover how two-plus-two can equal five! Please join Lynn Kelly, a seminary student at Starr King School for the Ministry. She has a passion for congregations, telling stories with children, young adult and campus ministry, coffee, and dark chocolate. Linda Krenicky is lay leader.

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

## Minister's Musings

As this new year rolls in, our broadcast and print media keep telling us about the year just past. We are regaled with the best and the worst of 2005. At first, I felt grouchy about this looking back - perhaps there was more "worst" than "best" in 2005?

As I grumbled to myself about the general mayhem and specific bruises of 2005, my New England grandmother, Nellie Penfield of blessed memory, came to me. After comforting me from some real or imagined disaster with hugs and Toll House cookies, she would say, softly, "Now then, this is a good time to count our blessings." Wanting to nurse my hurt, I always did this "blessing counting" grudgingly. But, with her gentle persuasion, we would both sit down and write our blessings on a piece of paper.

In the spirit of my grandmother's hopeful and diverting exercise, herewith are the blessings I remember from the past year:

- \* working with good people as a regular part of my daily life
- \* beautiful things I have seen, heard and felt that have warmed my heart
- \* moments of pain that taught me deeply about sadness and the goodness of good
- \* new people I have met who have given me fresh glimpses of the meaning of my own life
- \* being aware of the spirit of love that seeks me out in my loneliness and give me a new sense of courage and lasting hope.

Thought for this new year: our blessings often come wrapped in odd and seemingly awkward packages.

Yours in the faith, Nancy

## Guest at Your Table Boxes

Phyllis Reid will be in charge of collecting the money you've been setting aside for the GAYT program which benefits the UU Service Committee. Please do your own counting of cash and coins and convert it into a check, which Phyllis will collect on Jan. 8th and 15th. For those of you who are able, you may consider beginning or continuing a membership in the UUSC. This past year our Fellowship had 31 members of the UUSC, qualifying us to receive a banner that honors us as part of the "Creating Justice Banner Society".

Thank you for your support!  
Phyllis

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### **A Note From Linda Krenicky, Coordinator of the Canvassers 2006-7**

It's never too early . . . to start planning for the 2006-7 canvass. I know, I know, we're barely into 2006, but there's a lot to be done before the spring meeting on May 21, 2006, when the budget is passed. One of the first steps is identify and train canvassers. The canvass in 2006 will be a little different than we've done for the past few years. We'll be having a series of small gatherings, hosted by members of the Fellowship (the hosts are one type of volunteer we need). We also need those canvassers who love asking people for money (I know there are those of you out there!) To help us have a really successful campaign, the PCD is offering a half-day workshop to train our team on February 5, 2006. Please be thinking about what part you can play in the upcoming canvass, and let me know if you are interested in either hosting or asking. You can reach me on 408-370-1516 or at [lindakrenicky@comcast.net](mailto:lindakrenicky@comcast.net) —I'll be talking to you soon!

## Words From Your DRE

Happy New Year! It is that time of year to make resolutions. Some promise to work out more, eat less, maybe give up smoking, but my resolution is to refine my greater knowledge and better exemplify the principles of UUism.

This month, with the Youth Group, we will be visiting the South Bay Islamic Association Mosque in San Jose. After a four-month fundraiser project that dealt with a newly Democratic-Islamic country, learning the strains and stress of the recent turmoil, and working on bettering relationships with these kind and gentle people, we will conclude our lesson on Islam with a fieldtrip to their Mosque. This trip will take place on January 29. Contact me if you would like to participate.

As an update on the Afghanistan Women's Project, Jenny Heath, Kristin Jones, Kassandra Omvik, Alexandra Robertson and Kelly Smith were joined on December 11 by Laura and Emily Doughty as they had their first day of fundraising. By the end of the day the Youth group had raised approximately \$300. Throughout the project they have worked well as a team and have been extremely patient with us adults as we tested numerous jewelry project ideas before we found ones that were workable. The girls did a remarkable job learning about Rosemary and her work and executing the multitude of tasks relating to this project. Special thanks go to Margo Smith and Hsiao-in Wang.

In the K-5 class we celebrated our multitude of cultures by bringing food from different countries to share with the children. Teachers Chris Dunham and Leslie Jones lead the class by honoring food from Norway, Germany, Afghanistan, Mexico, and Scotland. Leslie Jones made vafler, Sabine Omvik brought stollen, Julie Doyle created pilau, Sharon Figueroa cooked flan, and Linda Krenicky brought shortbread. Thank for preparing such wonderful dishes. This month the K-5 class will be learning about Kwanzaa, Three Kings Day, John The Baptist, Jesus, and Gifts We Bring to the UUFLG.

Lastly, at our last RECCY meeting Yvonne from the district office (PCD) joined us to talk about safety. You will find newly printed fliers about our safety rules and regulations by the front door. Please take the time to read it.

If you would like to volunteer please contact me, the Director of Religious Education, at (408) 761-6990 or [dre@uuflg.org](mailto:dre@uuflg.org). Thank you.

Salaam,  
Kari Sparks, DRE

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**INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO?** The Board minutes and agendas are listed under "Board Meetings" on the left hand side of the home page of our website [www.UUFLG.org](http://www.UUFLG.org).

**HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE BOARD?** There will be a guest commentary time for members at the beginning of each monthly Board of Trustees meeting. Contact Walt Main for more information and to schedule your 3 or 4 minute slot.

Walt: [wmain@earthlink.net](mailto:wmain@earthlink.net)

Items for the monthly newsletter are to be submitted (by the **20th** of the month) to **Glen Marchant** at: [UUFLGnews@att.net](mailto:UUFLGnews@att.net). Please submit articles and e-mail attachments as **single spaced MS Word documents, .rtf** (Rich Text format), or **plain text**, and limit to less than 200 words. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster communication and planning among friends and members. However, due to the size constraints of the printing, we regretfully cannot print opinion pieces.

## Membership Committee News:

The Membership Committee will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 in the West Room of the Fellowship starting at 3:00 PM. All members are invited to attend. We are refining and updating our new visitor greeting process and we have recently converted to a new membership database. If you have any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address please make sure that you let Harry Campbell know so that he can keep your membership information up to date.

Ann Campbell and Marion Peterson have recently joined the Membership Committee. The other members of the committee are Jim Beebe (Chairperson), Harry Campbell and Lou Yabroff. We are looking for additional volunteers to work with our committee members to hand out the order of service prior to each Sunday service and to make visitors feel more welcome. If you can sign up for a month of Sundays your contribution will be most appreciated. Please talk to any member of the committee to volunteer.

### We Welcome A New Fellowship Member:

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that a new member has joined our Fellowship. Please make sure that you introduce yourself to Denise Gomes.

### Member Photo Directory:

The 2005-2006 Membership Photo Directory is now being distributed. Please see Harry Campbell after Sunday service to pick up your copy.

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## Committee on Ministry

The CoM would like to say thank you to some of the UUFLG folks who have gone out of their way for the fellowship. Harry Campbell for the photo membership book; the people who helped with the "greening"; Margo and Hsiao-in for working with the youth; the Sunday Chalice Circle for heading up the boutique and John Omvik for great additions to the discussion group. Thanks, too, to Rev. Nancy for the nice celebration of "Naming for Shelby Sparks. Our next meeting will be Jan. 25 at 10:00am

## Social Justice Committee News

**Share the Plate** -- UUFLG had a very successful Share the Plate Sunday with Habitat for Humanity. Our guest speaker, Rev. David McCreath, from HfH, inspired and informed us .

We will have another Share the Plate Sunday, Jan. 8, when Rosemary Stasek will be our guest speaker and the collection plate will be shared with . . . a little help, her organization which works to provide jobs and education for Afghanistan women.

There will be a second **Habitat for Humanity** work day on Sat., Jan. 7. We encourage all who would like to volunteer to sign up either at Coffee Hour on Sun., Jan. 1, or by calling Pam Rhodes English at 266-5942. We will be taking all those who did not get to work last time- first. Then volunteers who would like to go for a second work day can sign up.

### Ink Jet Recycle

Please keep those ink jet and toner cartridges coming in for our recycling and fundraising program. Thank you to all who have contributed so far.

### Social Justice Ministry Conference

There will be a UU Social Justice Ministry Conference Feb. 2 -4 hosted by the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. Flyers and a sign-up list will be available at Coffee Hour.

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be Sun. Jan. 8 from 12:15 - 1:14 in the West Room.

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## The Caring Committee

There will be a Caring Committee meeting on Monday, January 9 at noon in the West Room. This will be a pot luck lunch with hot soup for starters. If you are interested in being on this committee, please come and bring along any good ideas. Rev. Nancy will be attending and bringing new ideas from a fellowship in Tucson. Lou Yabroff has been an amazing care giver for a long time. We need folks who can send a card, drive a neighbor to church, bake cookies for a memorial service. There are many ways to help a bit. Hope to see you there. For questions call Julie Doyle at 353-2828.

## International Folk Dance Party and Benefit January 28

The Partner Church Committee of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose is hosting a folk dance party on January 28, from 7 to 11 p.m. in our social hall at 160 North Third Street, San Jose. The party will benefit the people of HomorÛdszentm·rton (HSM), Transylvania, Romania, the location of our partner church.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Loui Tucker, who has taught international folk dancing for over 25 years. We're expecting a large contingent of Bay Area dancers to attend. The program will feature a mix of dances by request, including traditional dances from Romania and Hungary. (The villagers in HSM are ethnically Hungarian.) There will be a chance for the audience to learn simple dances as well.

The suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens, and kids are free. (There won't be a special kids program but they are welcome to participate in learning the dances.) Please bring some finger food to share; in addition, drinks and Hungarian and Transylvanian goodies will be available for sale.

All proceeds will go to help establish a computer center for HSM. Well before the devastating floods in the region this summer, our partner church minister, Jozsef Szombatfalvi, was hoping to build a computer lab that would provide training to youth and adults. Such training is difficult to receive in these isolated villages. Through the computer center, villagers could learn a broad range of subjects including English, Math, and touch typing, as well as computer skills so essential to modern life. It would also help them communicate with pen pals in our congregation and hopefully attract youth to the Unitarian churches. We've estimated that just \$2,000 from us would provide the start-up funds.

Please save the date on your calendars! If you have any questions, contact Monty Low at [montylow@earthlink.net](mailto:montylow@earthlink.net).

## wUUrld's 2006 WhaleCoast Alaska

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite other UUs to our eco-cultural programs in June, July and August 2006. See the REAL Alaska! Alaskan UU's provide B & B accommodations in their homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka, lead tours and hikes and host parties. Visit with Tlingit, Inupiat and other Native Alaskans. See whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, puffins, eagles and other birds in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south, and visit Denali and other national parks. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Visit website [www.wuurld.org](http://www.wuurld.org), e-mail [dick@wuurld.org](mailto:dick@wuurld.org), or phone toll-free 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure. Taking reservations now.

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Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UUre Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

Check out our website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) <<http://www.uurehome.com/>>, where entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added and you can charge a membership to your credit card. The 2006 edition of the annual paper directory will be available in April and can be ordered by sending a check for \$18 (or \$23, along with your e-mail address, for both the directory and a years access to the website) to UUre Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

## NEWS FROM THE WEST ROOM

Thanks to Bob Bixler and grandson Richard for taking down the sun shade on the deck. Now we are ready for the welcome rains!

Welcome to Marion Peterson and Ann Campbell to the membership committee. Thanks for your time and service. Thanks to Ann Kathryn Walton for serving several years on this committee. Due to other obligations, Ann has resigned from the committee for the coming year.

What a beautiful service we witnessed and shared with Jon and Keri Sparks and their families for the naming and dedication of Shelby Michelle Sparks. She is a cutie and we are pleased to have Shelby and her parents and grandmother Pat O'Hare in our community.

We learned of Miriam DeMartinis passing away recently. She was always sharing flowers from her garden for Sunday services. Our sympathy to Stan and his families.

Our baby grand piano is now resting safely on its new frame called a "dolly". Thanks to the building and grounds committee for this safety feature.

The Christmas Elves, under the direction of Ruth Webb, did a fine job of "greening the sanctuary". The elves were: Jon Sparks (on the ladder), Pauline Stonehill (making the banner), Lida Kluzek (making the doves), Kari Sparks, Pat O'Hare, Clare Steeley, Lynn O'Keefe, Audrey Freeman, Irving Yabroff, Doris Boyd, Bob Bixler, and Lou Yabroff.

Did you read the report of our UU Mystery Visitor on the web page? Congratulations, to us!

You are invited to the "Artist Reception" on Jan 15, 2006 from 2 to 5 pm at Gallery Saratoga, 14435A Big Basin Way, Saratoga. Jo Cooley will be showing her gourd people at the show. The show will be on going from Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> to Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. A "must see" show.

The Christmas boutique brought \$902. There were lots of great bargains in gifts, baked goods, and pictures, etc. John Omvik's photographs were outstanding, and hopefully we will see more of them soon! Thanks to the Sunday Chalice Group for taking responsibility for this money-raising-project.

It is with sadness that I am reporting the death of Marilyn Wilder on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn has been a friend and member for many years. Her enthusiasm for life was so catching and so energetic, and she radiated joy and happiness in all that she did. Plans are not available at this printing about a memorial for her, but we will try to keep you posted on details as we learn of them. We send our sympathy and love to her family, and we share in their loss. We will miss her.

It is so nice to have Barbara Kalmoutis back with us for church services. We give her support as she is moving from one apartment to another apartment in the same complex. Downsizing is very difficult, and we wish her well in this task.

We sent warm thoughts and best wishes to our members and friends who are unable to be with us on Sundays. We send Happy New Year greetings and blessings to everyone in our Fellowship family!!!

### January 2006 Birthdays—

Jan 7—Bejan Fanibanda,  
Jan 20—Hsiao-In Wang,  
Jan 22—Coralee Linton,  
Jan 24—Ann Katherine Walton,  
Jan 26—Irving Yabroff,  
Jan 30—Heather Bradley.

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## CALENDAR ITEMS

- Jan 3** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall  
 1:00p -2:30p Bylaw Task Force – L. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main  
 6:30p Sunday Service Committee meets in the lounge. Nan Bixler, chair, 356-5697
- Jan 4** 7:00p -9:00p SGM Meet – L. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle
- Jan 5** 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – L. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.  
 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.  
 1:00p -2:30p Building and Grounds Committee Meeting All are invited. See Bob Bixler for info.
- Jan 6** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice – W.
- Jan 8** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – B. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net  
 12:15p -1:15p Social Justice Committee Meeting- W. Pam Rhodes English-
- Jan 9** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories Class - W  
 7:15p -9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group – L. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Jan 10** 10:30a -1:00p Tuesday Mums See Kristina Strand for information  
 3:00p -4:30p Membership Committee Meeting (in West Room). Everyone is welcome to attend. For information contact Harry Campbell (Secretary of the UUFLG Membership Committee).
- Jan 12** 9:45a -12:00p Women’s Group – W. All Women are invited. Call Joanne Crane at 268-2199 for more info.  
 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – L. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.  
 6:30p -9:00p Board Meeting – W. Contact Margo Smith 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net All are welcome
- Jan 13** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice - W.
- Jan 15** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – B. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- Jan 17** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall  
 1:00p -2:30p Bylaw Task Force - L. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Jan 18** 7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting – L. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- Jan 19** 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – L. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.
- Jan 20** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice - W.  
 Deadline Newsletter. Submit items to Glen Marchant at: UUFLGnews@att.net. Submit articles as single spaced MS Word documents, .rtf (Rich Text Format), or plain text, and limit to less than 200 words.
- Jan 22** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – B. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- Jan 23** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories Class – W.  
 7:15p -9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group –L. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Jan 24** 10:30a -1:00p Tuesday Mums See Kristina Strand for Information
- Jan 26** 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – L. Come talk to your minister, Rev. Nancy Roemheld. During office hours, call her for an appointment at 358-1212. Outside of office hours, call her at 370-3226.
- Jan 27** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice - W.
- Jan 29** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – B. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- Jan 30** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories Class - W.
- Jan 31** 10:30a -1:00p Tuesday Mums. See Kristina Strand for Information  
 1:00p -2:30p Bylaw Task Force – L. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**  
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person”*



**Fellowship News**

**January 2006**

The Newsletter is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos (UUFLG). The Newsletter is available to everyone on the web at [www.uuflg.org](http://www.uuflg.org). Members may elect to receive a printed copy. Individual friends and visitors may receive the printed Newsletter free for three months. After three months, the suggested subscription rate for non-members is \$10 per year.  
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