

# **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**



## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

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May 2006 No.5; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

### **SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, May 2006**

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

**May 7: “Solid as a Rock”** Mystic and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore said that, “to seek the truth is to admit its separateness; a greater endeavor is to be the truth.” Service leader, Rev. Nancy Roemheld, Worship Associate, Lynn O’Keefe

**May 14: “The Mother Connection”** The belly button says it all. We all have mothers. The connection goes back to ancient beginnings when, if you believe in such things, our ancestors first developed umbilical ties to our female parent. We all have mother stories. Even if the most special mother of our heart is not the one who carried us before birth. Join us to share mother stories and memories. This is, appropriately, an intergenerational service. Chris Washburn and Hollie Dunham, lay leaders.

**May 21: Flower Communion Sunday.** The theme for the day is Peace. On this day, we bring a flower or flowers to the service, and take home a different one. We will greet Rev. Dr. Norbert Chapek, the creator of Flower Communion. Charles Walton, member and peace activist will offer a brief homily, “How We Can Live Together.” Service Leader, Rev. Nancy Roemheld, Worship Associate, Linda Krenicky

**May 28: “Loving and Forgiving”** The power to forgive is primarily a human power. It is a miraculous power that is ours to use - if we choose it. Service leader, Rev. Nancy Roemheld, Worship Associate, Julie Doyle

**\*\*\* 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

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

When I was a child during World War II, and a precocious reader, I would look at the daily paper. I'd look at the pictures and the headlines and the "body counts." The body counts were easy to read: Enemy casualties, 2,350 - US casualties, 430. Our body count was always much lower than the enemy's and my big brother told me that meant that we were winning the war.

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

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

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

Yours in the faith, Nancy

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## Thank you note received

We have a thank you letter from Sally Adelus, Executive Director of Hospice of the Valley, thanking us for our contribution from our "Share the Plate" Sunday.

She says, in part, "Every contribution greatly helps to sustain and ensure the availability of future hospice service to patients and their families who are in need."

The entire letter is posted on a bulletin board in the front hall.

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**CANVASS UPDATE:** The final stages of the 2006-07 canvass are now underway. To date, we have received pledge cards from two-thirds of our friends and members, but we are still about \$42K short of our goal. In the coming week, we plan to follow up with those who have not yet submitted their pledge cards

Some have asked, "Why are we being asked to pledge more this year?"

In order to maintain our current level of service and programs, including a second year of interim ministry (in preparation of calling a full time settled minister next year), the 2006-07 budget requires a 22% increase in pledge income.

I encourage each of you to carefully examine what it is about UUFLG that inspires and sustains you, what it is about our community that lifts you up, what it is about our faith that makes you proud to be a Unitarian Universalist. Think on those things, search your heart, and make a pledge that reflects the bounty you receive from our beloved community.

We will keep you informed of the canvass progress with a "Goalmeter" placed in the foyer on April 23. This will provide a visual display of our progress, as we come closer to achieving our goal.

Blessings to all of you.  
Linda Krenicky  
Canvass Coordinator

# Words from your DRE

Spring has sprung and it is time for the sizzle of summer. Let's get ready for vacations, shorts weather, the heat, the end of school, and change...

Yes, I said change. As you may know, our minister has decided to move closer to her family. Thus, this means that we will be electing a new interim minister for next fall. Although we will miss Nancy dearly, this will be an exciting time for everyone at the fellowship, especially the children. As they say, "When one door closes, another one opens." This will be an opportunity to learn from another educated and wise person next year, and for Nancy to spend time with family. We will miss her!

But, sadly to say, I too will be leaving this summer. This year has been wonderful. This is truly a supportive, friendly, and caring community and being the Director of Religious Education (DRE) has been a rewarding and positive experience. Working with the children has been a blessing.

I bet you're wondering what the problem is, right? Well, my husband and I have looked high and low for affordable housing in the area, meaning under \$300,000 within an hour commute, and have been unsuccessful in finding anything. We looked into HUD but did not qualify. And, we looked into building a cottage (2bd/1bath) in the back of Jon's grandmother's house in Monte Sereno, but with permits and building costs, plus the stress and aggravation of building a house in a quiet neighborhood, the idea dissolved. To me it's important to establish roots in an area, within a house preferably with a yard for little-ones to run around in, not worrying about the landlord, building rules, laundry facilities, etc (can you tell that we haven't enjoyed our apartment-living?). To our dismay it has come to the end of our search and are hoping for a miracle.

So, I want to give thanks to Nancy, Julie, Sabine, Pat, Nan, and Jewel for helping us search for homes in the area and sending us leads and suggestions. If no miracles ensue Jon, Shelby, and I will be moving back to our home on the Pacific Coast of Oregon at the end of June. I'm hoping to start a RE program at the small UU fellowship of Newport, Oregon, because they do not have one, while my husband acquires a sales job in the area. We'll also be closer to Jon's mother there, and that will be good for Shelby. Alas, I can't put it into words how much I'll miss you all. You have been like a family to me.

Furthermore, if you are interested in becoming the next DRE of our fellowship please let Sabine Omvik know that you are interested by emailing her at [omvik@earthlink.net](mailto:omvik@earthlink.net). It is a paid part-time position, with flexible hours. Only dedicated and motivated people should apply. Background checks and approval made by the search committee are required.

This month look forward to celebrating Mothers Day, The Flower Communion, Jesus (make a plaque with His sayings on it) and Mary Magdalene (the strength and power of women) in the k-5 group. The youth group will be learning about Catholicism. In June look forward to Aesop Fables, Peace Education, Fathers Day, and The Good Samaritan. Please sign up to volunteer teach by email or by signing up on the board by the front door. You can contact me by phone, (408) 761-6990, or email at [tall@loveable.com](mailto:tall@loveable.com).

Blessings,  
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.

## Committee on Ministry

The COM is hoping that you have filled out the survey that was mailed to you. It will provide us with important information for the second year interim minister and for our long range planning. Thank you. We have been working with the board as we move ahead for settled ministry. Some of the areas that have been discussed are: Claiming and honoring our past: healing our grief's and conflicts. Illuminating the congregation's unique identity: strengths, needs, challenges. Clarifying multiple dimensions of lay and clergy leadership; navigation shifts in leadership tied to transitions. Renewing connections with available resources, within and beyond the UUA. Enabling the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest. These are exciting times!

Julie Doyle, Linda Krenicky, Bill Scarvey

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## The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee is meeting each month on the second Monday at 12:15 for a potluck lunch. Please join us! The food and conversation are great. Meeting in April were: Lou Yabroff, Nan Bixler, Coralee Linton, Barbara Kalmoutis, Phyllis Foxcroft and Julie Doyle. We have been making phone calls, sending cards and plan to revise the Caring Committee brochure. If you know someone who could use a cheerful card or visit, please let one of the members of the committee know. Barbara Kalmoutis, phone number (378-0813) is responsible for the notebook for the month of April/May. Coralee Linton will have the notebook for May/June. The notebook contains the phone numbers of those willing to make calls, make a hospital visit, tend to plants or pets, make a dish, among other tasks. If you would like to join us, we would welcome you!

## The UU Women's Morning Group

will have their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 11, at 9:45 AM. Lynn O'Keefe will lead the discussion on "Gloucester's Revival: How the oldest Universalist Church in America came back to life". This article is on Page 39 in the Spring edition of UU World Magazine. This is an interesting article that should lead to an interesting discussion. We'd love to have you join us. All women of the fellowship are invited to attend. If you have questions please contact Lou Yabroff at 741-7586.

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## Stitch & Bitch Group Formed

Attendees of the first meeting of the Stitch and Bitch group shared a lovely time on the deck eating brown bag lunches and working on their respective knitting, crochet, and counted cross stitch projects. We decided to meet monthly on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of the month from 12:15 to about 2:15. We will be in the west room or, if the weather is nice, on the deck.

Join us \*May 24\* for our next meeting and bring your lunch along with that stitching project you've been meaning to finish.



## New Members' Biographies

**Chris Magee** began her spiritual journey as a Christian Scientist and experimented with many flavors of Christianity. Only recently did she discover that, genetically and as the result of social conditioning, she has forever been Unitarian Universalist. She is grateful for her discovery and for her welcome at UUFLG. Chris began her life in Michigan, married a man with 2 sons, and she and her husband had 2 daughters. Her husband died of a stroke, and several years later she married Michael Magee. They have been married for 25 years and are living in the Santa Cruz mountains above Los Gatos. Chris is working at Lattice Semiconductor as the Technical Publications Manager. She is an outdoors person and is involved in her family. She loves nature, writing, movies, and social causes. Her social cause is supporting the Los Gatos mountain residents in their effort to stop the logging of the Los Gatos Creek watershed. Each Sunday Chris brings a petition to stop the logging, places it on the table in the social hall for anyone interested to sign. Welcome.

**Marion Peterson** has been a UU member for about 5 years. She was born and raised Pasadena, CA. She received her college education from CAL State Fullerton, and was a psychiatric technician for many years. She worked with the developmentally disabled persons. Her last position was in Maryland before Marion moved back to Gilroy in 2004. Marion has 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Her hobbies are hiking, nature study, and taking Elderhostel trips. She is currently a docent at the Elkhorn Slough. Marion is on the membership committee and is a regular greeter on Sunday mornings. Welcome.

**Denise Gomes** is a new member to our community. She was born and raised in Santa Clara Valley, and received her degree from Santa Clara U. She has 2 children 8 and 11 years old. Denise is a software engineer at HP in Cupertino. Her hobbies are going to the beach, and playing Celtic music on her guitar and mandoline. When she feels more comfortable in our UU she is looking forward to being active on committees. Welcome.

**Sue Fera** has joined our Fellowship after being inactive for a few years. She was born and raised in NYC. Her parents immigrated from Austria during the 1930's just as Hitler was trying to take over that part of Europe. Sue received her BS in physics at CCNY, and has been a software engineer at TRW. She just recently retired. She has 2 wonderful daughters and one granddaughter. Her daughter Leah lives in San Jose, and daughter Rosie and granddaughter live in Michigan. Sue tries to see her granddaughter at least 4 times a year. Sue also has interest in the Humanist Society in Palo Alto. Welcome.

**Jim Stahl** has been associated with the UUFLG as a friend for a long time. He is Jinni Stahl's husband, and Jinni has been a member for a long time too. They met in Stockton and had their first date to go to their high school junior senior banquet and dance. Jim was born and raised in the Stockton area, being the youngest of 5 boys in his family. He went to school in Stockton, and transferred to San Jose State for his junior year. He received his BA in electrical engineering. He continued his education at night and also got his MA in electrical engineering. With the exception of 3 years in upstate New York, they have spent the rest of their professional life in the Santa Clara Valley area. His employment has been with Link Simulation and Kaiser Electronics Co. His speciality has been working with computer displays for military aircraft. He has traveled overseas in this capacity and especially to Israel. Jinni and Jim are grandparents to 2 children who live with their daughter Dana in Seattle. Jim retired in 2004. His hobbies are reading, photography, gardening, upholstery, and of course computers. Jim is active in our building and grounds committee, and on the long range planning committee. Welcome.

## NEWS FROM THE UU WEST ROOM

With all this rain keeping us indoors for our coffee hour for several months now, it will be great to have some sunny Sundays from now on!! However, one of the blessings of all this rain is that our gardens are showing lots of new growth and colors and bringing beauty into our lives right here in our own front yard!! And it makes us appreciate our beautiful deck!

Welcome home to Lida Kluzek who has been away on a couple of Elderhostels. If you are interested in these planned educational and fun trips, check them out with Lida as she has been to many interesting places thru this senior travel plan. There are several of our members who can give you good reports of many interesting places. Ask Dwight and Jan Wygant about their travels in Europe on bicycles with Elderhostels.

It was fun to have the Easter bunny appear on Easter Day to help with the Easter egg hunt. Thanks to Kari our DRE for making those arrangements with the "Big Rabbit".

The "Stitch and Bitch" group are getting started for those people who want to catch up on their own "crafty projects" in a group meeting at the building. The time and date will be the third Wednesday at 12:15. Bring your own bag lunch and talk and work on your project, or start a new one. Break up time will be around 2 p.m. Contact Sharon Graham or Connie Springer for more details.

Shirley Rosenberg's family have given 2 trees to the Fellowship in memory of their mother. When the ground is ready, Ruth Webb will supervise their being planted on the East side of the building. We might even have an Arbor Day event in this planting, who knows.

Madie and Bob Shebesta of Folsom, CA shared dinner with Irving and Lou Yabroff recently. Bob is enjoying his position at telecommuting at HP and comes regularly to the Bay Area. They reported that their grandson Nate, who was diagnosed as having leukemia about 5 years ago, is in remission. They are looking forward to early August for the ending of his treatments and his little body will be cancer free!! Nate wants a big birthday to celebrate this occasion. Andrew is his 3 yr old brother and little sister Rebecca is 18 months. Nate was given a free trip for his whole family to visit

Disney World in Florida thru the Mercury News Wish List for ill children. He was unwell and could not make this trip in 2005 so it was extended to Dec. 2006. We send blessings to Nate and his family, for this wonderful news.

We should be enjoying May flowers soon, so keep your eyes on the gardens. Thanks to the grounds and garden committee. Have you noticed the wonderful plantings along Interstate 85 and 280? The diversity of the plantings, arrangements, and the various ground covers, ivy climbing the walls, etc, are outstanding. Remember how bare and ugly the highways were for such a long time, and now they are just beautiful and things are blending and making a beautiful drive. Am I just nuts, or do you enjoy these drives also? Isn't Earth Day this month sometime??

We are grateful that Bob Bixler and John Livingston are back on the healthy list again. Healing prayers and best wishes to all of you who are unable to make it to our Fellowship services on Sunday. We miss you and wish you well.

MAY BIRTHDAYS - May 4-Diana Payne, May 4-Glen Marchant, May 17-Barbara Feldman, May 18-Marilyn Buelteman, May 20-Claire Steeley, May 21-Jenny Heath, May 25-Audrey Freeman, May 27-Dean Marchant, May 31-Frank Levy.  
Happy Birthday to each of YOU!!



# CALENDAR ITEMS

- May 2** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall  
 4:00p -5:30p Long Range Planning Committee. Contact Harry Campbell  
 6:30p -8:00p Sunday Services Committee Meeting – Lounge. Contact Nan Bixler
- May 3** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service, entire building.  
 7:00p -9:00p SGM Meet – Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle
- May 4** 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – Lounge. 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.  
 1:15p -2:30p Building and Grounds Committee Meeting – E. All are invited. See Bob Bixler for info.
- May 5** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice – West.
- May 7** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – Building. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- May 8** 7:15p -9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group – lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844  
 7:30p -9:00p Great Books – East. Great Books Club
- May 9** 3:00p -4:30p Membership Committee Meeting - West. Everyone is welcome to attend. For information contact Harry Campbell (Secretary of the UUFLG Membership Committee).
- May 10** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service, entire building.
- May 11** 9:45a -12:00p Women’s Group – West. All Women are invited. Call Joanne Crane at 268-2199 for more info.  
 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – Lounge. 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 – West. Contact Margo Smith 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net All are welcome
- May 12** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice - West.
- May 14** 8:30a Chalice Circle - L By Invitation. See Susan Parks  
 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – Building. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- May 16** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall  
 4:00p -5:30p Long Range Planning Committee. Contact Harry Campbell
- May 17** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service, entire building.  
 7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting – Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- May 18** 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – Lounge. 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.
- May 19** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice – West.
- May 20** **Deadline for items for next 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.
- May 21** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – Building. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- May 22** 7:15p -9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group –Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- May 24** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service, entire building.  
 12:15 -2:15p Stitch & Bitch
- May 25** 10:30a -1:00p Minister’s Office Hours – Lounge. 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.
- May 26** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Practice - West.
- May 28** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service – Building. See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
- May 31** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service, entire building

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**

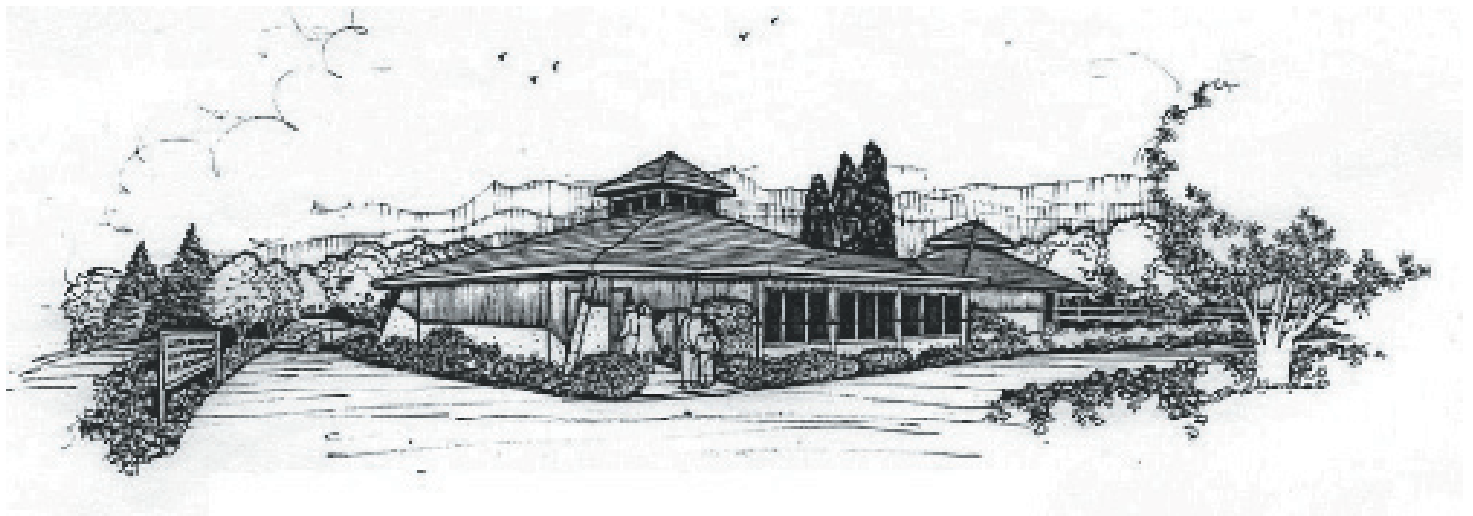
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person”*



**Fellowship News**

**May 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.

(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.