

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

September 2006 No.9; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, September 2006

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

Sept. 3: Annual Pancake Breakfast

The Pancake Breakfast is the traditional start of our year after a summer of vacation and fun. Please add this great social event to your calendars. We'll have pancakes with sausages, fruit and hot and cold beverages. A mere \$6.00 for adults, and children under 12 are free! See inside (page 4) for how you can help. There'll be supervision for our children in the play yard from 10am to Noon.

Interim Minister, Carolyn Colbert, will be there so this will be a good time to say hello and extend a warm welcome. This year the Pancake Breakfast is coordinated by the Membership Committee. Lou Yabroff and Harry Campbell can provide more information.

Sept. 10: "The Gathering of the Waters"

Rev. Carolyn Colbert

Worship Associates: Lynn O'Keefe, Walt Main, Chris Washburn

Musician: Ruth Webb

We gather this morning on the shore of a new church year. A year of renewal and promise. In hundreds of other UU congregations all over the country, people are also returning home and in many, there will be a ceremony like ours. This water communion symbolically mingles our individual lives into the combined stream of our shared life together as a religious community. Be sure to bring a small amount of water from your summer activities for the sharing part of the ceremony. Small film cans work well. This is an intergenerational service. Childcare for our youngest will be available with lead childcare provider, Michelle Sierra.

***** 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!

***** If it is convenient, Members are encouraged to park on the street to make space for guests.**

Sept. 17: "The Heart of the Matter"

Rev. Carolyn Colbert

Worship Associate: Linda Krenicky

Musicians: The Greenbough Singers

Wanda Alexander, piano

Each of us is born with two hearts. One, the literal, fist sized pump that keeps us alive. The other heart is the metaphorical one. The one that's a synonym for love, for compassion, for caring and affection. That heart, like the literal one can be broken, can harden and ache, can stop. And it can also be warmed and kept beating. That's the heart we're exploring this morning.

Religious Education for Our Children begins this morning after a special African story called How Heart Came Into the World.

Sept. 24: "The Fragile Art of Hospitality"

Rev. Carolyn Colbert

Worship Associate: Lynn O'Keefe

Musician: Phyllis Foxcroft

Here we have gathered, gathered side by side; Circle of Kinship, come and step inside! That's from a song we'll be singing this morning as we consider what it means to practice the fragile art of hospitality. How wide can our circle of kindred become. How hospitable, how welcoming is the circle? This is a religious question, and not a new one. It is, actually, the historical base of our Universalist and Unitarian story.



Weavings from the Web. . .

I've settled into my comfortable apartment just a few minutes away from the Fellowship. My little cat, P.K. (short for Preacher's Kitty) has recovered from what she told be, loudly and often, was not her idea of a vacation trip. I've begun to meet with your leadership and I'm creating a bit of an office space where you'll be able to find me most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 to 3.

I'm looking forward to my first chance to meet with many of you at the Pancake Breakfast. It will probably take a little time for me to put faces to names and it really helps if you wear your name tag. In the meantime, we can practice mutual forgiveness.

The start up of this second year of Interim Ministry has already begun. Your board and I will gather for a day of retreat in early September and I will be meeting with both individuals and committees to listen and learn about your accomplishments, your challenges, and your hopes for our time together.

Know that you can reach me at both the church phone or my home office. That number is 377-1399. If I'm not there, be sure to leave me a message on my well trained voice mail. You can also reach me at my e-mail address: ccspider@comcast.net.

My first service with you, September 10th, The Gathering of the Waters, will be a sharing service, another way for me to begin to know you and for all of you to reconnect. I have a small container of water from one of my most spiritually renewing places, a canyon in Big Sur to which I've added a little water from the Willamette River that flows through Eugene, Oregon, my former home. Where will your water be from? Did you hike the Sierras? Stay home and grow your garden? Walk beside the Pacific?

Not to worry if you forgot to collect water. We'll have plenty of "faux" water. The water gathered by our community from all over the world will be saved for use in naming and dedication ceremonies (it will be sterilized, of course) as a way of welcoming new lives into the living stream of your religious community. Or, perhaps, you will initiate new projects or celebrate new accomplishments with a touch of UU holy water.

It is good to be together.
Carolyn

The Most Important Fellowship Program. . .

Is the religious education of our children and youth! There is an opportunity for a few exceptional people to have the privilege of being with our kids this year. Sabine Omvik, joined by members of the RE Committee and Rev. Colbert invite you to become part of the teams being formed to teach, learn, and grow with our children. Watch for further announcements. Look for the sign up clip boards. Talk to Sabine. . .or Carolyn. You can reach Sabine at 831-430-0317 or omvik@mac.com and Carolyn at 377-1399 or ccspider@comcast.net or see us on Sundays: August 27, September 3, and September 10.

We look forward to talking to you.



Settled Minister Search Committee Update

The Settled Minister Search Committee would like to thank all of you that participated in our cottage meetings. We received lots of valuable feedback to our four core questions and had several interesting discussions. One of the key goals of these meetings was to have an open discussion as a group and to take advantage of the unique group dynamic and all the new ideas that resulted from it.

In early September we will distribute our detailed survey. As with the cottage meetings, the survey is also open to all members and friends of the fellowship. Most of these questions are in multiple choice or a ranking style and are tied to specific items in our congregational record that we will need to post for potential candidates to view. The information is also important to the long range planning committee and once it has been tabulated all results will be shared with the congregation as well.

Both hard copy (printed) and an on-line version of the survey will be made available, however an on-line response is preferred. If the fellowship has an email address for you, you will receive an email invitation that will have a web-site link to take you directly to the survey. If we do not have an email address for you but you would like to take the survey on-line, there will also be a link on the UUFLG web-site that will take you to the survey. The UULG web-site is at www.uuflg.org

If you prefer to use a hard copy to take the survey, printed hard copies will be available at the Fellowship - or, contact any of the Settled Minister Search Committee or Long Range Planning Committee members and they will see that you get one. Completed hard copy surveys should be returned to the Fellowship by mail or given to any of the committee members. For anonymity, we recommend you seal the survey in an envelope without identifying marks before returning it.

It goes without saying that to know where we are going, we have to understand who we are and where we have been. The survey and cottage meetings are the best tools we have to gather this information.

The Settled Minister Search Committee

Jim Beebe
Ann Campbell
Tim Connelly
Jo Cooley
Leslie Jones
John Omvik
Jim Stahl

Long Range Planning Committee

Bob Bixler
Harry Campbell
Linda Krenicky
Katie Rall
Jim Stahl

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.

UUFLG Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, September 3rd Starting at 10:00 AM

Please add this great social event to your calendars. We will have our traditional pancake breakfast with sausages, fruit and hot and cold beverages.

Our Pancake Breakfast is the traditional start of our year after a summer of vacation and fun. Breakfast will be served from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. The cost will be \$6:00 per person and children under 12 are free. Supervision for children will be provided in the children's play yard from 10:00 AM to Noon.

This year the Pancake Breakfast is being coordinated by the Membership Committee. Reverend Carolyn Colbert will be attending this event, so this will be a good time to say hello to our new Interim Minister. Don't miss it!

UUFLG Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Update

The Long Range Planning Committee has been busy over the summer working with our UUFLG Settled Minister Search Committee to prepare an extensive survey of our members and friends that will be used to find out what they are thinking about concerning the future of our Fellowship,

The LRPC early on selected our UUFLG Mission Statement – crafted in 1995 - as a basis for their planning work. The Mission Statement is:

We at the Los Gatos Unitarian Fellowship Have a Mission to:

- Provide a place where people are inspired to think about and discuss values, ethics and the meaning of their lives.
- Stimulate spiritual growth in children and adults through exposure to a wide variety of religious thought and experience.
- Provide mutual support, caring and fellowship to our members.
- Provide support of the larger community through service and social action.
- Appreciate and honor our connectedness with all living things.



Over the next several months the committee will be working with the results of the survey and information from the Cottage Meetings, and they will have an information meeting in October for Fellowship members and friends.

UUFLG Board Approves A Ministerial Discretionary Fund

At the August UUFLG Board of Trustees meeting a special Ministerial Discretionary Fund was approved. This fund will be administered by our new Interim Minister – Rev. Carolyn Colbert – and will be used to provide assistance to needy persons and causes within our Fellowship and local community.

The idea for this fund came from Jewel Peyton, and the stated purpose is that it be used as a resource to minister to each other. The fund will be supported only by spontaneous and anonymous donations from members and friends. Jewel feels that small donations to commemorate a birthday, graduation, new job or other similar event will provide sufficient support for this fund.

The Board also discussed using the shared collection plate, on occasion, to add to the fund, and they authorized an initial 'loan' to the fund of \$500.

So, please feel free to make a small (\$10, \$20 or \$50) contribution to the fund. Be sure to identify the contribution as a special Ministerial Discretionary Fund donation, and please be aware that this will not be considered as part of one's annual pledge.

THE UUFLG ENDOWMENT FUND

Our Fellowship has long hoped to grow a sizeable endowment, the investment income from which could be used for special projects consistent with our mission but beyond the reach of our annual budget. In 1998, Edgar Crane, a former member now deceased, donated \$15,000 to start that fund. \$10,000 of it was restricted and is in three restricted funds, and \$5,000 was unrestricted and formed the UUFLG Unrestricted Endowment Fund. The money was kept in a money market fund until July 1, 2005 when your Endowment Committee transferred it to the UUA Endowment Fund which now manages it. We have been averaging 10% return on that investment.

In December, 2005, a current member, Lida Kluzek, added to the UUFLG Unrestricted Endowment Fund to give a total investment greater than \$25,000 current value. Our plan is to transfer 5% of the value in each fund as of June 30 each year to a money-market fund to be available for special projects. That leaves roughly half of the earnings to support the growth of the fund. Requests for the use of transferred money may be made by any Fellowship committee or by the Board before September 30. The Endowment Committee will prepare a recommended distribution from each of the established Endowment Funds consistent with their restrictions, and present it to the Board. The Committee will then make the Board-approved distribution.

Since we are getting a late start this first year, the above schedule will slip by a quarter. Thus, the money available from each of the funds will be announced during October, as well as the restrictions to be satisfied for each fund. Final distribution will be made shortly after the first of the year, 2007. The total amount that will be available for distribution this year is estimated to be a total of about \$1,300 from the four funds.

We now have a beginning of our UUFLG Endowment and a procedure to manage it. Our next step is to inform the Fellowship of the opportunity to add to your Fellowship's Endowment. Donations of either stock or cash are welcome, particularly to the Unrestricted Endowment Fund. For more information or to donate, see Ann Campbell, chair of the Endowment Committee; John Omvik, Treasurer; or Irving Yabroff, bookkeeper.

The Women's Spirituality Group is a place for Fellowship women to explore aspects of spiritual growth with other women. Every September the group invites new members to join and participate in the selection of a curriculum for the coming year. In recent years the group has selected a book to use as a basis for the curriculum. Last year we used a small book of essays on Buddhist mindfulness titled "The Issue at Hand". Other recent books we've used are "Essential Spirituality" and "The Four Agreements". Since the group is based on following a chosen set of topics for the year, the expectation is that those who join the group make a commitment to participate regularly for the course of the year.

The group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM in the lounge. Come to our September meetings on 9/11 and 9/25, and help choose a curriculum for the year! If you have questions call Ann Campbell at 374-8844 or Sharon Graham at

The Thursday Women's Group, after an August vacation, will meet Thursday, September 14 at 9:45 AM. The discussion, led by Pauline Stonehill, will be on the article from the summer UUWorld, Pages 38-43: **RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS**. The author, Michelle Bates Deakin, asks the question "How much would you sacrifice to save others?"

Please plan to join this friendly group. If you have questions contact Ruth Webb at 356-1735.

Sheila Dunec's Fall Life Stories Classes will begin on Monday, Sept. 11th, from 10 to noon in the Fellowship's West Room. The series will conclude November 16th before holiday activities crowd people's schedules. Sheila was inspired to begin designing and teaching these classes to help people write stories about their lives especially for their children, grandchildren, and extended family. However, some have also published their memoirs. The assignments are meant to encourage the writers to express their life experiences for their own satisfaction and for their families. Many Fellowship members have participated through the years. If you are interested in finding out more or in registering for the class, please call Sheila at (650) 565-8087.

News From The Deck

It was so good to have Pat Horton visit us from her home in Southern California. She is getting settled and is enjoying living in “sunny California”. She is getting involved in the local UU Church in Aliso Viejo.

Julie and Jerry Doyle have sent word from their cabin in Montana that they are having a grand time. Tasha and husband have been spending vacation time with them on the lake also.

I almost told you that Coralee and Jerry Linton had a week of R & R in beautiful San Diego. It is a good thing that I didn't tell you, cause they had to cancel their trip due to illness, and never left San Jose. So sorry!

Good to see Bob and Madie Shebesta at Fellowship. They are currently living in Folsom. Madie reported to us that their grandson Nate is in complete remission from his childhood leukemia. Remember many of us supported Nate with toys, games, books etc. during his illness. We rejoice in this good news.

Bob Bixler has been having some fun showing some of his grandchildren how to “make pots” out of clay. In his earlier days, did you know that Bob was an excellent potter? How special for him to rekindle his skill by showing them to his grandkids!!! He is a special “grandpa”!

Pauline has been keeping us informed on their grandson Alex and his special project in communications. Also she reported that son Randy has been nominated for some special music awards. Congratulations to all concerned!

Ruth Webb enjoyed her daughter Chris for a visit this last week-end.

Lou and Irving Yabroff enjoyed their son Marty and family for a brief visit. They are living in Mishawaka, IN.

Have you seen what is going on in our kitchen??? You will be pleasantly surprised !! Special thanks to Pam and Bill English for their gift in this kitchen project. AND the building and grounds committee had infested areas sprayed to get rid of the ants who were invading the building. Should you see a live ant any place in the building, please report it to a member of the committee,

as we have a 60 day guarantee to be rid of them. The committee members are: Irving Yabroff, Ann Campbell, Jim Stahl, Bob Bixler, Dwight Wygant, Ruth Webb, and Lou Yabroff. Also special thanks to Chris Dunham who helped in the kitchen project.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS ...

Sept 1--Max Jones,
Sept 5--Sabina Omvik,
Sept 9--Jo Cooley,
Sept 11--Wanda Alexander,
Sept 14--Anna Marchant,
Sept 15--Chris Matthiessen and Nick Matthiessen,
Sept 17--Walt Main,
Sept 18--Ruth Webb,
Sept. 19--Len Stonehill,
Sept. 20--Betty Feldheym,
Sept. 24--Phyllis Reid.



More Kitchen News

Our kitchen is roomier now and more usable, but has a little less storage space since we changed refrigerators and added a dishwasher and moved the small chest of drawers to the West room. The dishwasher underwent a test run with every cup – all 54 of them - loaded at the same time! Since fridge capacity is reduced, please don't use it for long range storage of miscellaneous food. We'll also be paring down some of the duplicate kitchen items so the cupboards aren't so crowded.

The project should be completed in time for our Pancake breakfast. Our budget was \$1200 but we spent closer to \$1600 so we will gladly accept additional donations up to \$400. The kitchen crew included Jim Stahl, Dwight Wygant, Bob Bixler, Jim Beebe, Ann and Harry Campbell and Connie Springer.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Sep 3** 10:00a -11:15a UUFLG Annual Pancake Breakfast. This UUFLG 2006 Pancake Breakfast is being organized for the Fellowship by the UUFLG Membership Committee - for information contact Lou Yabroff or Harry Campbell. *No Sunday Service today. Pancake Breakfast instead.*
- Sep 5** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting – Lounge. By Invitation. See Katie Rall
4:00p -5:00p UUFLG Long Range Planning Committee. Contact Harry Campbell at 374-8844
- Sep 6** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service. Edgar will be cleaning the building
1:00p -2:30p UUFLG Membership Committee Meeting. Contact: Lou Yabroff or Harry Campbell. Everyone welcome.
- Sep 7** 7:00p -9:00p SGM Meet – Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle
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 - East. All are invited. See Irving Yabroff for info.
7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center:
See website at www.meditationinsanjose.org for class information
- Sep 8** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group - West.
- Sep 10** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service.
- Sep 11** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories – West. Sheila Dunec.
7:15p -9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group – Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
7:30p -9:00p Great Books – East. Great Books Club. Contact Brent Browning if you wish to attend, 353-6340.
- Sep 13** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service. Edgar will be cleaning the building
- Sep 14** 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center:
See website at www.meditationinsanjose.org for class information.
- Sep 15** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group - West.
- Sep 17** 8:30a Chalice Circle – Lounge. By Invitation. See Susan Parks
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service.
- Sep 18** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories – West. Sheila Dunec.
- Sep 19** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting. By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall
4:00p -5:00p UUFLG Long Range Planning Committee. Contact Harry Campbell at 374-8844
- Sep 20** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service. Edgar will be cleaning the building
7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting – Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
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.
- Sep 21** 12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee – West. All are welcome. Contact Julie Doyle for info.
7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center:
See website at www.meditationinsanjose.org for class information
- Sep 22** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group – West.
- Sep 24** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service.
- Sep 25** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories - W Sheila Dunec.
7:15p -9:00p Women’s Spirituality Group –Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Sep 27** 9:00a -1:00p Janitorial Service. Edgar will be cleaning the building
12:15p -2:15p Stitch & Bitch – West. contact Connie Springer
- Sep 28** 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center:
See website at www.meditationinsanjose.org for class information
- Sep 29** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group - West.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

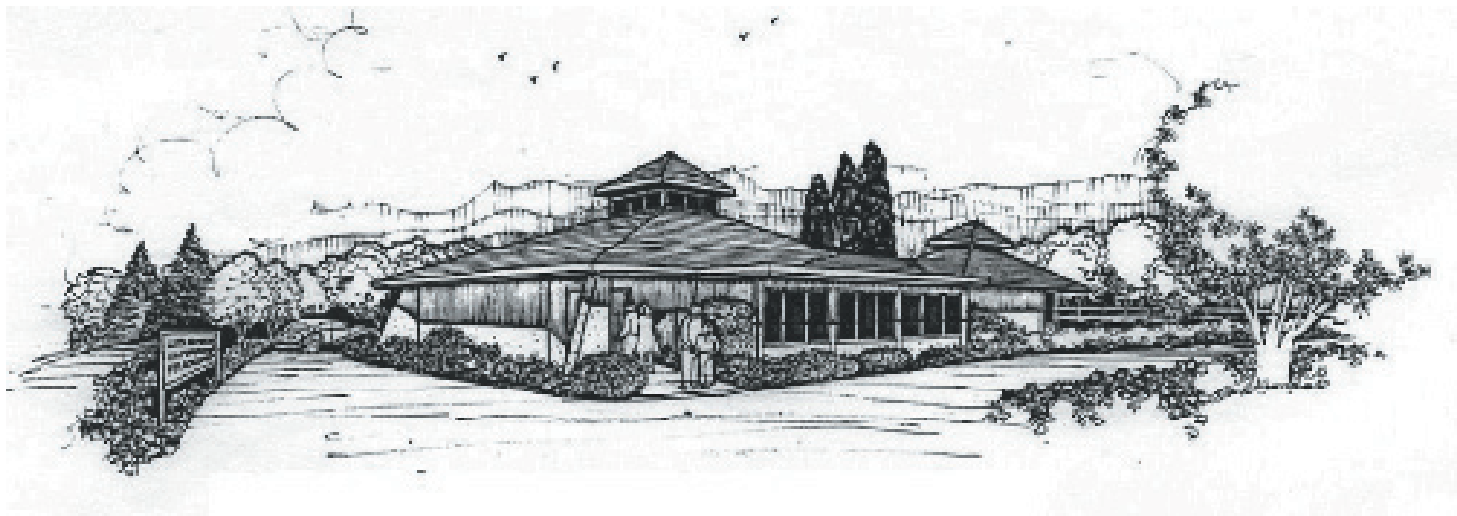
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



Fellowship News

September 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. 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.