



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

August 2008 No 8; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, editor

Sunday Services starting at 10:30

August 3 *'Celebrating First Fruits* with Carol Bodeau

In some earth-based traditions, particularly those of the Celtic world, early August is the time to celebrate the first harvests of the year. Here in California, our farmers' markets are overflowing with the abundance of our local summer harvests, and our tables are filled with the ripe and tasty fruits of the earth around us. How does this abundance reflect an internal, spiritual ripeness and fullness in our lives? Using the model of the Celtic celebrations of Lughnasadh, let us ask ourselves what fruits of our spiritual journeys we might appreciate today.

Carol Bodeau, a recent graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, has served as Co-Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo for 5 years and last year as Intern Minister at the Starr King UU Church in Hayward. Previously Carol was an English professor. Her ministry centers around earth-spirituality, UU paganism, & environmentalism.

August 10 *'Catch a Falling Star and Put it in Your Pocket* with Karen Melander-Magoon

Catch a Falling Star and Put it in Your Pocket, is the title of Karen's homily with song which she offers us on August 10. We all need a star in our pockets to remind us of the immense radiance which we each hold within ourselves and yet can fit in our pockets, since it takes no space. We each can catch and hold the star of hope, which leads us to greater understanding, deeper love and unconditional forgiveness, for others and ourselves.

Karen began her vocal career singing major roles in the opera houses of Berlin, Vienna, Augsburg, Dortmund, Osnabruck and many other European cities before returning to the United States. She is completing her studies for a Doctorate in Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. She has written a series of one woman shows, creating musical portraits of the lives of Lillie Langtry, Georgia O'Keeffe and Clara Barton, an important figure in the Universalist movement, who also founded the American Red Cross. She has shared her homilies woven with song in several Unitarian Universalist Fellowships and churches, from Chico to Eugene, Oregon, Lake County to Mendocino, including Berkeley, Davis and Marin County

August 17 *Politics, Sex and Religion: Reflections on the Power that Words and Music Can Bring Into Our Lives* with Nina Kalmoutis

August 24 *Life in Transition: Beginnings and Endings* with Rev. Victoria Ingram

They say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Yet, it always seems that something is starting and something is coming to an end in our lives. How we find a sense of the constant in this never-ending cycle of comings and goings is the focus of this Sunday's service.

August 31 *Our Job as Humans: The Work of the Spirit* with Rev. Victoria Ingram

Our search for meaning has been a theme of humanity since time immemorial. What is it that we're here on Earth to do? In honor of Labor Day, this week's sermon explores the spiritual work we are engaged in during our life's journey and how the work of our hands and minds can support our experience of life.

September 7 *Hymns Old and New* with Rev. Victoria Ingram

Ingathering and Water Communion Service: Remember to bring water collected during your summer travels.

Music is fundamental to UU Sunday services, and all of us have favorites among the many included in our hymnals. To celebrate our coming together again at the start of another church year, this morning we'll sing together the beloved hymns that define our values and enrich our worship. Dave will take requests, too!

Minister's Column

The dog days of summer...

Here we are in those days from July to September that we associate with hot weather and low energy, when our thoughts turn to finding inventive ways to stay cool and avoid being out of doors in the heat of the day. After all, as the song says, "only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun."

Our European ancestors looked to the night sky and imagined pictures created by "connecting the dots" of the stars, naming these constellations in honor of their gods and goddesses, but also after animals, including bulls, bears, and dogs. The brightest star in the night sky is Sirius, part of the constellation named "the big dog" – Canis Major. During late July and August, as Sirius rises and sets with the sun, the ancients believed the heat of these two stars together helped to create the hot, sultry weather common to us at this time of the year.

While we now know our warm temperatures are a result of the tilt of the earth (and enhanced by the effects of global warming), it is still wise to use these warm days as an excuse to slow down and take it easy. Let it be a time of rest and relaxation, when you allow yourself to find the wisdom of your "inner animal." Drink plenty of water. Find shade. Eat light. Take a nap. Enjoy your family and friends. Catch up on your reading. Engage in simple pleasures. Reflect on the beauty of life.

Not that there aren't tasks to be done at this time of the year, too! We know life doesn't come to a complete stand-still because the weather is warm. So, answer the call of your responsibilities, certainly, but also take the joyful opportunity of this time of year to pause, to ponder, and to prepare.

The wheel of life keeps turning, and fall will be upon us before we know it. With it will come the start of the school year, a busy time, whether you have children or not! What do you need to do now to be prepared for fall?

While you enjoy these leisurely dog days, also be quietly planning for the lively days to come! September at UUFLG brings the start our fall calendar of activities and opportunities to be together. We love having you with us, creating our beloved community!

Love and light,
Victoria

NOTE: Victoria's vacation continues through August 13. She will be available during that time for pastoral emergencies at 408.375.2173.



Ingathering Service – Water Communion

We mark the beginning of our Fellowship's fall activities with a service of ingathering and celebration on September 7th. We'll be participating in water communion that day, with each of us adding water collected during our summer adventures and vacations to the collective container of our community.

Just a reminder! Remember to bring back a sample of water from your summer activities, whether near or far, and bring it with you to the Fellowship on Sunday, September 7th.

Fall Adult Religious Education Offerings



The catalog of options for deepening your relationship with your self and with others through groups, workshops, and classes at UUFLG will be available on Sunday, August 24th. Look for the exciting line-up of Inspirational Films, classes on strategies for reducing your carbon footprint, New Testament Bible study, drop-in family dinner and activity nights, and other interesting and engaging workshops, classes, and options!

Religious Education



There are so many people to thank this month, because many generous and talented people have helped in the makeover of our preschool. Moira Sullivan started it off by supplying the colorful, bouncy floor covering, and providing us with paint. Paul Yeadon stepped in to give the walls a fresh coat. Victoria provided the very bright and fun valances and throw pillows, which she made herself. Did you know she was a gifted seamstress, in addition to her many other talents?

Over in the west room, we're continuing to have lots of fun as well, exploring science in relation to UU sources and principles, as well as history and Native American mythology. Kari and Joe have been stepping up to lead some classes, and we'll have many guest teachers coming

up, some of whom will be parents and even teachers. I have so many fun topics up my sleeve some of them may spill over into fall. We'll tell you more about that next month!

Wishing you a happy Summer,
Tamara, DRE

Membership Committee Update

As I take over the chair of the Membership Committee, I am grateful for the wonderful support of the past chairperson, Lou Yabroff. She is a hard act to follow but I will give it my best. We can't thank Lou enough for all she has done for the membership.

One of our most urgent goals this year is to add some young members to our committee. So I am delighted to announce that Linda Krenicky has joined the MC. More young members on our committee will help us better address the needs of our young families. If you are interested, please contact me. We are not planning to neglect our other members and hope you will tell us of any new social or spiritual activity for any age group that would appeal. Always let us know how we can help you.

One MC member has volunteered to focus on each item of the Long Range Plan that involves the MC. Ref: <http://www.uuflg.org/LongRangePlan/Introduction.pdf>

Last year we started **Dinners for 8** to create a social venue where members can get to know each other better through small dinner parties in each others homes. Each 3rd Saturday of the month, 2 to 4 dinner parties are scheduled, depending on how many can attend. Currently 36 members from our community have signed up. We are seeking more members, especially VISITORS. If you would like to attend a dinner occasionally, but not actually join the group, please let me know which dinner you can attend. Also, if you happen to talk to any visitors who would like to come to one dinner, please contact me immediately so I can invite them. I NEED this info by the 1st of each month, i.e., by September 1 to attend September 20.

I want to wholeheartedly thank Linda Krenicky plus the continuing MC members - Lou Yabroff, Jim Beebe, Maggi Benson, Ann and Harry Campbell, and Victoria Ingram

Chairperson Edna Windes 408/386-5317 or ednawindes@mac.com

News From The Deck by Lou Yabroff



Marie Lubran, a former member of our Fellowship, has a very interesting art display in the Saratoga Public Library. Marie's hobby for many years is to make sketches in black and white of the presidents of the United States. There must be 12 or more (I forgot to count how many) sketches hanging in the main library. They are excellent pieces of art and you will enjoy seeing them. They will be there for another month.

Have you seen the children's little room lately? It is so bright and sparkling and will be a fun room for our little pre-schoolers. Thanks to Paul Yeadon and Moira Sullivan and all who helped.

This summer we have taken the opportunity to visit 2 Unitarian churches. In June we attended the Monterey UU church, and July we were at the Ashland, OR church. We were visiting Norman and Joanne Crane who have been members here for many years, and they now belong to the Rogue Valley UU church. While there we were also with Sharon Lindsay who was the first chairman of the board in this Fellowship. We also visited with Linda Hanson who was a member here. They all send greetings to you who remember them from several years ago.

Speaking of Ashland, we witnessed every day, the smoke from all the forest fires. One felt as if they were in a heavy fog, and you were waiting for the fog to lift, or go away and the wind would come up and blow the "yucky" stuff away. You knew there were mountains around, but we never saw them. Driving up Highway 5, we saw lots of big black smoke of the fires bellowing away in the distant mountains. We are grateful for the cleaner air in our area now!

Social Action Committee

Social Action Job Openings

For many people social awareness and action are at the heart of what it means to be a UU. Want to get involved with the Social Action Committee but can't make it to our Sunday afternoon meetings? No problem!

We have a number of job openings and you don't have to attend our monthly meetings to fill them. Work at a time that's convenient to you and just communicate regularly, by email or phone, with the co-chairs about your activities. Of course, if you can attend our meetings that is better still.

If you are ready to help us put our principles into action by taking on one of these jobs or if you have questions contact Connie Springer or Jessica Spaulding.

Share-the-Plate Champion

Following the Share-the-Plate Policy & Procedure (see Social Action web page), select recipients, publicize program through Order of Service and Newsletter announcements, and make the pitch on StP Sundays.

West Valley Green Leaf Committee liaison

Attend monthly WVGL meeting on third Thursdays at 7:00 pm and report to Social Action Committee those developments of interest and activities in which we may want to be involved.

Bulletin Board Champion

Update the material on the Social Action bulletin board monthly to provide eye-catching information about current and upcoming activities and projects. Keep it fresh so people stop to look at it.

Web Page Champion

 Thanks to Ryan Spaulding for agreeing to take on this job!

Keep the information on the Social Action web page up to date, interesting and useful. Keep it fresh and engaging so people come to use it.

Green Practices Champion

Help develop Green Practices policies and guidelines for the Fellowship. Solicit board approval and membership support of the completed policies and guidelines.

UULM Liaisons

Serve as a liaison to UU Legislative Ministry-CA or represent UUFLG on one of the Legislative Ministry task forces. Keep the Social Action Committee informed of developments and activities of the UULM in general or of a specific task force and help coordinate UUFLG involvement as appropriate. We have openings on the following task forces: Health Care Reform, Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples, and Reclaiming Democracy. Thanks to Kate Taylor for being our Global Warming & Water Justice task force member.

One Time Jobs

Many of our projects offer opportunities for one-time involvement such as creating a brochure or poster for an event, helping to organize a potluck, making phone calls, helping with set-up or clean-up for an event. A big thank you to Edna Windes for putting together an excellent "Story of Stuff" handout.

A Social Action Cause Close to your Own Heart

Is there a social justice issue that gets you fired up? That makes you think? That really makes you want to get out there and do something? If so, come join us and champion your cause!

Please read the monthly Social Action meeting minutes to learn about upcoming projects that you might be able to help with, and contact Connie or Jessica to volunteer. Thank you! ☺

UUFLG Policy - Procedures

Most organizations maintain a set of written Policy – Procedures to document and communicate important aspects of their operation. Others rely on what some have called “tribal knowledge” or group collective memory, which can be problematic. We have tended to fall into the latter group. Last autumn the UUFLG Board of Trustees began developing a small set of written Policy - Procedures for the UUFLG, limited to topics with a clear, recognized need.

So far, there have been seven Policy – Procedures approved by the board and they are listed below along with a short statement explaining the topic.

Future issues of the Newsletter will include an expanded discussion of some of the Policy – Procedures and full text will be available on the UUFLG website as well as a hard copy in the administrator office area.

Election and Voting (approved 10/09/07)

Process for UUFLG elections and votes on Fellowship questions.

Unbudgeted Expenditures (approved 12/13/07)

To protect the integrity of the annual budget and define a procedure by which unbudgeted expenses are managed.

Website Review and Update (approved 02/14/08)

To keep the information on the UUFLG website current and accurate.

New Member Induction (approved 02/14/08)

Steps to be taken to enroll new members in the congregation.

Control of Donations, Modifications and Posting of Notices (approved 03/17/08)

To manage physical donations to the UUFLG, modifications to the UUFLG building and grounds, and posting of notices and other materials.

Personal Safety and Prevention of Abuse (approved 05/08/08)

Creating and maintaining a safe congregational environment for members, friends, visitors, and others who participate in programs and activities associated with the Fellowship in which all people can worship, learn, and be together in an atmosphere free of all forms of discrimination, harassment, abuse, exploitation, and/or intimidation.

Subscribing to and Posting Notices on the Public Email Lists (approved 06/12/08)

To make the public email lists most useful for communication to UUFLG members and friends.

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? A guest commentary time for members can be made available at the beginning of each monthly Board of Trustees meeting. Contact Ann Campbell (annbcampbell@gmail.com) for more information.

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.

AUGUST 2008

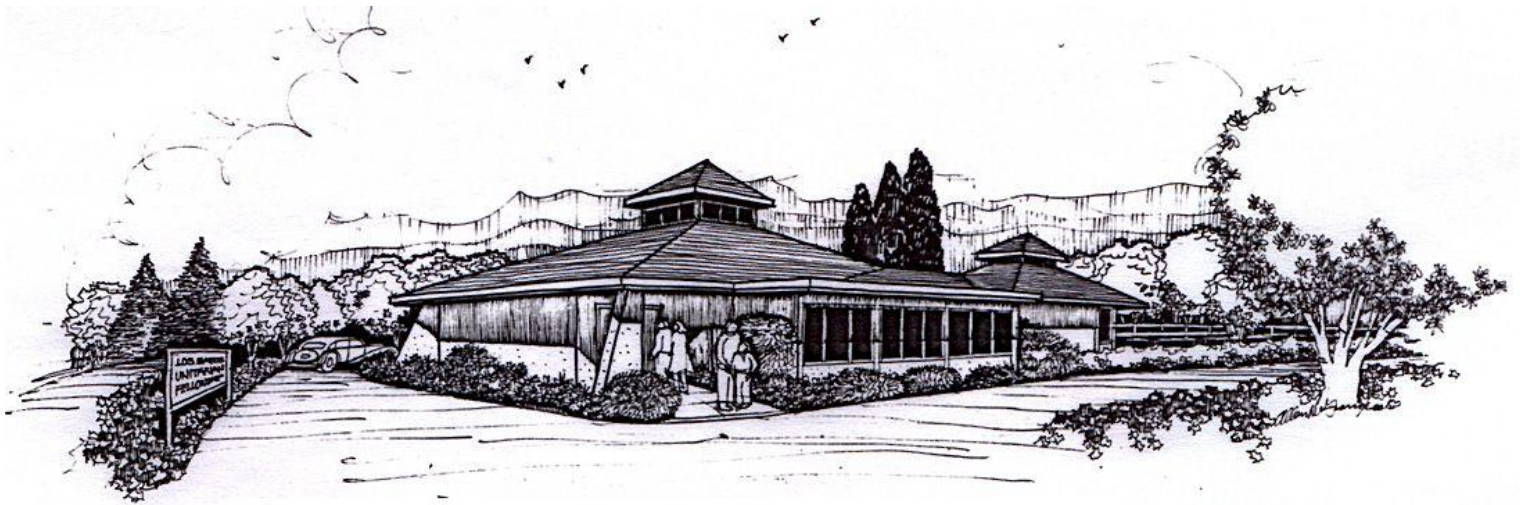
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						2 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 3:00p -7:00p Recital Rental		10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 2:00p -4:00p Membership Committee Meeting	7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	12:00p -1:00p RUMs on the deck 7:00p -8:00p Admin & Communications Committee Mtg		9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds mtg 10:00a -12:00p Second Saturday work party
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:15p -1:45p Social Action Committee	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	5:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee Mtg	7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	9:45a -12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p -8:30p Board Meeting		8:30a -12:30p Better Investing Facility Rental 6:30p Dinners for 8
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service			7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center Newsletter Deadline	12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:15p RUMs on the Deck 7:00p -8:30p RECCY Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:00p -9:00p Rental: Better Investing 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee Meeting	12:15p -2:15p Stitch & Bitch 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center			

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Return Service Requested



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



Fellowship News

August 2008

The newsletter is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos (UUFLG). The Newsletter is available to everyone on the web at <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.