

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

April 2008 No.4; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

April 2008
Sunday Services at 10:30

April 6

A Principled Life: UU Principle #6

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Peace, liberty, and justice for all within the world community is the goal of our Sixth Principle of Unitarian Universalism. The evidence of history, so far, seems to indicate that this might be a near-impossible outcome to hope for. If we care about creating these outcomes, we have to find ways to renew our home and commitment on a day-to-day basis.

Note: We will be welcoming new members into our UUFLG family at this service.

April 13

Life in Community: Worship

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Every Sunday morning, we get together to do... something. Some call it a "service," others think of it as "worship." You may be comfortable with these terms, you may not. As UUs, we're sure it isn't Mass, but might it be a meeting? What is it that we think we're doing at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays? Why should you make sure you're there?

April 20

Accepting the Hand of Fellowship

Rev. Victoria Ingram

This Sunday, UUFLG celebrates ordaining and installing me as this Fellowship's minister. In preparation, I want to talk about what this rite of passage means to me and what I think it means for this Fellowship, in the context of the larger denomination. I also want to reflect on what I'm learning as we grow together, and what I envision for the future of our partnership.

Ceremony of Ordination and Installation,
4:00 p.m. (Reception following)

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, Victoria's internship supervisor at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, will be delivering the sermon.

April 27

Poetry and Music

Worship Associate: Linda Krenicky

We'll share our favorite poems with each other, and enjoy a glorious morning of song.

May 4

A Principled Life: UU Principle #7

Rev. Victoria Ingram

"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence" is a reminder of our connection to everyone and everything around us and supports our concern for the state of the planet. Consumerism, capitalism, progress, and privilege allow a standard of living that impacts the ability of our fellow earth inhabitants to survive. Choices we make on a daily basis influence how we navigate our interdependence successfully.

MINISTER'S COLUMN

As we kicked off our “Planting the Seeds of Our Future” canvass on March 16, I asked those attending to respond to two statements: “What I love about UUFLG” and “My hopes and dreams for the future of UUFLG.” It was wonderful to hear people talk about what endears them to this community, as well as to listen to people talk about what they hope will be in the months and years to come.

As I promised that Sunday, I want to share with you some of what people wrote on their sticky-notes in response to these two phrases. Here is a summary of what you wrote and said:

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT UUFLG:

- thoughtful, friendly, warm, welcoming people
- a place where people are open-minded regarding ethical and spiritual matters, not shame-based, and willing to explore religious ideas beyond Hebrew/Christian/Muslim
- making friendships with caring, sharing, interesting, and lovable people
- a community of hope and love that nurtures what is good and sacred and supports me to trust, share, and be involved
- a commitment to changing the world and supporting social action
- ministry, music, community, and connection to something larger
- an island of rationality in an irrational world
- the chance to give and to receive, to be accepted for who I am

MY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE:

- growing our diversity and being open to different kinds of people, including children, families with young kids, people of color, members of GLBT community, and beyond
- growing our membership numbers and our opportunities to be with one another
- more community outreach and social action, being a voice of conscience in our communities
- continue investment in a thriving religious education program for kids and adults
- more space, more options, new carpet, new chairs, new AV systems
- more intergenerational activities and events

- continuing to grow spiritually and in fellowship with one another, growing our love and understanding for one another and the world
- more music, a choir and choir director

I'm inspired by the love and affection that each of us has for this Fellowship; by the community that has been created at UUFLG as each of us has come into this community, looking for something, and then chosen to stay here, in order to both contribute and to be enriched by this congregation of friends and partners in the journey.

It's also inspiring to hear your hopes for the future, which paint a picture of a community that is about sharing the abundance of love and hope we find here with more like-minded people and with the larger world.

Our aspirations for the future include both the practical and the inspirational. With the foundation of what is true about UUFLG, we have every reason to believe we can create what we want to be. It's exciting to be on this path together!

Love and light,
Victoria

Drop-in Lunch and Discussion with the Minister

The discussions are fun and engaging, and you never know what we might talk about! Rev. Victoria invites you to join in on Wednesday, April 9th from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring along your lunch and an idea to talk about. Discussion topics might include local or other current events, questions or concerns, theology, or whatever YOU want to say! This is an opportunity to enjoy a time of conversation and sharing with the minister. No reservations required, just show up with your lunch and be prepared to add your two cents.

Ordination/Installation Ceremony on April 20

UUFLG hosts a ceremony of ordination and installation for Victoria Ingram on Sunday, April 20th at 4:00 p.m. Members and friends of the Fellowship are invited to attend and join in the festive reception following. It is going to be a lovely ceremony with delicious hors d'oeuvre or fruit. There will be a clip board at fellowship for your convenience. The COM will be making sandwiches and there will be wine and punch.

If you are available to help with refreshments, ushering, set-up, or other opportunities to help out, please contact Julie Doyle (353.2828) or JJ Martin (353.3672)

UUFLG Auction Saturday, May 3, 2008

“TRES de MAYO” is the theme for our annual fund-raising auction, scheduled for Saturday evening, May 3. You will have a fabulous time as we gather to celebrate, share an evening together, and raise some money for the Fellowship. We will enjoy a raffle, silent auction, children's auction, and a spirited “live” auction. Entertainment and yummy Mexican tid-bits will abound, and childcare will be provided.

Your \$15 entrance fee includes your bidding paddle, entertainment, food, and one glass of beer or wine (for those over 21—juice, water, or lemonade for the under-age). A new feature this year will be “Harry's Hideaway Cantina”, where tickets (sold separately at the event) can be redeemed for “rocks ‘ritas”, wine or beer. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 6, after the worship service, and will be available every Sunday after that. As soon as raffle items are determined, raffle tickets will be available, too. One item already donated for the raffle is a watercolor class with our own Edna Windes

The annual auction is UUFLG's largest fundraiser. It's fun, and provides opportunity for EVERYONE to participate. Please be thinking of how you can contribute; what unique talent, skill, or object do you have to donate?

JJ Martin is organizing congregational donations, and she has many ideas, if you need help thinking of something.

Look for posters with more details about the “Tres De Mayo” festivities. Start thinking of friends and family members you'd like to invite to share this wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.

On behalf of the auction team, Irving Yabroff, Shelley and Dick Powers, Chris Magee, and Linda Krenicky Team leads: Harry Campbell, Julie Doyle, Carl Ingram, Jo Cooley, and JJ Martin.

Spring into Religious Education

As we enter into this beautiful season, we are glad to announce many happy changes in R.E. We welcome Nicki Connelly as our new preschool assistant. She is a familiar face to many, having grown up in the fellowship, and with her experience working with young children, she is a wonderful addition to our staff. As our preschool population grows, so is their curriculum, as well.

We are also advertising to hire one more R.E. teacher as well, in the hope that our program will continue to grow and expand. I know we all share that vision for UUFLG's future, and I look forward to hearing from you as you share your ideas and experiences to help that become a reality. We are all in this together, and I value your support!

With love,
Tamara, D.R.E.

Child Dedication

Many Unitarian Universalists wish to commemorate the birth of their children and confirm their commitment to raise them to be happy, healthy, thoughtful adults. While we don't do baptism, per se, our tradition does include child dedication, a ceremony of commitment for parents and the larger Fellowship to support the growth of the children in our lives. The ceremony may also include child naming.

Rev. Victoria will conduct a child dedication ceremony during Worship on Sunday, May 4th. If you and your family would like to dedicate your child at this service, or want more information, please contact her at 358.1212.

PCD District Assembly

“Simple Gifts” April 25-27

Fremont Marriott

Join hundreds of UUs from the Pacific Central District for lively learning opportunities, engaging conversations, thought-provoking presentations, and lots of fun at this year’s District Assembly. There are worships and music and workshops and UU books and merchandise available, all for a very reasonable registration fee of \$95.00 for the weekend. Find out what other congregations are up to! Brag about UUFLG and the joys of being in this Fellowship! Meet new people and reconnect with old friends. You can register by going to the District website at www.pcd-uaa.org

Bible Study for Religious Liberals

Thursday, April 3 and 17, May 1, 15, and 29

Religious liberals, like UUs, often shy away from Bible study after moving away from the theology and dogma of mainstream Christianity. But, we can’t live in Western culture without being influenced by Christianity and the Bible. Whether or not it’s a part of how you identify religiously, it’s important to understand how these stories and traditions impact our lives, including our laws, or politics, and our culture. This five part series focuses on how to read and interpret Biblical references through a liberal religious lens. We’ll discuss how to engage in dialogue with conservative, evangelical, or conventional interpretations of the Bible, its stories, and traditions.

Spirited Women, Moms and Daughters Wanted!

Nancy Mills will present her fun, festive, and feminine-fabulous workshop – *The Spirited Woman* – at UUFLG on Saturday, May 17th. In the morning, the workshop is specifically designed for moms and daughters (age 13 and up) who want to connect and celebrate womanhood together. Fee is \$175.00. The afternoon is open to women of all ages who want to energize, have a good time together, and reconnect with the joy of being a woman. The fee is \$95.00. There is a “buddy rate” for two or more friends who attend together.

Nancy’s workshops are fun, high energy, and engaging. Register by signing up at the Fellowship, or by going to The Spirited Woman website: www.thespiritedwoman.com.

Spirit In Action

NOTE: April’s workshop is rescheduled to Saturday, April 19, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

SPIRIT IN PRACTICE provides an avenue for deepening spirituality and affirming spiritual growth within ourselves, our Fellowship, and the larger community. April’s workshop focuses on “body practices” – pathways to connect with spirit through the use of our bodies.

Participants are invited to reflect, share, and grow together, exploring ways to nurture their connections with the sacred in everyday life. Each session is a stand-alone unit, so you may attend any or all, as your schedule and interest allow.

Please contact the church office to register for a workshop (358.1212), or if you have questions. Please indicate if you require childcare in order to attend.

*Thank you for wearing your name tag on Sunday mornings,
and for parking on the street when possible to make room for our newcomers.*

CHATS FROM THE WEST ROOM

A thousand thank yous to our UUFLG CHORUS! The following women have given of their time and talent to bring us good music for the last several years. They are: Anne Winter, Phyllis Foxcroft, Roxy Sax, Ruth Webb, JJ Martin, Linda Krenicky, Pat O'Hare, Pauline Stonehill, and leader Fidele Galey. We have appreciated your music!

Another "thousand thank yous" to our finance and canvass committee and minister for reminding us of our achievements with a celebration lunch on March 16th. With their words from Rev. Victoria and John Omvik we can all take pride in the achievements that our community has worked for and achieved. The finance and canvass committee is John Omvik as chairman, Ann Campbell, Walt Main, Irving Yabroff, Merritt Benson, Julee Bode and Tim Connelly.

"Dinner for 8" is growing in popularity. It is a good way to get better acquainted with folks that we worship with each Sunday. At the beginning of each month, Edna Windes makes up the lists for dinner. Try it, you'll like it!

April 6th will be our Spring New Member Recognition Service. All those who have attended the classes or had conference with our minister are welcomed in this service. If you're ready to have your conference with Rev. Victoria, please give her a call as soon as possible. The next recognition service will be in the Fall.

Another "panaroma picture" will be taken SOON. Watch for the announcement in the Order of Service /and announcement news on your computer. This will be for those folks who were NOT in the first picture.

Save April 20th for Victoria's big party!!



Inspirational Film: Adult Religious Education

Friday, April 11

This Month's Feature Film: *Shirley Valentine*

Starring: Pauline Collins, Tom Conti

Shirley's a middle-aged Liverpool housewife in a rut. Talking to the wall while preparing her husband's supper, she wonders what happened. She compares her current life with what she used to be like and feels stagnated. But when her best friend wins an all-expenses-paid vacation to Greece for two, Shirley begins to see the world, and herself, in a different light. "Movie Professor" Carl Ingram will discuss the feminine archetypes and imagery in this film's themes and symbols.

In the Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. Presentation on the movie's themes and archetypes

7:00 p.m. Feature presentation

Following the film: a facilitated discussion

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.

SOCIAL ACTION

Global Warming Challenge #7 – Drive Less

Cars are by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions per household. Other than buying a hybrid car (out of scope here), the best way to reduce automobile emissions is to drive less !!! Are you willing to try? This month we challenge you to seriously consider ways in which you can reduce the amount you drive. And to DO at least one of them each week. Here are some suggestions with a variety of choices for people in different circumstances.

CARPOOL

- To work, to school, to regular activities etc. The longer the distance the more the benefit
- Encourage your employer to facilitate or incentivise carpooling
- Organize carpooling at your kid's school
- We'll have a list of fellowship members/friends by zip code to make it easy to carpool to UUFLG.

USE ALTERNATE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

- Public transportation. Check out bus and light rail schedules and see if you could use them once a week Even if you need to drive to bus stop /station, you are still driving less.
- Ride your bike or moped (or even motorcycle) instead.
- Walking is good but only works for places close by and thus doesn't save much gas

TAKE A DAY OFF

- Do not drive your car one day a week. (Sue: I do that ... it feels good and is relaxing too)
- Works best in conjunction with eliminating/consolidating trip (see below)

MAKE FEWER/SHORTER TRIPS

- Plan your activities, errands, and appointments to do two or more back-to-back. Think about it before you leave! For example, stop at the or gym on the way to or from something else.
- Do you really need to that special trip for that loaf of bread? Could it wait till your next trip out?
- Buy online. This is especially efficient if you are comparison shopping and would need to go to several stores. And the selection is much better online.
- Shop closer to home.

And don't forget to keep working on challenges 1,2,3,5,and 6.

Prizes in June.

Green Practices Survey Results

Thanks to all of you who took the time to share your thoughts on how the Fellowship can move towards greater environmental responsibility. You are generally very supportive of green measures. Of the 18 suggested practices in the survey 50% of respondents agreed with 16 of them and over 75% agreed with 11. There is a high level of support (84.8%) for an energy audit of the building, which could help up, prioritize our efforts to reduce our energy footprint.

The 2 practices receiving the highest percentage agreements (only ones with over 90%) were:

- **Provide tap or filtered water instead of bottled water, 97.0%**
- **Landscape with native & drought-tolerant plants, 93.8%**

The two practices receiving the lowest agreement, (only ones under 50%) were:

- **Reduce use of printed programs and Orders of Service, 30.3%**
- **Install solar power, 39.4%**

You can see the complete report on the survey results on the Social Action page of the UUFLG web site.

Clean Up the Los Gatos Creek Trail Day, Saturday April 26th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Meet at the amphitheater behind Borders Bookstore for coffee, pastries, garbage bags and trail maps. Bring the kids, dogs, and wear work clothes. Prizes for most creative Work Gloves, Hats and Boots. Let's make UUFLG a visible part of the effort to keep our community beautiful. Contact Connie Springer.

Our next meeting is on **April 13th 12:15 - 1:30** in the Sanctuary. Newcomers are welcome.

And/or feel free to contact us:
Connie (cfspringer@earthlink.net)
Sue (sueanon@sbcglobal.net)

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:00p -9:00p Chalice Circle	10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle 2:00p -4:00p UUFLG Membership	7:00p -9:00p Chalice Circle	12:00p -1:00p RUMs 1:30p -2:30p Building & Grounds 7:00-8:30 Choir 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study for Religious Liberals	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 11:45a -1:00p Kari Sparks Baby Shower 12:00p -1:00p Are UU Curious?	7:00p -8:00p Admin & Communications Committee Meeting	5:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee	11:30a -1:00p Dining and Discussion 7:30p -9:30p Meditation	9:45a -12:00p Women's Group 11:00a -1:30p So. Peninsula Cluster West 7:00p -8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting 7:00p -8:30p Choir	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group 6:30p -9:30p Inspirational Films: Shirley Valentine 6:30p -9:30p Parent's Night Out	1:00p -2:30p Spirit in Practice: Exploring Spiritual Practice
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -1:00p UU Theologies & Life in Community Forum 12:15p -1:45p Social Action Committee	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle	7:00p -9:00p Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Meditation	12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:15p RUMs 7:00p -8:30p Choir 7:00p -8:30p RECCY 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study for Religious Liberals	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	6:00p -9:00p Dinner for 8
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 2:00p -7:00p Victoria Ingram's Ordination		1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning	12:15p -2:15p Stitch & Bitch 7:30p -9:30p Meditation	7:00p -8:30p Choir	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group 3:00p District Assembly, Fremont	8:00a District Assembly, Fremont
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30a -12:00p District Assembly, Fremont 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:00p -9:00p Rental: Better Investing 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality		7:30p -9:30p Meditation	12:00p -1:00p RUMs 1:30p -2:30p Building and Grounds 7:00p -8:30p Choir 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study For Religious Liberals	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	7:00a -9:00p Auction 9:00a -12:00p Worship Assoc 1:00p -2:30p Spirit in Practice: Exploring Spiritual Practice

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

15980 Blossom Hill Road

Los Gatos, 95032

(408) 358-1212



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



Fellowship News

April 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 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.