

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

June 2008 No.6; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

June 2008

Sunday Services at 10:30

June 1

A Principled Life: The Six Sources

Rev. Victoria Ingram

As a faith community embracing a broad range of beliefs, UUs draw inspiration from a variety of sources. These we find represented in the world's religions and wisdom traditions, in science, in nature, and in the inspirational acts of people from all walks of life. Some wonder how we find "truth" when we embrace so much that we are willing to consider as "true."

June 8

Serving Time: Perspectives from the Free World

Rev. Victoria Ingram

There are over 625 men on California's Death Row, waiting for their time to die. While the courts consider the constitutionality of various forms of execution, we have an opportunity to impact the fate of these and others who are given the death penalty. Men condemned to the ultimate punishment, some of whom may be guilty, but some of whom, new evidence and technology shows, are not.

June 15

Play Ball! A Theology of Sports

Rev. Victoria Ingram, with Paul Yeadon, Worship Associate

For Father's Day, we celebrate the glories of being called "Dad" with a look at what's involved in fatherhood. And, since many Dads like sports, this Sunday service will include a look at how following sports might be part of our spiritual practice.

June 22

We Are Human First

Rev. Greg Ward

Explaining oneself in the modern religious world can be hard. There are a million different -isms to describe various

theological perspectives, all of which are differentiated by slight deviations in the nature of God or the nature of our relationship. And in the theological arguments which often follow these explanations, it is sometimes important to remember, we were human first. And we will all be human – together – no matter what else we do or believe. This will be a sermon on humanism and its relationship to Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Greg Ward is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist who grew up at Neighborhood Church in Pasadena, CA. Before becoming a minister Greg worked at being a dishwasher, cook, elevator operator, pastry chef, waiter, dancer, baseball player, clown, aerobics instructor, pharmaceutical engineer and chaplain. Before being called to serve the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula, Greg served congregations in Toronto, ON and Atlanta, GA. Greg lives in Monterey with his wife, Liz and his Dog (Blondie) and his cat (Blanche).

June 29

The Gift and the Giving

Rev. Victoria Ingram

At our May auction, Connie Springer successfully bid for a sermon of her choice, and she selected the topic of "generosity." Connie's interested in Buddhist perspectives on being a generous person, and so these themes and approaches inform this Sunday's sermon on what it means to live from "inner openness."

July 6

'Tis a Gift to be Free

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Stuff, clutter, complexity, and over-scheduling! Email, junk mail, papers, and packages. Sound familiar? A favorite Shaker hymn reminds us that "'tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free." We'll focus on the joys, and responsibilities, of engaging in simplicity as a practice for creating freedom in our lives.

Minister's Column

Rev. Victoria Ingram

I'm a confirmed newspaper reader. There's something primal and deeply meaningful for me about the ritual of retrieving the paper from the driveway early in the morning, sitting down in my favorite chair with the paper and a glass of orange juice, and starting my day by catching up with the world.

As I hear about changes in the newspaper industry, and predictions that the day of the paper version are numbered, I cringe to think I'll have to change my daily routine. Ah well, change is the only constant, eh?

However, at other times, it's hard for me to want to read the news in any format. When I'm in a particular funk, all of it seems to be bad – stories of violence, crime, corruption, and pain. In those moments I wonder if subscribing to the paper is such a good idea.

It's been especially hard these last couple of weeks, as natural disasters have manifested themselves all over the world, bringing death and destruction to hundreds of thousands of people in China, Myanmar (Burma), our own Midwest, and elsewhere. If you've been following the news, I'm sure you've found the reports and pictures difficult, as well. (These, along with all of the other unfortunate situations in the world.)

One morning, as I contemplated the paper's articles, I realized that it's called "news" because it's supposed to be about the exceptions in life, not the norms. In other words, overall, we anticipate that things will go well, or at least, as usual. When we think that life will be as usual, we mean that we think it will go along pretty well most of the time. So, things which happen outside of the norm are "newsworthy."

Unfortunately, there seem to be more and more of those "unusual" happenings in the world and our access to information makes more of what does happen available to us. I wish I could do something, and yet, I know there's only so much I can respond to and accept as my personal responsibility. So, while I can't go to China or Burma, or even the Midwest, I can support those who are in those areas, providing humanitarian aid and support to the thousands who need food, shelter, medical care, and water.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is actively involved with other national and international aid organizations to provide assistance to our brothers and sisters impacted by disaster around the world. My support for the UUSC is what I can do in response to the news this week. What can you do?

Love and light –

Victoria

NOTE:

You can make DONATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID to people affected by natural disasters in Myanmar (Burma), China, and other world-wide locations through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) at www.uusc.org OR by sending a check to: UUSC, P.O. Box 845259, Boston, MA 02284



SPIRIT IN PRACTICE

The final session in the SPIRIT IN PRACTICE series is on Saturday, June 14th, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Throughout this 10 session series, we've explored spiritual practice from a variety of perspectives. In this final session, we'll look back over the topics (such as creativity, worship, meditation, and so forth) and consider how to build a full, rich, and personal approach to spiritual development.

Rev. Victoria facilitates this workshop.

Notes from the President

A Big Thank You to the Omviks and the Yabroffs

John served the Fellowship as Treasurer for the past 2 years and Sabine served as Trustee for Lifespan Learning for the past 3 years. We were so fortunate to have their skills and energy focused on Fellowship business during those years of hard decisions and transition through three different ministers, helping us get to the place we are today. Thank you so much, Sabine and John! We appreciate all you've helped us accomplish.

Lou served as Trustee for Membership for the past two years, during which time we welcomed 27 new members into our Fellowship. Lou is our champion meeter and greeter and we won't let her off the hook on that just because she's stepping down from her trustee position. Thank you, Lou, for doing such a good job of taking care of all the people details and making everyone feel welcome! Irving graciously stepped into a mid-year vacancy in the Secretary position, taking on that job as well as his ongoing jobs as bookkeeper and sound man. We can't thank Irving enough for all the important roles he fills for us!

Annual Meeting Results

I want to congratulate those who were elected to board positions at our annual meeting on May 4.

- ◇ Merrit Benson will be our Treasurer for the next two years
- ◇ David Peyton will be our Secretary for the next two years
- ◇ Leslie Jones will be our Lifespan Learning Trustee for the next two years and continue as our RECCY chairperson
- ◇ Edna Windes will be our Membership Trustee for the next two years
- ◇ Jim Beebe will be our Social Action Trustee for the next two years after serving one year of a prior term in that position.

Thank you all for being willing to serve the Fellowship in this way!

Congratulations also go to the elected members of our nominating committee – Tim Connelly, Jo Cooley, Lida Kluzek and JJ Martin.

This is probably the most important committee in the Fellowship because they're the ones who select people to serve on our board and nominating committee. The current nominating committee - Sharon Graham, Tim Connelly, Lida Kluzek, Dick Powers and Joe Rafferty - did a fantastic job this year and I'm sure the new committee will do so next year, too. Thank you!

The annual budget was approved as proposed after the motion to approve the budget was amended by Connie Springer to include the provision that "any individual contribution and pledge income in excess of budget be applied as a first priority to paying our fair share to the UUA and PCD except for unforeseen circumstances."

The Long Range Plan Process was also approved and everyone was once again reminded to provide the Board with feedback on the long range plan.

The meeting was a success with some lively discussion about the budget, however, we only just had the 20% quorum specified by our bylaws. There were 21 people present and we had an additional 25 absentee ballots, but the absentee ballots don't count for quorum purposes.

The Property Next Door

The builder who owns the property next door to the Fellowship has built a wall along Blossom Hill Road and a wood fence between our property and theirs. There will be a public hearing soon to consider the builder's plan to build 3 houses on the property and the Fellowship will be informed prior to the hearing so we can have representatives there. Actual construction might not start any time soon, since the housing market is in such a slump.

Harry and I are vacationing in France and will return in late July.

Au revoir!

Ann

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This is the first in a series of articles about committees active within the Fellowship who keep things running smoothly and enhance the UUFLG experience for everyone. This month we feature the Building and Grounds Committee (B&GC). The B&GC concerns itself with all the physical aspects of our building, parking and landscaping – including routine cleaning and maintenance, repairs, refurbishments and furnishings. The allocated financial budget is small, so much of the work is done by the committee directly or by volunteers from the Fellowship for special projects.

Current members of the B&GC are Coralee Linton, Ann Campbell, Jim Stahl and Bob Bixler. Committee meetings have recently been moved to 9:30AM on the second Saturday of each month to afford easier participation by those busy during weekdays. Administrative matters are discussed from 9:30AM to 10:00AM in the West Room, followed by an open work party from 10:00AM to noon. We have a running list of open tasks and will select a few with priority for each work-party Saturday.

There has been a lot accomplished during the last year but there is always much more to do. In addition to all the small tasks that come up every week, in the upcoming months we will be continuing small repairs to ceiling areas in the kitchen and women's rest room and plan more painting in the Sanctuary, office/lounge and entry hall. On the exterior, there are several small painting and repair activities that need to be done, new landscape plantings to be selected and added, and on-going monitoring and maintenance of the watering system. We will also be working to tighten up the cover over the deck.

The B&GC is active all year and there is always more to do than the committee members can do themselves. Anyone with imaginative new ideas, fix-it skills or who can contribute good old elbow grease would be appreciated. Please join us on the second Saturday each month.

At 9:30 a.m., the Second Saturday of June (the 14th), the Building & Grounds Committee will meet to discuss the projects that will be done that morning, beginning at 10 am.

Please come by and give us an hour or two of your time to help with the many jobs that are needed for upkeep of our garden and building. Snacks and good company will be provided.

If you have any questions, call Coralee Linton.

A Note of Thanks left out of the previous newsletter...

The following hard workers turned out the morning of March 22nd for the Spring Outdoor Work Party. They did a great job checking and repairing the sprinkler system, adding more paved area around the umbrella table and fixing the fence post of the play yard. Many thanks to: Ruth Webb, Jenifer Scharpen, Leslie Jones, Fritz Koszik, Tim Connelly, Ellen Hill, Jim Stahl, Jo Cooley, Mike Sharp, Jim Beebe and Ryan Spaulding.

Religious Education

As we head into June, we look forward to the return of Kari Sparks, who recently welcomed her new son, Hadrian. We are glad to have her with us in the classroom again a few times a month. We are also interviewing for a new teacher. The RE committee hopes to add a new staff member who will help plan and facilitate preschool curriculum, as well as help out in our other classes occasionally.

Speaking of other classes, we're all and excited to welcome our middle schoolers back from OWL in San Jose. I am so proud of them for participating in this wonderful program, which was a big commitment of their time and energy. I know they are better people for having been there.

See you in Summer!
Tamara, DRE

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

Global Warming Challenges ... Taking Measure

Since we are at the end of the UUFLG calendar year, it seems an appropriate time to take measure of how well we did on the global warming challenges. Many of you tackled and met several of the challenges and we congratulate you all on your effort. Even if you did not meet too many of them, we hope our challenges got you thinking much more about the impact of the things you do and the choices you make. And don't forget that you still can do any of the challenges (the May one is quite easy, just send in a useful energy saving idea).

In the next few weeks we will be asking you to tally up how well you did and on July 13th will recognize those who did the best with prizes (environmental ones of course). We'll have a simple form to make it the tally easy ... we will email it to the announcements list and also have paper copies available on the deck. Please take a few minutes and fill it out (name optional if you don't wish to compete for prizes). In addition to allowing us to identify the winners, it will give us valuable feedback on this social action project and help us planning for next year.

Mini farmers market

Mark your calendars for UUFLG's mini farmers market on June 22nd. Buying locally grown produce is good for the environment and helps local farmers too.

Some other things you can do

- Stop the Catalog deluge 19 million catalogs are mailed in the US every year which = 3.6 million tons of paper and 53 million trees. Now there is a simple way to stop all those catalogs: go to www.catalogchoice.org and just find and cancel all the catalogs you don't want (you can even add ones they don't have).
- Recycle your ink & toner cartridges and cell phones and raise funds for the Fellowship at the same time. Drop qualifying items off in the container at the Fellowship. Please bring only cartridges and phones that we can recycle. Yours qualifies if it is listed on www.fundingfactory.com (click on the red "Qualifying Lists" at the upper right), or www.ecyclegroup.com (click on "Pricelist") and has a label with brand and number it qualifies. Remanufactured cartridges are not recyclable, and Epson cartridges are no longer eligible. If you don't have internet, or have other questions, contact Anne Winter.

The next Social Action meeting is on Sunday **June 8th 12:15 - 1:30** in the Sanctuary. Newcomers are always welcome.

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.

Small Talk From the Deck

What an inspiring service for Our Victoria at her ordination and installation ceremony!. I was really moved with the “laying on hands” part of the service. It was a wonderful and happy day for all of us! Thanks to the COM committee for a job Well Done!!

Another successful and fun time was the Annual Auction held on May 3rd. What bargains were “snatched up” by eager bidders! Linda Krenicky and her committee were so well prepared that the evening’s event just moved like “clock work”. The food was plentiful and very good. There were so many items in the silent auction and bidding was fast and fun. But the delight of the evening was the live auction with Jon Kaplan being assisted by JJ Martin. It was the best ever, with lots of laughs and fun being shared by everyone. Thanks to ALL who helped in this money making evening! Our net proceeds were close to \$8,000. WOW!

I have a new slogan for UUFLG. Try this out for a good slogan “DON’T BE SHY, BE FRIENDLY”. Just a reminder for everyone to wear a name tag. If you lost yours, please sign up at the Welcome Table and a new one will be made for you. With a name tag on, it is a bit easier to start a conversation. I brag about our congregation being very friendly, and WE ARE!

“Dinners for Eight” are a wonderful way to get acquainted. If you haven’t signed up with Edna Windes (408)386-5317 OR Maggi Benson (408)559-5229 to attend one of the dinners, please do so. They are held the 3rd Saturday night of each month. Try it, you’ll like it.

Thank you all for the wonderful turn out for the re-make picture taking event! A big thanks to John Omvik for making another panorama picture of all of us.

Welcome home to Sharon Graham who had 2 weeks in Portugal and Spain. She reports a great and interesting trip, just ask her! Julie and Jerry Doyle will be enjoying being at their Montana lake home. They will be enjoying their daughter’s family visit and spoiling their grandbaby. Ann and Harry Campbell will have a wonderful time in France with a side trip to Madrid! Where will you be traveling? Don’t forget to bring back a small bottle of water! Remember we have the “water ceremony” in early September. Have a great summer!

Lou Yabroff

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SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 21 starts at 3:00p.m.

Pagans, Wiccans, and those who follow Earth-Centered traditions celebrate Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. This year, we will, too! Join us for an hour of music, readings, meditation, and a labyrinth walk. Stanford University is loaning us their portable labyrinth for use on June 21. We’ll explain the use of the labyrinth and walk it as a part of this celebration, which will be family-friendly and informal. Plan on joining us and trying out the labyrinth!



JUNE 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -1:00p R UU Curious?	2 10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 2:00p -4:00p UUFLG Membership Committee Meeting 7:15p -8:15p Chalice Circle	3 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	4 12:00p -1:00p RUMS on the deck 7:00p -8:00p Admin & Communications Committee Mtg	5 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group 3:00p -7:00p Piano recital	6 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting 3:00p -7:00p Piano recital	7 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting
8 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -1:00p Forum: UUs and Social Action 12:15p -1:45p Social Action Committee	9 7:15p -9: 00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	10 5:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee Mtg	11 11:30a -1:00p Dining and Discussion 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	12 9:45a -12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p -8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	13 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group 2:30p -5:00p Rental: Recital Rehearsal	14 9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds mtg 10:00a -12:00p Second Saturday work party 1:00p -2:30p Spirit in Practice: Exploring Spiritual Practice
15 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 1:00p -5:00p Rental: Recital	16 7:15p -9: 00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	17 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	18 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	19 12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:15p RUMS on the Deck 7:00p -8:30p RECCY Meeting	20 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	21 6:30p Dinners for 8
22 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 11:45a -12:45p Local Foods Event by Social Action	23 7:15p -9: 00p Women's Spirituality Group	24 1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee Meeting	25 12:15p -2:15p Stitch & Bitch 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	26 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	27 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	28
29 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	30 10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 2:00p -4:00p UUFLG Membership Committee Meeting	1 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	2 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	3 12:00p -1:00p RUMS on the deck 7:00p -8:00p Admin & Communications Committee Mtg	4 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	5 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

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



Fellowship News

June 2008

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