

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

March 2010 No.3; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

Our Mission

- 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

March 2010

Sunday Services at 10:30

March 7: *Joy*

Linda Krenicky

Worship Associate is Karen Boulanger.

In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy. (Brother David Steindl-Rast) Today we'll explore ways to increase our joy in very specific and mindful ways. Be ready to have fun and GET HAPPY!

March 14: *A Life So Far*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Every minute, every day, each of us is getting older. Considering the alternative, it's not such a bad thing, but it does have it's challenges. As adults, we have choices – not about growing older, but about how we choose to grow into our maturity and wisdom (or not) and what we choose to do with the life in our years.

March 21: *Morning Has Broken*

Rev. Jeffrey Melcher

Jeffrey Melcher will lead us on the first day of spring. Jeffrey is a student UU minister with specialties in social justice, health care organization and youth group organization. Following the service and the coffee hour Jeffrey will be available for a discussion of the service and / or other subjects of interest. This will be an open forum held in the sanctuary.

March 28:

“Saved” by Unitarian Universalism

Rev. Victoria Ingram

UUs embrace a variety of viewpoints about the concept of salvation. We can agree on the hope our faith offers in welcoming those who feel oppressed in more restrictive religious traditions or unwelcome where their beliefs don't match a specific doctrine.

April 4:

Easter Intergenerational Service

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Spring is showing its colors and textures all around us; a time of renewal and energy that prepares us for warmer days ahead. We join in celebrating some of the traditions that honor this seasonal transition – Easter, Ostara, and Passover. Children will participate in an egg hunt and visit with the Easter Bunny!

Minister's Column

"Our deepest calling is to grow into our own authentic self-hood, whether or not it conforms to some image of who we ought to be. As we do so, we will not only find the joy that every human being seeks--we will also find our path of authentic service in the world."

Parker Palmer

Parker Palmer, highly respected writer, teacher, and Quaker activist, is one of my favorite authors. I find his insights and approaches to living life to be encouraging and based in good, old common sense. At points in my life where I've needed to find a new direction, when I've needed to be encouraged to make a choice about what to do next, I've turned to Parker Palmer's writing and found inspiration. He is a valued companion on my life's journey.

Growing into our authentic self-hood doesn't seem like it should be so challenging, I suppose. Yet, most of us find it daunting to face the expectations and responsibilities of the outside world without ever feeling a need to make certain compromises or mask some aspect(s) of ourselves. It is an amazing accomplishment to feel that you are living a fully authentic life, full of joy and manifesting your essence to the world. It is a marvelous gift to have a community where your authenticity is welcomed, valued, and embraced.

"I want my inner truth to be the plumb line for the choices I make about my life - about the work that I do and how I do it, about the relationships I enter into and how I conduct them." *Parker Palmer*

As Unitarian Universalists, our Principles encourage us to continue to seek our inner truth, to find the plumb line that shapes our choices and to honor it as we live out our days. Being in a faith community helps us have the courage to keep growing into our authentic selves; to get back on track when we have been sidetracked by the expectations or distractions of the world around us.

As Unitarian Universalists, our faith tradition calls us to carry our authentic selves into service in the larger world. As we discover what we love and what has meaning for us, we yearn to give back to the world. You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

I wish you an authentic and joyful life.

Love and light,

PG.2 Victoria

Vespers

"Walking in Beauty"

Thursday, March 11

5:15 to 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

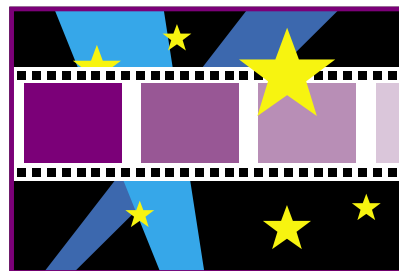
Vespers is a 30 minute worship service once a month that offers a time of reflection, connection and sharing. Led by Rev. Victoria, Vespers is a mid-week opportunity to consider your faith and your life.

Celebration of Life for Cal Clauer

Sunday, March 7 at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

You are invited to join the family and friends of Cal Clauer, long time UUFLG member, to celebrate his life and service to this community.

A reception will follow.



Inspirational Film for March

Friday, March 12 6:30 p.m.

At the Ingram's house, 515 Newville Drive, Los Gatos

The Secret of Roan Inish (1994)

10-year-old Fiona lives with her grandparents in a small fishing village in Donegal, Ireland. She learns of a local legend about an ancestor of hers married to a Selkie - a seal who can turn into a human. Years earlier, her baby brother washed out to sea in a cradle shaped like a boat; someone in the family believes the boy is being raised by the seals. Then Fiona catches sight of a naked little boy on the abandoned Isle of Roan Inish and takes an active role in uncovering The Secret of Roan Inish.

Adult RE Offerings Starting in March

What Moves UUs: Unitarian Universalist Theology

Saturday Mornings, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

March 13: Hosea Ballou (Universalist)

March 27: Ellery Channing (Unitarian)

An opportunity to engage in theological exploration and reflection through the writings of historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalists.

Studying Sacred Texts: The Q'uran

Tuesdays, March 16 and 30, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Moslems consider the Q'uran to be the literal and unaltered word of God, their foundational source of instruction in life and faith. We'll study the words of the Q'uran, as well as contemporary articles on various aspects of Islam, to learn more about this faith tradition

Religious Education

Our classes have learned a lot so far this year about our UU traditions as well as notable UUs who have done a lot to make the world a better place. After trying our hands at some kitchen experiments while finding out about Fannie Farmer and ASPCA founder Henry Bergh, we're off to explore building and design with the fascinating Buckminster Fuller. Next, we'll discover the skies with Maria Mitchell, and learn more about science and inventions with Alexander Graham Bell and Tim Berners-Lee. Look for Beatrix Potter just in time for Easter!

Isn't it funny how often we encounter people who don't know what Unitarian Universalism is, yet we can claim all these marvelous and rather famous figures? My hope is as the children learn about them, they will also learn appreciation for the richness of our heritage.

In Faith & Fellowship,
Tamara

The UUFLG Long Range Planning

Committee conducted the second annual Fellowship Satisfaction Survey in January and February of 2010.

The survey included eleven areas asking for a numeric rating of satisfaction from (1) – Very Unsatisfied to (11) – Very Satisfied. The survey also asked for written comments for each of the eleven evaluation areas as well as general comments not specific to any one area. The survey used the same evaluation areas as were used in last year's survey to help identification of significant changes and possible future trends.

Comparison of relative scores and their distribution between the two years do not show recognizable trends for the limited sample of two data sets. It is possible that addition of a third data set from a planned survey in 2011 will indicate trends. Both year's results showed a general high level of satisfaction and the written comments were uniformly more positive in this year's survey.

In total, there were 44 responders in 2010 versus 40 in 2009. The 2010 survey was conducted both by Internet (34 responses) as well as by hard copy (10 responses.) The 2009 survey was conducted by hard copy only. All written comments in 2010 were from responses completed via the Internet.

Full reports of the survey results from both years are available on the UUFLG web site (www.uuflg.org) under Administration – Member Survey Report. Or, a printed copy may be obtained through either Harry Campbell or Jim Stahl.

Annual Fellowship Auction - April 24

Social Action

Clothing Drive a Huge Success!

Thanks to your generosity our clothes drive was a huge success! Walt Main, Ellen Hill, and Connie Springer delivered 16 boxes, two garment bags, and one grocery sack full of clothes and blankets to Sacred Heart Community Service. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Thank you!!



UUA Social Justice Alerts

Want to stay informed about Social Justice topics? Sign-up for UUA's Social Justice Action News Lists by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/UuaSocialAction>

Share-the-Plate

The Share-the-Plate recipient for March is the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Sometimes just a little help can make a big difference in someone's life. This fund allows our minister to respond compassionately to those who come to the Fellowship door seeking a little help with things such as gas, bus passes or food. It is also used to respond to community requests such as Los Gatos Cares.

Celebrating Our Community

Mark your calendars for the most fun event of the year - The Annual Fellowship Auction will take place April 24, 2010. You can expect great buys, merriment, food, and beverages.

Celebrating our Community is the theme for the 2010 Annual Fellowship Auction. Community is what we're all about. Community is the energy that enlivens our Fellowship and makes it sustainable. We will be celebrating all aspects of our community.

The excitement begins at 5:30 PM and will include a silent auction and a very entertaining live auction. This is an opportunity to gather as a community, share a fun evening together, buy terrific items and enjoy one another. Start planning what items or activities you can donate to our auction this year.

All are welcome at the auction, including children and bring a friend!

Ann Campbell
Auction Committee Chair

The Membership Committee has started a Visitors and Newcomers Dessert and Coffee evening. Any member can participate to help greet our new friends. The first Dessert and Coffee was held at the Home of Bonnie George and Bert Olson on January 27 and was a great success. We had 6 visitors attend. Edna Windes and Edy Young were there to answer questions along with Bert and Bonnie. It was great fun for both the members and our guests. The next one will be on March 23 at 7 p.m. The following one will be on May 29 at the home of Edna. If you would like to help contact: Bonnie George 408-997-9894 or bonnie.e.george@comcast.net or Edna Windes 408-386-5317 or ednawindes@me.com

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

Dinners for 8 -March

Our March Dinners for 8 will be Saturday, the 20th! We need hosts for this month! Newcomers are always welcome, so if you have not signed up, please be sure to! Sign-up sheets are in the foyer. For those who have already signed up, you need not sign up again. I will be sending a mass email toward the end of February to check on your availability. Please be sure to respond yes or no to me by February 28 as time is needed to coordinate the guests and hosts. Thank you for your cooperation and participation! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks and have a great time – reports are that February continued the tradition of a good time being had by all! We appreciate all our hosts and participants!

Bonnie George

Balázs Scholars Program Fund-raiser

Starr King School for the Ministry cordially invites you and your friends to the Balázs Scholars Program Annual Spring Transylvanian Tea which this year features Balázs Scholar Rev. Róbert Bálint, Transylvanian Unitarian minister studying at Starr King School and Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker, President and Professor of Theology, Starr King School talking on “From the Oneness of God to the Wholeness of Life: A dialogue between Transylvanian Unitarianism and North American Unitarian Universalism considering history, theology, sociology, politics, differences and shared values.

Saturday, April 10, 3:30pm

\$25 donation

Starr King School for the Ministry

2441 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

RSVP to Arliss Ungar, arliss@ungar.us; 925-283-3288

A Night to Celebrate!

Featuring Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA Benefiting the UU Legislative Ministry of California Friday, March 5th, 7 PM

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco will be hosting a very special event on Friday March 5th beginning at 7 PM. Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be the main speaker and guest of honor that evening at a dinner to benefit the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and share dialogue with the leader of our denomination while benefiting the legislative ministry’s work to help us live out our UU values in the public arena. This celebratory event will also offer an opportunity to meet and mingle with other Bay Area UUs and UULMCA supporters while sharing a delicious meal and being entertained by a live band. Tickets are available for \$40 by credit card through the UULMCA website at uulmca.org or by calling 916-441-0018. Be sure to get your tickets early since this is Rev. Morales’s only speaking engagement in the Bay Area and is expected to sell out. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to call Sharon Stone of the UULMCA at 916-441-0018 .

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 Paul Yeadon (paul_yeadon@yahoo.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.

Reaching Out

The results of our annual survey were recently released. It appears that we are doing a lot of good things within UUFLG. Our committees, staff and minister are diligently working to constantly improve and do what is best for the Fellowship. We are a friendly, caring and thoughtful community and the survey gives us some excellent measurements of our collective feelings and thoughts. I am particularly intrigued by the comments that were made in the survey. There are many excellent suggestions and insightful observations. One of these was a request for Board updates, so here is a column to communicate some of what is going on.

One of the topics the Board discusses is finance and another is membership. It isn't fun to talk about finance in a primarily spiritual organization, but sometimes it is necessary. Over 80% of Fellowship income comes from paid pledges, mostly from members. Close to 10% of income comes from fundraising and Sunday collections, which also largely comes from members. All tolled somewhere close to 90% of our income comes directly or indirectly from our members. It would be nice to increase revenue from building rentals or other outside sources, but we cannot count on that in the near future. Simply put, UUFLG finances are dependent on healthy and prosperous membership for continued stability.

Unfortunately, the recent economic recession has resulted in our existing members not being able to pledge as much and has caused some other pledges to be written off. In response over the past couple of years, the Finance committee, with the approval of the Board, has made several strategic cuts in expenses to the point where there is now virtually nothing left to cut if we are to maintain our current programs.

This situation would not be as critical if our membership was growing in number, but our net membership has essentially been flat for the last 2 years. This is perplexing to both me and the board. How could it be that with all the good things going on around here we are not showing steady membership growth. Maybe part of it is due to the recession. Maybe potential new members feel reticent about joining a congregation if they don't have financial resources to contribute.

Perhaps there is another reason. I believe that it may be related to our ability, as a religious community, to be noticed. I think that there are hundreds of people in our greater community who appreciate our principals and would consider joining us, but they simply do not know we exist. We are located in the center of a demographic

area that is one of the most affluent and well educated communities in the country. In Los Gatos alone there are over 10,000 households. One could hazard to presume that our particular UU approach to religion is appealing to some percentage of those families. Let's be conservative and say 1-2%, for the sake of argument. Simple math therefore tells us there should be at least 100-200 families in Los Gatos that would be interested in considering Unitarian Universalism as a spiritual community. That's just Los Gatos; there is also Saratoga, Campbell, Almaden and Cambrian, just to name a few of our closer neighbors.

It is not our intention to grow by hundreds of members; but I believe we could easily accommodate 50 additional members without any detrimental effect on the friendliness and intimacy that we all enjoy at UUFLG. Additional members would result in a larger pledge base and also bring new talents and energy to the Fellowship. The big question is: How do we help these new members find us?

The title of this column is: "Reaching Out". There are some in the fellowship who feel that we are too inward facing. That was said in the survey comments. The Board identified our desire to reach outward into the larger community as one of our primary goals over the next year, at the Board retreat last autumn. In order to facilitate growth, we want more people to be aware of Unitarian Universalism and the Los Gatos Fellowship. To achieve this, we must put our collective attention on it. We are doing this to some extent with the work of the Social Action Committee and others, but we need to do a little more.

At the Board, we have discussed forming a new committee within the Fellowship and have its focus on community relations and promotion. Furthermore, we are considering adding a trustee position to the board to ensure that we participate and promote ourselves in the greater community in a way that is accountable and consistent with the principles of the Fellowship. This is a structural change. It would be a collective acknowledgment and commitment that we need to look outward as well as inward. It could be as simple as participating in the Christmas parade. It could be more complex, such as running a marketing campaign. Whatever directions we go would be given much consideration and will respect the wishes of the UUFLG membership.

Paul Yeadon,
UUFLG President

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00p-8:15p Intro to Buddhist Thought and Meditation	10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:00p-2:30p Membership Committee 7:00p-9:00p Getting to Know UU	7:00p-9:00p Wed. Eve. Sm. Gr. Min. 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	Noon-1:30p RUUMs Brown Bag Lunch	7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 2:30p Memorial for Cal Clauer	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Grp. 7:30p-9:30p Great Gooks Discussion Grp	7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Mtg.	7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	9:30a-Noon Thursday Morning Women's Group 5:15p-5:45p Vespers 7:00p-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	6:30p-9:30p Inspirational Film: The Secret of Roan Inish	9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting 10:00a-11:30a What Moves Us: UU Theology
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Noon-1:15p Social Action Meeting 12:30p-5:00p Rental: Private Child's Birthday Party	7:00p-8:15p Intro to Buddhist Thought and Meditation	10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle 7:00p-9:00p Studying Sacred Texts: The Q'uran	7:00p-9:00p Wed. Eve. Sm. Grp. Min. 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	Noon-1:30p RUUMs Brown Bag Lunch	7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	6:30p Dinners for Eight Newsletter Deadline
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	7:30p Newcomers Coffee & Dessert at Home of Bonnie George & Bert Olsen	7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center			10:00a-11:30a What Moves Us: UU Theology 5:00p-8:00p All Ages Potluck
28	29	30	31			
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service		7:00p-9:00p Studying Sacred Texts: The Q'uran	7:30p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center			

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



Fellowship News

March 2010

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.