

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

May 2008 No.5; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

May 2008

Sunday Services at 10:30

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 interdependence successfully.

Note: We will celebrate Child Dedication at this service.

May 11

Celebrating Moms

NOTE: This is FLOWER COMMUNION Sunday

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Please bring flowers with you to share as we celebrate Mother’s Day. Flower communion, a UU tradition, reminds us of the beauty of life, a gift we receive from our mothers (and fathers, too.) This Sunday, we celebrate mothers, flowers, and the nurturing beauty of the earth. This is an intergenerational worship Sunday.

May 18

Our Music, Our Heritage

Rev. Victoria Ingram

If you want to know the history of theological thought in Unitarian Universalism, all you have to do is read through the table of contents in our hymnals. There you’ll find references to not only our roots in Jewish and Christian traditions, but inspiration from the Transcendentalists, Humanists, and others, as well. This service of hymns and inspiration traces our UU heritage through our love of music.

May 25

Walton Peace Essay Contest Winners

“How Has the War in Iraq Affected Someone I Know?” is the topic for the annual San Jose Peace Center’s essay contest. We will have the pleasure of hearing the three winning essays, read by the young people who wrote them. Look forward to some thought-provoking ideas and Q/A with these remarkable high school students.

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.”

MINISTER'S COLUMN

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

It's budget time again in the State of California, and if you've been following the process in Sacramento, you know hard choices face lawmakers again this year. Do we fund education or prisons? Do we allow people to have healthcare or highways? Which needs to be cleaned up first: water, or air?

Nationally, more and more of our tax dollars support the war in Iraq; a situation Dr. King so eloquently addresses in the above quote. In this state, budget challenges often seem to resolve themselves on the backs of the poor and disenfranchised. As Unitarian Universalists, we need to speak up. Our representatives need to know about our values, priorities, and concerns as they make decisions affecting us for years to come.

I'd like to invite you to **join me in Sacramento on Tuesday, May 13th** for the UU Legislative Ministry's (UULM) interfaith lobby day at the Capitol. Along with the California Interfaith Coalition, UULM will participate in "Opening our Hands to the Poor and Needy: Budget Justice in California," a day of information sharing and lobbying with budget experts, interfaith allies, and legislators.

The day begins at 8 a.m., with a legislative briefing with budget experts at St. John's Lutheran Church, Social Hall, 1701 L Street (17th and L Streets), Sacramento. Afternoon visits with key legislators will focus on talking with legislators about the importance of preserving state-funded programs for low-income Californians.

Suzanne Marsh, who has led worship services here at UUFLG and serves as a ministerial intern and health reform team staff person for the UULM says, "We are facing severe program cuts that affect the most needy in our community-- the poor, children, the sick and infirm. The Governor's proposal would reduce access to health care, cut covered benefits and raise costs for millions of the poorest Californians." Like Dr. King, Ms. Marsh connects our state's budget with the well-being of society. She says, "We have said often that annual budgets are really moral documents that reflect our society's values. UUs must speak up now and open our hands for budget justice."

I think it's time to speak up, too, and that's why I'm going to Sacramento to take part in this

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interfaith witness for justice on May 13th. Will you make time in your schedule to go, as well, and speak up for the worth and dignity of every Californian?

Whether or not you go to Sacramento May 13, there is action you can take to make your voice heard. Check out the website for the UU Legislative Ministry. (www.uulmca.org) You'll find out how to contact Senate and Assembly Budget Committee members and information on the state budgeting process and other issues important to Californians. Write or call your legislators. Let them know how YOU feel.

Please Note: I will be attending the spring UU Ministers Association retreat, May 6 through 8. If you need to reach me, I'll have my cell phone with me (408.375.2173)

Love and light,
Victoria

THANK YOU!

I want to bountifully and gratefully THANK YOU, each and every one in this beloved community, for honoring me with ordination and celebrating together as I was installed as the minister of this Fellowship. It's a milestone for all of us!

Special thanks for the wonderful event on April 20 go to J.J. Martin, Julie Doyle, Jo Cooley, and Sabine Omvik (with the generous assistance of many others.) As our Committee on Ministry, they took on the task of planning and coordinating to make sure it was truly the celebration of a lifetime.

Please forgive me for not writing 100 individual thank you notes to the entire UUFLG community! I so appreciate your contributions and your participation in this Fellowship.

With gratitude, *Victoria*

Drop-in Lunch and Discussion with the Minister

Rev. Victoria invites you to join her for lunch and conversation on Wednesday, May 14th, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and an idea or issue you'd like to talk about. No reservations required, just show up with your lunch and be prepared to add your two cents.

Spirit In Practice

May 3: Soul Practices (Expressing spirituality through our creativity)

May 10: Life Practices (Integrating spiritual practice with everyday life)

Saturdays, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

SPIRIT IN PRACTICE workshops offer ideas for deepening spirituality and affirming spiritual growth within ourselves, our Fellowship, and the larger community. Participants reflect, share, and grow together, exploring ways to nurture their connection with the sacred. Each session is a stand-alone unit, so you may attend any or all, as your schedule and interest allow.

Rev. Victoria facilitates.



Bible Study for Religious Liberals

Thursdays: May 1, 15, and 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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 to read and interpret Biblical references through a liberal religious lens. We discuss how to engage in dialogue with conservative, evangelical, or conventional interpretations of the Bible, its stories, and traditions. Each workshop stands alone, so you can attend one or all, as you schedule allows.

Rev. Victoria facilitates.

Religious Education

With Kari Sparks on maternity leave for a while, the RE committee is hoping to add another professional teacher to our staff. We are looking to our congregation first, so anyone interested in helping our wonderful youth should speak to us soon. In the meantime, we congratulate Kari on her new home and new baby.

Speaking of helping, I want to say once again how grateful we are for the wonderful volunteers who help out in preschool, especially Coralee Linton and Julie Doyle. They have been so generous with their time. The children love having them there, too!

Over in the West room, we are finding lots of ways to celebrate spring. Thanks for all the donations for our Earth Day bird feeders! We are currently continuing our study of the seven principles, as well as the life and teachings of Buddha.

Spirited Women, Moms and Daughters Wanted! SPECIAL PRICES FOR UUFLG MEMBERS!

Nancy Mills leads a 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. UUFLG MEMBERS CAN SIGN UP FOR \$150 for mom and daughter.

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. UUFLG MEMBERS CAN ATTEND FOR THE SPECIAL RATE OF \$80. There is also a “buddy rate” of \$150 for two or more friends who attend together.

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

Notes from the President

What a day we had on April 20! Victoria's ordination and installation were quite a pageant and quite a party. And now we have an ordained and installed Minister! This is a big milestone for both Victoria and the Fellowship. Hurray, Victoria! Hurray UUFLG!

For those of you who weren't there, the auditorium was full to overflowing, 20 clergy from neighboring churches and fellowships were there in their robes and formed a procession down the aisle when the service started and ended. We sang good songs, had beautiful music from Dave Coldren and Suzanne Mulcahy and inspiring words from Rev. Arvid Straube, the minister from San Diego, who was here to give the sermon and the Charge to the Minister. There was also a laying on of hands as well as an Act of Ordination and an Act of Installation in which the congregation ordained and installed Victoria. It was a very moving ceremony. The CoM organized and hosted a lively reception following the service with lots of delicious food and wine.

May 4th annual meeting

Our annual meeting takes place Sunday, May 4th, at 12 noon where we'll be electing board members, a nominating committee and approving the budget for next year. I encourage everyone to attend, however only members may vote.

Also on May 4th at 7 pm the Peninsula Cluster Group will meet at our Fellowship. This group is comprised of seven local UU churches working together on shared issues. Join us for our second meeting at the Los Gatos UU Fellowship. Our topic is "New Member Integration." All are welcome. For more information, give me a call.

Rental agent wanted. We are looking for a volunteer to develop rental usage of our building, someone who would enjoy searching out potential renters and finding avenues for promoting our building as a venue. While our building is well utilized, we could still handle more rentals.

Join us for Second Saturday Karma Yoga

at 10 am. The building committee will hold short meetings on the second Saturday each month at 9:30 am, followed by guided work parties beginning at 10 am, open to all in order to take care of the odds and ends that need doing around our building and grounds in an ongoing way. Everyone is invited to join us, have fun and feel virtuous at the same time. See you there with your work clothes on!

Monday volunteer – we're looking for a 'Monday Volunteer'. Someone to spend 30 to 60 minutes at the Fellowship sometime during the day each Monday to put everything back in order after our busy weekend usage of the building so we can present a better image to renters and visitors during the week. Please contact me if you or you and a buddy would like to take this on.

Everyone have a beautiful May!

Ann Campbell

SOCIAL ACTION

Global Warming Challenge #8 ... it's YOUR turn

There are many ways we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, many of them fairly easy and inexpensive. We've presented quite a few of them in our challenges. This month we want to hear YOUR ideas. Perhaps you've found a useful practice or trick or a know of a clever device or a different way to use the things we have. We'd like you to share these with us so we can share them with the whole fellowship. To meet this month's challenge, all you need to do is send us at least one clever idea to (sueanon@sbcglobal.net). Try to follow these guidelines:

- (1) **UNIQUENESS** Should not be anything featured in our challenges to date or something that widely publicized (known by most people already)
- (2) **FEASIBILITY** Should be something most people in the fellowship can do relatively easily.
- (3) **COST** Should either should be inexpensive (under about \$100), or it could be somewhat more expensive as long as total cost can be recouped in electricity and gas savings within 1-2 years
- (4) **EFFECTIVENESS** Should result in a non-trivial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Usually this means a direct or indirect reduction in use of electricity, natural gas, or gasoline. Other types of changes may be good for the environment in general but don't usually reduce greenhouse gases much.

The next Social Action meeting is on **May 11th 12:15 - 1:30** in the Sanctuary. Newcomers welcome.

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

CHATTER FROM THE WEST WING

Sunday, April 20th, will be a great day in our UUFLG history book! There was a full house to witness the ordination and installation of Victoria Ingram to become our minister. We had lots of UU clergy in their robes and stoles, and other dignitaries from our district plus lots of members and friends to participate in the service. Our president, Ann Campbell, presided over the afternoon's ceremonies, and our Susanne



Mulcahy sang 2 beautiful songs to Victoria. Our Dave Coldren was at the piano for the hymn singing. And the food at the reception was "out of this world". Our congratulations to the COM committee for a job well done! I know that John Omvik and Harry Campbell were taking lots of pictures, and I am sure they will share them with the congregation. Many thanks to all the folks who brought food and drink, to the "put up and take down" people, for the greeters, the clean up committee, and all who helped to make this a very special day for our Victoria!

Speaking of a special committee are 4 persons whose job is to assist the minister in any and all ways possible to help her minister to all of us. Those people are Julie Doyle, JJ Martin, Jo Cooley, and Sabine Omvik. They ordered the beautiful stole that we gave to Victoria to wear. It is very unique and hand made just for us. You will recognize our 2 stain glass windows on the golden

background of the stole. Thanks to the COM committee for all you do for this community.

On April 6, we were happy to celebrate in a simple ceremony 8 new members to this Fellowship. They are Jessica and Ryan Spaulding, Maggi and Merritt Benson, Phyll Marangoni, Kate Taylor, Kathryn Wood, and Jim Reese. Connie Springer and Elisa Wells were out of town. If you are interested in becoming a member of this Fellowship, please speak to our minister.

We are welcoming visitors each Sunday, and as a reminder to each of us, if you see a visitor, please introduce yourself and get to know them and converse with them about our congregation.

There will be a make up photo taken of members and friends who were not in the first photo on May 18th. If you have questions, please call one of the members of the membership Committee.

Child Dedication

On Sunday, May 4th, we'll dedicate children during our morning worship. 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.

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.

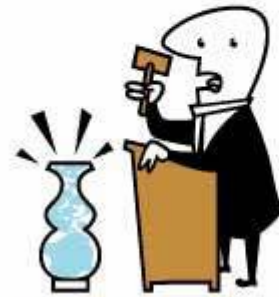
LONG RANGE PLAN DRAFT

The UUFLG Long Range Planning Committee has been working diligently for many months to develop a coordinated Long Range Plan. The initial process is coming to a close and a draft plan has been presented to the Board for consideration. The plan reflects opinions and objectives expressed in the congregation survey and Cottage Meetings held in the fall of 2006, as well as further thinking and advice developed since then.

In the upcoming spring 2008 Membership Meeting, we will be asking that you agree to allow the Board of Trustees to review and approve (or modify) the draft long range plan. Copies will be available for individual review on the UUFLG web site as well as on-loan hard copies at the Fellowship. The full plan, including the survey and Cottage Meeting results report is 48 pages. It includes goals and objectives as well as specific recommended tasks and responsibilities. A summary version has also been prepared that is informative but omits the details of the specific recommended tasks. The summary version will also be available on the UUFLG web site as well as on-loan hard copies at the Fellowship and is nine pages in an easy to read format. A hard copy of any of the plan materials may be printed from the PDF files on the UUFLG web site, or if you find that difficult and want a hard copy, please ask any board member or any of the members of the Long Range Planning Committee.

The Long Range Plan is not considered to be a rigid document but is expected to undergo periodic review and update as our world progresses.

Please take the opportunity to go to the UUFLG web site or look at an on-loan hard copy at the Fellowship. The Long Range Planning Committee is interested in your comments of how the plan might be improved in the future and the Board is equally interested in any comments or guidance individual Fellowship members might offer for consideration in the Board's review and approval of the plan.



Annual UUFLG Auction

“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 wonderful silent auction, as well as a spirited live auction with Jon Kaplan as our auctioneer. Entertainment and yummy Mexican tid-bits will abound, and childcare will be provided.

Your \$15 entrance fee includes bidding paddle, food, and one glass of beer or wine (for those over 21—juice, water, or lemonade for the under-age). Tickets are available at the door. A new feature this year will be the “Cantina”, where tickets (sold separately at the event) can be redeemed for wine or beer.

Some of the items designated for the live auction are: the Doyles’ vacation home in Montana for a week, a family photo session, offered by John Omvik, an hour of massage therapy with Karen Boulanger, landscape design and planning by Sue Fera—these are only a few examples of the wonderful goods and services you will be able to bid on. Plan to join the fun and fellowship Saturday, May 3, 5:30 p.m.

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, Julee Bode and JJ
Martin.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30a -12:00p District Assembly, Fremont 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	7:00p -9:00p Chalice Circle	7:00p -8:00p Long Range Plan Discussion Meeting (UUFLG Members) 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	12:00p -1:00p RUMs on the deck 1:30p -2:30p Building & Grounds Committee Mtg 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study For Religious Liberals	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	5:30pm -9:00p Auction 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting 1:00p -2:30p Spirit in Practice: Exploring Spiritual Practice
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -3:00p Fellowship Annual Meeting 6:00p -10:00p Peninsula Cluster Meeting	7:00p -8:00p Admin & Communications Committee Mtg	10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 2:00p -4:00p UUFLG Membership Committee Meeting	7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	9:45a -12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p -8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	1:00p -2:30p Spirit in Practice: Exploring Spiritual Practice 3:00p Belgatos Park Family Outing
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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 -9:00p Getting to Know UU, facilitated by Victoria Ingram 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee	11:30a -1:00p Dining and Discussion 7:30p -9:30p RECCY Meeting 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study For Religious Liberals	12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:15p RUMs on the Deck 7:00p -8:30p RECCY Meeting 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study For Religious Liberals	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	9:00a -5:00p Rental: Recital 9:00a -4:30p Spirited Moms and Daughters & Spirited Woman Workshops 6:30p Dinners for 8
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 7:00p -9:00p Getting to Know UU, facilitated by Victoria Ingram	7:00p -9:00p Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center		2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee Meeting 7:00p -9:00p Getting to Know UU, facilitated by Victoria Ingram	12:15p -2:15p Stitch & Bitch 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	7:00p -9:00p Bible Study For Religious Liberals	2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group 6:00p -9:00p Rental: Recital rehearsal	10:00a -6:00p Rental: Recital 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

May 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.

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