

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

May 2009 No.5; 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

May 2009

Sunday Services at 10:30

May 3: *Rest, Renewal, and Delight*

Rev. Theresa Hardy

This Sunday let us honor the balance of work and rest in our busy lives. How do we carve out time in our daily lives and particularly in the midst of chaos for rest and renewal.

Theresa Hardy graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2006. She was ordained last year at the UU Church of Berkeley in Kensington. Theresa is a hospital chaplain, and has worked in inpatient and outpatient clinical settings for more than 3 years.

May 10: *Mother's Day & Flower*

Communion Rev. Victoria Ingram

Honoring the beauty of flowers and mothers, this Sunday we share in our traditional flower communion during the service. NOTE: Please bring a flower to share as we celebrate this uniquely Unitarian Universalist rite of community.

May 17: *Heaven, Hell, and Life Before Death*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Most Unitarian Universalists are more concerned with the quality of life while we are living instead of being focused on what may or may not happen to us after death. Yet, the concepts of heaven and hell are pervasive in our culture. How do we respond as UUs to this aspect of our culture?

NOTE: This is also Appreciation Sunday, when we honor those whose effort and support make our community vibrant, engaging, and full of activity. Let's celebrate our volunteers in RE, on the Board, involved in Committees, and throughout UUFLG!

May 24: *Walton Peace Essay Contest*

Winners

Each spring, young people from local high schools are invited to participate to share their views on war and peace in the Walton Peace Essay contest, sponsored by UUFLG member and long-time peace activist Charles Walton. This Sunday, the winners of this year's competition present their thoughts and views.

Kassandra Omvik, who has been participating in the Coming of Age program for youth, will present her Credo (statement of belief) today. Julie Doyle is her mentor in the program.

May 31: *Hearts, Heads, and Hands*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

When our children light their chalice, they say they are "Unitarian Universalists – the church of the open mind, loving heart, and helping hands." UUs prize reason and rationalism in our religious practice, but we are more than just minds. We humans are also hearts and hands. Our message today explores how we make sure we integrate all of our intellect, emotion, and energy into our UU spiritual practice.

June 7: *Idleness as a Spiritual Practice*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Summer approaches – longer days and warmer evenings, vacations and visits from family and friends. Perhaps our thoughts turn to those special moments when we can laze in the sun, lounge at the beach, or lob a tennis ball across the net. But, don't we have something we need to DO? In this service, we explore idleness as a spiritual discipline.

Minister's Column

For some of you, the only time we see each other face-to-face is on Sunday morning. As you might guess, I have a lot on my mind at that time, and if you ask me to make a commitment or follow-through on something, I'll ask you to send me an email or leave me a phone message to remind me of what it is you'd like me to do. I'm happy to keep my commitments, but I also need help to remember what I've committed myself to do!

I've made my cell phone number and email address available so you can contact me at anytime. And there are definitely times when you should give me a call or send me an email. The Rev. Peter Lee Scott printed the following list for members of his congregation in a newsletter column a number of years ago, and I think it's a good list to share with you. Here are some suggestions for when to call the minister:

- When you haven't met me, but you'd like to.
- When you have problems you'd like to discuss, perhaps with your job, children, relationship, health, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.
- When you are going to the hospital or you know of someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill, or you are dealing with a significant loss of some kind.
- When you are planning to be married or divorced.
- When you would like your child dedicated.
- When you are facing some major change in your life.
- When you feel ready to join the congregation.
- When you have a friend or neighbor who would like to know more about Unitarian Universalism.
- When you have concerns or suggestions about the Fellowship.
- When you have religious or spiritual questions or you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life.
- When you are upset with me or would like to express appreciation.
- When you have won the lottery and want to make a large donation to the church.

Perhaps you can think of other times to call or drop me a note, and that's okay, too. My job is to serve you, and it's one of the joys of my life to be able to do so.

Love and Light,
Victoria

The Qu'ran

Our adult education series considering the teachings of Islam and the writings of the Qu'ran continues in May (Tuesday evenings, May 5 and 19, 7 – 9 p.m.) Readings, discussion, and text study lead us to explore the theology and world-view of the Muslim world, comparing and contrasting it to our own.

Rejuvenating Our Relating

The session scheduled for Saturday, May 16th has been cancelled, due to low enrollment.

Religious Education

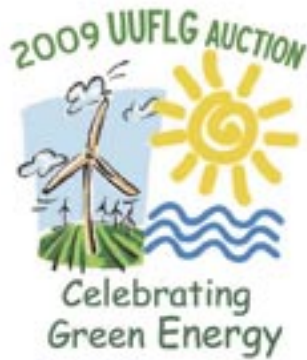
Our thanks to the Easter Bunny, who made an appearance on April 12th and made us all very happy. The children in attendance that day had a delightful time finding the many eggs scattered around UUFLG, the rest of us had just as much fun watching them.

We also had a wonderful time on our recent hike through Rancho San Antonio, an outing that was postponed several times until we had just the right weather. It was worth the wait, however, to see so many fascinating animals at the farm (so many, in fact, that Bria and I eventually lost count!)

We have had a lot to think and talk about in Religious Education. As we conclude a year of discussing Biblical parables from a Unitarian Universalist perspective, we're getting ready to study two outstanding UU books: Meet Jesus, and Unitarian Universalism is a Really Long Name. After that, we'll be wrapping things up with the children's classic, How to be Good, and Why. I'm sure we'll have a lot to share with you about those discussions!

I want to thank our resident musician, Dave Coldren, who recently shared his time so generously with our children as we made music at the recent All- Ages Potluck. We were all making a joyful noise!

With Love and In Fellowship,
Tamara



Annual Auction

Celebrating Green Energy

Saturday, May 9, 2009, 5:30 pm

This year's auction is a *hybrid of awareness raising, fun party, and fundraiser*. Our goal is to lessen our *carbon footprint* while enhancing the Fellowship's financial footprint. The *energy* of your donations and auction participation is a source of *heat* to drive the financial *turbines* of our Fellowship.

Spring is *green*. Money is *green*. *Sustainability is green*. *Green Energy is sustainable energy*. *Energy* enlivens out Fellowship. *Green Energy* in our Fellowship is a *sustainable* social action project. We are **Celebrating Green Energy**.

The event is about raising consciousness to combat *global warming* while raising our Fellowship's financial *warming* and *heart warming*.

- 5:30 Silent Auction, hors d'oeuvres, fun, and drinks
- 6:30 Live Auction with two hosts to help you laugh your wallets open
- 8:00 Desert goodies and check out purchase of your new treasures

This year the donations are better than ever. Below are a few:

- New week-long vacation destination, Mexico
- Pottery Lessons, complete with tools and clay
- Beautiful original paintings
- Manicure and pedicure at a luxury Los Gatos spa
- Wine and chocolate tasting party, yum

Bring your *solar* warm heart and your checkbook to give until . . . it feel good.

All are welcome at the auction, including children! Plan now to join the festivities.

Questions, call Ann Campbell, Auction Committee Chair.

May Inspirational Film Encore Presentation

Whale Rider

May 8, 7:00 PM

New Time 7:00 pm

Not in the sanctuary, at Marilyn Buelteman's

Thank you for your votes to decide this month's movie from the last two years of Inspirational Films. As the Movie Professor, Carl Ingram is pleased that **Whale Rider** won the election for this encore presentation because of the deep story and vivid symbols in this film.

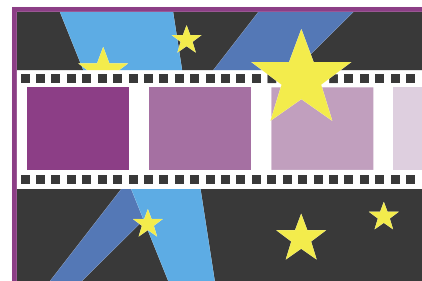
Reflect on contemporary life through the eyes of indigenous people. The setting is a coastal Maori village in New Zealand. A 12-year-old girl embraces 1000 years of tradition in order to fulfill her birthright heritage as leader of a patriarchal tribe. In the ways of the ancients, we find hope for meeting today's challenges by unearthing our internal strengths. The ending is uplifting and transcendent. 2003, PG-13, 1 hour 41 minutes

Some honors bestowed upon **Whale Rider** at International Film Festivals:

- 16 Best Picture Awards (including Sundance Film Festival)
- 6 Best Actress Awards and more

Thank you Marilyn Buelteman for hosting the film. The sanctuary is has too much evening light to project the movie onto the screen. Maps to Marilyn's are available in Fellowship office. Seating is limited, RSVP at office 408-358-1212.

Remember, 7 PM, not in sanctuary.



Annual Meeting

Our annual business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 12 noon. We will elect 5 new members to the Board of Trustees, a new nominating committee of 5 people and approve our budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2009.

I want to thank this year's nominating committee -Tim Connelly, Jo Cooley, Lida Kluzak, JJ Martin and Lou Yabroff – for doing such an excellent job in filling our open Board positions.

Here is the slate of candidates put forward by the nominating committee to fill 2 year terms on our Board:

- President – Paul Yeadon
- Vice President – Kathryn Wood
- Trustee for Administration and Building – Tim Connelly
- Trustee for Sunday Programs – Jo Cooley

Irving Yabroff is the nominee for Treasurer for the 2nd year of the current Treasurer term.

The slate of candidates for next year's nominating committee includes: Chris Magee, JJ Martin, Lynn O'Keefe and Edy Young. We need one more member on the nominating committee, so please consider putting your name forward or another member of the Fellowship who would serve well on the nominating committee.

Be sure to attend our Annual Meeting so that we can all promote our 5th Principle

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large

See you there!

Ann Campbell

Ordination of Nina Kalmoutis

Nina Kalmoutis will be ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City on Sunday, May 17th at 4:00 pm. Members and friends of the Los Gatos Fellowship are warmly invited to attend. There will be a reception immediately following the ordination. Child care will be provided. Please RSVP by May 6th to UUFRC, 2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062, (650) 265-6913 or office@uufrc.org.

Thank you, thank you to all helpers who enthusiastically did so much during April's work party on Saturday, the 11th. The really important items inside and out were tackled and accomplished. A pat on the back for Ann Campbell, Jim Stahl, Jim Beebe, Sharon Graham, Ellen Hill, Leslie Jones and Connie Springer.

The building and grounds look so much better for the help you gave!

Coralee Linton



Building and Grounds will hold a work party on May 23rd, which is the 4th Saturday. Usually we meet the 2nd Saturday. Due to the Auction being held on the 9th of May and the Oak Meadow Cleanup the 16th, we'll meet the 23rd. The weather should be perfect for outdoor work and there is never a shortage of indoor projects. Please meet at the Fellowship building at 10 a.m. and give an hour or two of your time.

Coralee Linton

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

Social Action

Social Action Service

The Social Action Team thanks everyone for their enthusiastic participation in the April 5th service. We shared memories of past actions and dreams for the future. The ideas were excellent. The Social Action Team is reviewing them all. Often the only thing we lack to adopt a project is a project leader or champion. That could be you. If there are any particular projects you would like to help move forward, it need not be a long-term commitment. This could be as short as a weekend, or a few months for a larger project. Contact Jessica Spaulding or Connie Springer if you want to champion a project.

National River Clean-Up Day

Have you ever been disgusted looking at all the trash on the ground? Walked though a beautiful park and thought, “someone should do something about all this litter?” Here’s your chance to come spend a few hours on Saturday May 16th cleaning our own Oak Meadow Park! The clean up is 9:00 to noon. This event is open to kids as well as adults. A waiver must be signed for children under 18 who are not accompanied by their parent. Tools and supplies will be provided. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat, gloves and lots of sunscreen. See Ryan and Jessica Spaulding or Connie Springer to sign-up. If you prefer to sign-up via email, please contact Ryan, ryanspaulding@gmail.com

The deadline is April 27th. We hope to see you there!

http://www.cleanacreek.org/upcomingcleanupevents_NRC09.asp

Share the Plate

On one Sunday each month, all offering plate collections not specified as pledge payments are donated to a nonprofit group that reflects our principles and values through their work in our community. This is one of the ways we put our principles into practice. Share-the-Plate raised \$284 for Low Income Self Help Center in March. The people who come to them for help include the homeless, job hunters, people looking for affordable health care and low-income housing, immigrants, the disabled and increasingly people who have fallen into need for the first time and don’t know where to turn for help. In April we donated \$224 to Death Penalty Focus, a San Francisco group, described by *Human Rights Watch* as “one of the premier organizations seeking to abolish the death penalty.” Thank you for your donations to Share-the-Plate each month. For more information on any of the recipient organizations or to suggest one contact Connie Springer.

Social Action Library

The quiet room in the back of the sanctuary is now the home for our new Social Action Library! Borrow social justice themed books, magazines and DVDs. Donations gratefully accepted (the space is small so please limit materials to topics relevant to social action). If you have a wonderful book to share but would like it back, the library will also take loaned items. Contact Kate Taylor to donate or loan books to the Social Action Library.

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.

MAY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service:	27 7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	28 1:30p-2:30p Long Range Planning Committee	29 3:00p-4:00p Auction Committee 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	30 7:15p-9:15p Trance work study and support group DISTRICT ASSEMBLY - Fremont Marriott	1 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY - Fremont Marriott	2
3 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -1:30p Social Action Committee DISTRICT ASSEMBLY - Fremont Marriott	4 10:00a-12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:30p-3:00p Membership Committee 7:00p -9:00p Studying The Sacred Texts: The Q'uran	5 3:00p-4:00p Auction Committee 7:00p-9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	6 12:00p -1:30p RUMs on the Deck or West Room 7:00p-9:00p Admin working group	7 4:00p-6:00p Auction setup	8 9:30a -10:00a Building & Grounds meeting 1:00p-10:00p Annual Auction	9
10 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	11 7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p-9:30p Great Books dis- cussion_group	12 5:30p-6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee	13 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	14 9:45a-12:00p Women's Group 7:00p-8:30p Board Meeting	15 7:15p-9:15p Trance work study and support group	16 9:00a-12:00p River Clean-up 9:30a-11:30a Worship Associates 6:30p Dinners for 8
17 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service: 12:00p-2:30p Annual Business Meeting	18 7:00p -9:00p Studying The Sacred Texts: The Q'uran	19 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center Newsletter Deadline	20 8:30a-5:00p Chaplains Retreat 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	21 12:00p-1:00p RECCY Meeting 12:00p-2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p-1:30p RUMs on Deck or West Room	22	23
24 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service:	25 7:15p -9: 00p Women's Spirituality Group	26 1:30p -2:30p Long Range Planning Committee	27	28	29 7:15p-9:15p Trance work study and support group	30

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 2009

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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