

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

September 2009 No.9; 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

September 2009 Sunday Services at 10:30

Sept. 6

Labor in the Pulpit

Worship Associates

Speaker from the Santa Clara Interfaith Council for Worker Justice

Sept. 13

Congregational Ingathering/Water Communion

Rev. Victoria Ingram

This Sunday we share in a UU tradition, bringing water from our summer travels to join together in a celebration of community as we officially begin our 60th year as a Fellowship. Remember to bring your water offering along with you (or use a “virtual” sample from our supply!)

Sept. 20

The Armchair Activist/ACTION SUNDAY Event

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Maybe protest marches just aren't your “thing.” There are still lots of ways You can be informed and involved in making the world a better place. On this “action Sunday” young and old have the opportunity to learn and share in stepping up and speaking out about sustainability, water rights, marriage equality, and other current issues of concern to Unitarian Universalists.

Sept. 27

Family Relationships

Bert Olson

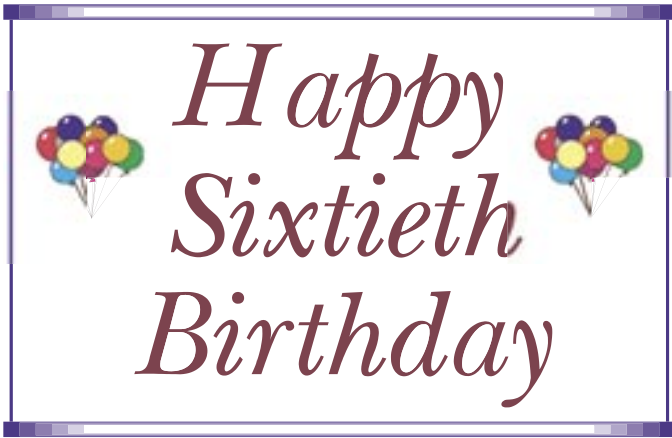
Bert Olson, a transferee from Texas was intrigued when, on Mother's Day, Victoria said she would like to hear a sermon from a man on Father's Day. Bert had done that for his UU church in Texas. He has expanded the talk to include family relationships. Of particular note is the different ways the minds of men and women operate. Come and learn something about yourself that you may not already know.

Oct. 4

Building our UU Identity: Association Sunday

Rev. Victoria Ingram

We're all a part of this faith community, and we're part of a larger denomination as well. Our faith reaches people around the globe, offering a beacon of love and hope to those who yearn for a liberal religious home. What, exactly, are we a part of and why does it matter to our Fellowship?



Minister's Column

As we begin our “official” church year this month, it’s a great time to pause for a moment and reflect on our Fellowship. This is especially true because this year is a milestone anniversary for us – it’s UUFLG’s 60th birthday!

In 1949, the Cutten family invited a number of friends to meet monthly in their home to talk about Unitarianism (this was before the merger of our two faith traditions in 1961.) As the word spread and the group grew in size, they decided to become an official Fellowship in the denomination and to rent space in the Los Gatos History Club for weekly meetings. Active children’s and social action programs grew as the congregation increased to around 100, then 145 members. While UUFLG has been primarily lay-led, in the mid-1960s, the Fellowship hired a full-time minister who served UUFLG for 3 years.

Many changes happened over the years, one of the most dynamic being a decision to purchase our current building 1988. For \$320,000, the Fellowship settled into a space with a 110 seat sanctuary, lounge, and small kitchen sitting on around a half acre of land. In 1991, the congregation added the West and East rooms. Various improvements – like landscaping and the deck – have been added over the years.

In 2000, the congregation began the process of once again considering and preparing for full-time, professional ministry. After a series of contract, part-time, and interim ministers, I was called to serve UUFLG in 2007.

Now, I’m beginning my third year with the Fellowship, and I’m delighted to be here and celebrate our 60th year anniversary as a faith community. There are so many happy memories that members and friends of this congregation share – talent shows and family camp outs, potlucks and political action, the joys and sorrows of everyday life shared in beloved community. And, of course, like any community, there have been some bumps and problems along the way.

What has brought UUFLG through 60 years together is a commitment to creating and maintaining a faith community that offers a liberal religious alternative in this community.

We have our ancestors and elders in faith to thank for making this place, this congregation, a reality for us. Let’s joyfully celebrate this milestone year, as we maintain and create our legacy to pass on to the future.

Love and light,
Victoria

Growing Spiritually, Learning All the Time!

Our Fellowship’s fall program of adult learning opportunities begins in September, beginning with an Inspirational Film on Friday, September 11th. Other fall offerings include a study of the sacred texts of Buddhism, a workshop on parenting and positive discipline, a video/discussion series, and introductory classes for new UUs.

Look for the fall Adult Religious Education catalog, available on September 6th, which will give you all the details on what’s coming up and how to register to participate. Thanks for giving your ideas and insights! Your feedback provided on this spring’s survey was invaluable in shaping our program for this coming church year. You’re gonna like what you see, because you asked for it!

Religious Education

Fall brings lots of positive changes, and the most promising is the addition of former DRE Kari Sparks, who will now be a regular presence in our preschool. Now that Kari is teaching math in Monterey, she is a little closer to Los Gatos, and we are blessed to have her as part of our regular staff again. Her enthusiasm and wonderful ideas will bring a lot to UUFLG and our children.

Our older RE students are getting ready to dive into a curriculum based on Unitarian Universalist history, and the contributions of notable UUs to our world. Don't forget to ask them what they know!

With Love and In Fellowship,
Tamara

Sustainable Grounds Project

Imagine our Fellowship grounds landscaped with edibles, natives and drought tolerant plants using little water and no chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Imagine educating our children and ourselves about healthy soil and environmentally responsible gardening practices. Imagine working together as a community to make our grounds a beautiful and inspiring example of sustainable practices. Imagine being a resource in sustainable gardening practices for the larger community.

The Social Action and the Building & Grounds committees are pleased to announce a joint **Sustainable Grounds** project to make that vision a reality.

When we asked you in a survey a year and a half ago what green practices the Fellowship should undertake 94% of you said landscaping with native and drought tolerant plants. When we asked you during the Social Action Sunday service last April what kinds of projects you would be excited about one of your suggestions was growing native, edible and drought tolerant plants. We heard you!

The project you asked for is now starting and we are looking for some of you to work with us on developing and implementing the project plans, including coming up with a catchy name for the project. If you want to get involved please contact Connie Springer, Jessica Spaulding or Tim Connelly. We need your help to make this happen.



Membership Committee Announcement UUFLG Photo Directory

The Fellowship's Membership Committee (MC) is again getting ready to prepare our annual (2009-10) Membership Photo Directory. This will be a special edition celebrating the Fellowship's 60 Anniversary.

If you and your family are not in our current photo directory or if you want a new/updated photo in the coming directory please attend one of the photo sessions.

The planned photo sessions are:

Sunday August 30th following our Sunday service at the Fellowship

Sunday September 13th following our Sunday service at the Fellowship

The MC will also be updating and validating the information for each member and friend (email address, phone number(s), street address, etc) prior to publication of the directory in late September. If you have any changes since last year's directory please email them to Harry Campbell at harryrcampbell@gmail.com.

For more information check the UUFLG calendar on our website, or email Harry Campbell at harryrcampbell@gmail.com



What Does the Finance Committee Do?

Do you ever wonder how the Fellowship succeeds in achieving a budget surplus or no more than a very small deficit at the end of each year? The answer is a partnership between your dedication and generosity and a finance committee that effectively manages both the monthly expenses to match our projected income, and plans and implements our major income producing activities. This article is the first in a series that will describe what the finance committee does. This article will briefly describe the major activities of the finance committee. Later articles will go into more detail on each one.

- **Manage financial operations:** These operations include receiving, recording and depositing all income. This income includes pledge payments, non-pledge donations to both the Fellowship and to outside organizations and proceeds from our major fund raisers. Expenses paid each month include all invoiced expenses to run our programs plus our payroll. Reports prepared at the end of each month include payroll tax reports and the financial reports of the Fellowship – Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet. These operations are performed by the bookkeeper under the supervision of the Finance Committee.
- **Prepare budgets and monitor income and expenses vs. budget:** Two budgets are prepared. First, a desired budget to be used as our goal for the Annual Budget Drive is prepared in January. After the Budget drive is completed, an operational budget is prepared by adjusting the desired budget to match the pledge total actually received. After approval by the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting in May, the operational budget is used during the following year as a guideline for monitoring income and expenses.

- **Organize major fund raisers:** Three major fund raisers are conducted each year to bring in 90% of our income. These are the Annual Budget Drive, the Christmas Boutique and the Auction.
- **Manage Endowment Funds:** We have three Restricted Funds, an Unrestricted Fund and a Building Endowment Fund. A separate Endowment Committee manages these funds. This committee consists of Ann Campbell, Chair, Irving Yabroff as Treasurer, Lida Kluzek and Cal Clauer.
- **Organize a Planned Giving Program:** This is a new endeavor we are working on to start this year. It will encourage members to put a bequest for the Fellowship in their will, set up a charitable remainder trust and use other similar tools to set aside funds to be donated to the Fellowship.

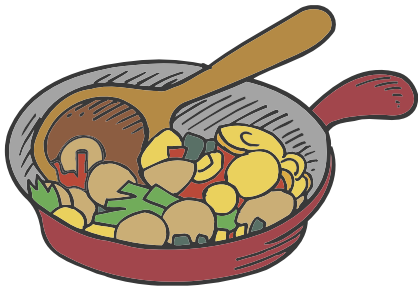
Current members of the Finance Committee are: Irving Yabroff, Treasurer and Chair, Ann Campbell, Jim Stahl, Bill Meeker, Merritt Benson and Bert Olson.

A Fellowship “work-party”

is scheduled by the Building Committee for Saturday, September 12th at 9:30 PM. (Target end time by noon.) Most of our projects will be outdoors. For example, there is work to do on our irrigation system. The Social Action Committee has a joint program with us to plant drought resistant plants. We expect to have pebbles and compost to distribute. For those of you that like doing indoor projects-- we have several of those as well. Refreshments will be available. Hope to see you there.

Regards,
Tim Connelly
Building & Administration Trustee

*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

Edna Windes is again the contact for Dinners for 8. Our next dinner will be September 19 and is a kickoff for the new season. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the foyer for members wishing to attend. Please sign it if you want to participate this season or contact Edna Windes at: ednawindes@me.com or 408 386 5317.

Dinners for 8 are fun dinner parties in each others homes. Every UUFLG member and any friend they might want to bring is welcome provided their names are turned in to Edna Windes by the 1st of each month they wish to attend i.e. September 1 for the September 19 dinner. Edna then lines up the host volunteers for that month and they notify their guests usually in the first week of the month. The Host provide the entree and coffee, tea, water etc. and arranges with guests to bring other foods such as salad, vegetables, dessert, wine, etc. You will receive a reminder each month and a sign up sheet will be provided each month. WE NEED HOSTS for Sept. 19, 2009, Oct. 17 , Nov. 21, Dec. 19 , 2009, Jan. 16, 2010 , Feb. 13 , March 20 , April 17 , May 15 , 2010. If it is impossible for you to host you can still attend. The church is usually available for someone with small living quarters to host Dinners for 8 each month. Please contact Edna Windes about attending and hosting.

Your Help Needed

The Membership Committee is always striving to find ways to help visitors discover how enjoyable our Fellowship is. We would like to suggest that each member look for someone you don't know each Sunday and speak to them. Introduce yourself and simply say you don't remember if you have met them before, get acquainted. Find out who they are and if they are a visitor, if they are — make them feel welcome of course. If they happen to be a member, well you have met someone you have not known before. That's what fellowship is all about.

Snack volunteers are encouraged to stay for the coffee hour and then help clean up food. If any of their snacks are left, the volunteers are encouraged to either take it home themselves or give it to someone who will take it home.

Ann Campbell is Volunteer Coordinator for September. Contact her if you wish to volunteer for any of the jobs. And don't forget we have a volunteer sheet in the foyer where you can sign up. We need all of you. Thanks.

EDNA WINDES

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

Getting Involved...Or Why We Do the Things We Do

So there's another activity coming up with the Social Action Committee, and we're asking you to participate. Actually, it doesn't matter when this gets printed, because SA always has something coming up, right? Some people may wonder why there is always something to be involved in, or why they should spend time and energy on someone else's project instead of enjoying a relaxing weekend. It's because getting involved in the outside community is important, and it's good for you, your family, the Fellowship, and the community as a whole.

Some of the best reasons to get involved with outside activities are that it's fun and it feels good to help other people. These activities are not "work" as much as they are "doing something useful while hanging out with friends." And don't underestimate that "useful" part. Knowing that a spending a few hours of your life makes someone else's life so much better is a wonderful experience. It also gives you a sense of accomplishment to get out and complete a task with others.

For those of you with families, involvement in community activities gives you a chance to get out and do something together that makes the world a better place, and does not involve buying stuff, paying admission fees, or eating overpriced junk food and calling it lunch. If you're feeling the state of the economy (and who isn't?), this is an easy-on-the-wallet family activity. It sends the message to young people that others are important, and that it is good to give, even when you do not see any direct return.

Communities are based on the idea that people look out for each other. When people are in need, communities of friends and neighbors help them out. The community is strengthened not just because the people they helped are in a better situation, but also because they came together to accomplish something. Getting involved with outside activities is just a (hopefully) more organized extension of that concept. This applies both to UUFLG and to the wider community. So by getting out there, you are creating the kind of world we would like to live in. It shows that UUFLG is an active and important part of the community, raising our visibility and the visibility of UU's in general.

Every person's participation is important. The Social Action committee focuses on activities and groups where our contribution will have the most impact. We avoid putting our efforts into large, national or international groups, not because these are not worthy causes, but because anything we do would at best be a very tiny drop in a very big bucket. Because we work with smaller, local organizations, it really makes a big difference whether we have 5 people attending, or 8, or 18. We do our best to select activities and groups that are appropriate for all ages and activity levels so that everyone is included. So if you have a little time some weekend, we could really use some help.

Share-the-Plate

August's Share-the-Plate total was \$196, which will benefit Friends Outside.

The Share-the-Plate recipient for September 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. We tend to see more drop-in requests in the fall and winter so this is a good time to replenish this resource.

Friends Outside in Santa Clara County, our Share-the-Plate recipient in August, has some good news. They have been awarded three years rent-free use of the Rainbow Park Neighborhood Center for their Youth Programs. They have created a wish list of items that they need to make the most of this opportunity. Contact them at 408-295-6033 if you can help with any of these items.

Tables, beanbags (gently used)
Reusable plastic plates, cups, utensils
Kitchen items such as baking trays,
mixing bowls, measuring cups, blenders
Computer desks/work stations
Bookcases, book, CD players, posters
Whiteboards, large area rugs
Gift cards to Home Depot, Ikea, Target, etc.

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 30 10:30a-11:30a Sunday Service	August 31 10:00a-Noon Tuesday Chalice Circle	1 7:00p-9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:15-9:30p Meditation Class Dridzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	2 Noon-1:30p RUUMs on the deck	3 7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	4 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting	5
6 10:30a-11:30a Sunday Service	7 Time TBD Membership Committee, Contact Edna Windes 5:30p-6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Meeting	8 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Dridzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	9 9:30a -12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p-8:30p UJFLG Board Meeting	10 6:30p-9:30p Inspirational Film, Title TBA	11 9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting	12
13 10:30a-11:30a Sunday Service 12:15p-1:30p Social Action Meeting	14 7:15p--9: 00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p-9:30p Great Books dis- cussion group	15 10:00a-12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle	16 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Dridzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	17 Noon-1:00p RECCY Meeting Noon-1:00p RUUMs (2 nd meet- ing of the month) on the deck	18 7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	19 9:00a-4:00p UJFLG Board Retreat 6:30p Dinners for 8
20 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Newsletter Deadline	21 7:00p-9:00p Rental: Better Investing	22 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Dridzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	23 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Dridzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	24 25	25 5:00p-8:00p All Ages Potluck	26
27 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	28 7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	29 1:30p-2:30p Long Range Planning Committee	30 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Dridzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	1 Noon-1:30p RUUMs on the deck	2 7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	3 9:00a-Noon Worship Associates Meeting
			October	October	October	October

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



Fellowship News

September 2009

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(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.