

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

February 2009 No.2; 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

February 2009 Sunday Services at 10:30

February 1 Guest Minister

The Permanent and Transient in Unitarian Universalism

Rev. Sean Dennison

In 1841, Theodore Parker preached a sermon that laid out Unitarian theology in a clear, concise, and ultimately historic way. Using his idea of separating truly core beliefs from the fancies of the time, Rev. Dennison will look at Unitarian Universalism, our Principles and Purposes, and current practices in our congregations, exploring what may fade away and what may remain.

February 8

Is This Really a Church?

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Those of more orthodox religious persuasions sometimes wonder if those of us in liberal religious traditions really belong to a church. “If you don’t share a creed or set of beliefs, are you REALLY a religion?”, they ask. This week, we explore what “religion” means in our understanding and why we are most definitely a church (even if some of us are a bit uncomfortable with that particular word!)

Note: This Sunday, we kick off our Fellowship’s canvass for the 2009-10 budget.

February 15 Guest Minister

“With Love in the Air... the Real Work Begins”

Jeanelyse Doran

Today I feel giddy in anticipation of the swearing in of our 44th President, Barack Obama. By the time I’m with you President Elect Obama will be President Obama. He and his family will be getting settled in the White House and the work will have only just begun. The mantra, “Yes We Can,” has inspired the nation and perhaps the world. It is providing hope, excitement and preparing us for the work to come. “Yes We Can” is more than just a mantra it is a call and a promise. How does our faith call us to respond?

Jeanelyse Doran Adams is recent graduate from Starr King School for the Ministry, and a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. She recently completed a clinical pastoral education residency and hopes to specialize in family pastoral care and community ministry. Jeanelyse’s call to ministry is to tend souls, to inspire and support shared ministries, and to facilitate sustainable personal and social transformation.

February 22

When Hope is Hard to Find

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Is the glass half full, or half empty? Hope and optimism suffer when the future isn’t clear, money’s tight, and our sense of security is disrupted. Yet, there are signs that hope is alive and blessings are all around us. What we choose to focus on – love or fear – helps shape how we answer that first question. Today, we’ll consider how we can focus on fullness, abundance, and hope.

MINISTER'S COLUMN

Unitarian Universalists have a well-deserved reputation for being good talkers. Wonder if it's true? Just listen! On the deck during coffee hour, in the hall before Sunday services, in meetings or classes or just about anytime we get together, there's always something to talk about. As a contrast, in the Quaker tradition, one listens to spirit before one speaks.

Regarding the Quakers, George Bernard Shaw once said, "I believe in the discipline of silence and could talk for hours about it." (Perhaps he was actually a UU?) Yes, we're also known for being a people who have a lot of opinions and points of view. And, we're not too shy about speaking up and telling others what it is that's on our minds.

But, how good are we at listening? I don't mean just hearing the other person's words, I mean really deeply attending to one another and listening for the meaning behind the words, the heartfelt need behind the chatter, the music of encountering another soul?

We know that at least half of conversation, of language itself, is listening. But are we listening if what we're actually doing is preparing our response? Are we attentive if the noise of own thoughts drowns out the intent and expression carried in the words being said around us, to us? It can be a noisy world – both outside and inside our heads!

I spend a great deal of my time talking. Over a career in training and organizational consulting, and now ministry, I've made my living by stringing words together for public consumption! But, I also have spent and continue to spend a great deal of my time listening. And, I've learned that truly listening is a spiritual practice.

Truly listening, just like speaking truly, is an art and a skill. It takes practice and intent to focus our attention, to extend our ears into the conversation with someone else, to discern the meaning of what they are saying, and to grasp the fullness of their message. It is also one of the greatest gifts that we can give one another – our full attention and intention when someone is sharing their precious thoughts, feelings, experiences, and hopes with us. It takes humility and grace to acknowledge that one does not have a monopoly on truth, and that true wisdom may be heard when listening to others.

Poet John Holmes wrote a poem called "The Eleventh Commandment" in which he posits that listening is that undocumented commandment. He wrote: "Life speaks to be heard. Sound is a living thing. There is no sound, no language, no music, without the listening ear. Without silence between notes, there would be no music."

I wish for all of us the spiritual disciple of listening, so that we may hear the music of each other's wisdom, the truth of each other's experience, the love of each other's life.

Love and light,
Victoria

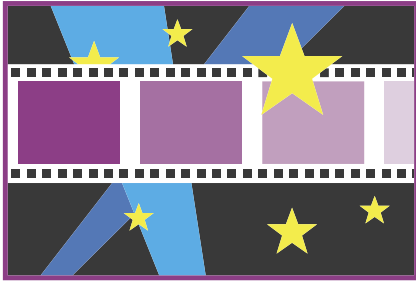
New Adult RE Brochure Available Now!

Make sure you pick up a copy of the Spring, 2009 brochure that shares the interesting and engaging offerings we have for Adult Religious Education! You'll find information on our upcoming Inspirational Films, as well as the dates for Getting to Know UU – our workshop for newcomers and those interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism.

Also, this Spring, you have the chance to learn more about the Koran and Islam, or explore what it means to parent using our Seven Principles. Couples may want to invest in a Saturday together to enhance their communication, commitment, and connection. Chalice Circles continue, as well as Walt Main's Runes class.

So many opportunities! Get your brochure. Find something of interest to you and register for class by signing up in the notebook in the Foyer, or by calling or emailing the church office (358.1212 or admin@uufg.org)

See you in Adult RE!



Inspirational Film – February 13, 2009

The Great Debaters

This is a true story of building courage to attain freedom. The debate team, from a small Texas Negro college, challenges racism by competing with white universities. In 1935, the successful team claimed media national attention. Denzil Washington played the debate-team coach and directed this critically acclaimed movie.

We celebrate Black History month this February with the sage of pride and success in the face of cultural oppression. 2007, PG-13, 2 hours 6 min.

6:30 p.m. Presentation on film themes by the Movie Professor, Carl Ingram

7:00 p.m. Full-length feature film followed by a facilitated discussion

Childcare is available by calling church office - 408-358-1212.

Mark your calendars for the final Inspirational Film:

March 13 Waking Ned Divine

A winning comedy about the Irish Sweepstakes

Join us to see

the Frida Kahlo photographic exhibit

at the San Jose Museum of Art on Sunday, February 15. We will meet at the Fellowship parking lot next to the playground at 1:15 p.m. to carpool. We will leave promptly at 1:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$8; Seniors \$5.

Call Sharon Graham at 408-356-5532 with any questions.

Enjoy the outdoors on February 15.

Members and visitors are invited to join WALK-HIKE-BIKE on Sunday, February 15 for a walk in the Rancho San Antonio Park (on Criston Rey Drive, Los Altos). We will meet at the Fellowship at 12:15 to car pool because of the limited parking at Rancho San Antonio.

Deer Hallow Farm is about 1 mile from the start of our walk. It offers self-guided tours including farm animals and is a good stopping place for those who want a more limited walk. The rest of the group will continue on a longer walk.

Everyone is responsible for their own water and trail snacks. We will leave by 2:30 pm. to return to UUFLG, so everyone can be home by 3:00.

If you have questions, call Jim Beebe at 408-315-5066.



“BE A SWEETHEART - - -

And come to the Fellowship for an hour or two to help Building & Grounds’ Work party on Valentine’s Day, Saturday the 14th of February. We will be there from at least 10 to noon and could always use an extra pair of hands.

Coralee Linton”

Religious Education

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our first Potluck for All Ages on January 24th. Katie Stubstad and I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated, and we hope to see you many more times for all –ages events throughout the year. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet people, socialize, and grow in fellowship.

Speaking of socializing, I had the opportunity to hike after service with our new monthly group a few weeks ago, and had a fabulous time! RE student Anthony Maida was with us for that activity, and also gives it the thumbs up. He agrees the hike is not too hard, a lot of fun, and a great chance to hang out with fellow UUFLG members and friends. We hope to see more children along on our next outing.

In short, there is more to RE and fellowship to classes and services, as fun and important as they are. I love spending these good times with all of you.

Tamara, DRE

UUFLG MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

The Thursday Morning Women's Group will meet in February on Thursday, Feb. 12 in the West Room at 9:45 a.m. We will be discussing the article "Hold On" on page 27 in the Winter issue of the UU World.

Contact Erma Browning, convener, for more information.



A Talk at the UU Church of Palo Alto

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS AND THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS: From Galilee to Proto-Christianity

- by Prof. Tom Sheehan

Sunday, February 22 at 7-9pm

Main Hall, UU Church of Palo Alto

Prof. Tom Sheehan of Stanford's Dept. of Religious Studies (and a fellow of the Jesus Seminar) is back to give another fascinating talk on early Christianity. Christianity preaches the gospel about Jesus: his divinity, his miraculous birth and supernatural miracles, his death as atonement for sin, his resurrection and ascension into heaven and his future return to earth. However, biblical scholarship over the last half-century has demonstrated that Christianity and its main doctrines are not at all what Jesus preached. The gospel proclaimed by Jesus was Jewish not Christian, was focused on God's kingdom on earth rather than the afterlife, and was not about his divinity, substitutionary atonement, or personal resurrection. The lecture will show how Jesus' preaching got transformed into first-century Christianities.

Please pre-register (eventsignup@uucpa.org or call the church office, 650-494-0541). Childcare can usually be provided with two weeks notice (childcare@uucpa.org or call the church office).

*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

The Santa Clara Valley has a semi-arid climate. With a population of 1.8 million people and additional 200,000 people commuting into the area for work, many people depend on the area's water supply. Agriculture in the south county further increases the demand. More than half of area's water supply is imported from the Delta. Recent legislation has greatly reduced the amount of Delta water that can be imported. From Oct. 1 to Nov. 25, 2008, downtown San Jose rainfall was 1.26 inches, which is 56 percent of the historic average. Our county's reservoir levels are the lowest in 14 years. With two successive dry winter seasons and another predicted, the local water management agency Santa Clara Valley Water District is asking people to reduce their water consumption by 10% (www.scvwd.org).

For help in conserving water at home, call the Santa Clara Valley Water District for a free "Water Wise House Call" 1-800-548-1882. (San Jose Water Company customers call (408) 279-7900). A trained water surveyor will provide low-flow shower heads, sink aerators and individualized advice, all free of charge (http://www.valleywater.org/Water/Water_conservation/In_the_home/index.shtm). The Water District is also offering rebates on many water saving appliances such as high efficiency washing machines and toilets (<http://www.valleywater.org/conservation/#none>).

70% of the water used at home is used outdoors. Using water-wise landscaping is an important way to conserve while enjoying a beautiful yard. Use mulch to reduce evaporation, drip irrigation systems to water only where it is needed, and consider using native and drought resistant plants that require less water (<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>). Visit this website for a list of plants that are native or water-wise: http://www.valleywater.org/Water/Water_conservation/In_the_home/Water-wise_plant_list.shtm Free workshops are available on water efficient landscaping. For more information call (408) 265-2607, ext. 2554.

There are many ways to conserve water both indoors and outside. FEMA offers a list of conservation tips for all areas of the home: http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/appendix_a.shtm

While it is important to save water at home, California homes and businesses use an estimated 11% of the states water while agriculture consumes 43% – the remaining 46% is dedicated to environmental maintenance (www.acwa.com/mediazone/waterfacts/ca_water_how_its_used.pdf). The March Social Action article will cover agricultural water use.

Wanted – Your Old Silverware

In an effort to eliminate the use of disposables at the Fellowship, we need more silverware! If you have any to donate, please bring it to the office, or contact Jessica Spaulding or Connie Springer.

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.

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service:	2	3 10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:30p -3:00p Membership Committee	4 7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	5 12:00p -1:30p RUMs on the deck or west room 7:00p -8:00p Admin working group	6 7:15p -9:00p Rune Study 7:30p -9:30p Jim Scott in Concert	7 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting
8 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service: 12:00p -1:30p Social Action Committee 12:00p -1:00p Nominating Committee	9 7:15p -9: 00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Great Books dis- cussion group	10 5:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee Mtg	11 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	12 9:45a -12: 00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p -8:30p UJFLG Board Meeting	13 7:00p Inspirational Films	14 9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds mtg 10:00a -12:00p Second Saturday work party
15 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service: 12:15p -3:00p Walk, Bike and Hike.	16	17	18 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	19 12:00p -1:00p RECCY Meeting 12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:30p RUMs on the Deck	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30p Dinners for 8
22 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service: 12:00p -1:00p Nominating Committee 4:00p -6:00p Peninsula Cluster meeting	23 7:00p -9:00p Rental: Better Investing 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	24 1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee	25 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	26 Deck	27	28

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



Fellowship News

February 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.

(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.