

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

December 2013 No.12; 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

December 2013 Sunday Services at 10:30

December theme – Jewish and Christian Teachings

Dec 1: “Deep Communication as Spiritual Practice”

Rev. Fa Jun

Each of us has many different lines of development along which we can evolve. These may include Physical/ Kinesthetic, Spiritual, Cognitive, Artistic, and more. Of these lines, two that can almost always benefit from growth are Emotional Awareness and Interpersonal Relating.

In this Sermon, we will learn how feeling deeply into our own and others stories, emotions, and needs can not only evolve this crucial Interpersonal ability, but also enhance our own Spiritual Journeys.

Dec. 8: “Broken Pottery Shards and Divine Sparks of Light”

Rev. Lisa Wiggins

In celebration of Human Rights Day we will examine Jewish mythology describing Tikkun Olam (mending our broken world.) Although radical social inequalities can sap our energies, there are successful “best practices” in ancient sources and leading edge ideas to help us work together to bring new breath to a struggling earth. Rev. Denis Paul will present the “Time for All Ages.”

Dec 15: “Prayer”

Rev. Russ Menk

Ann Lamott writes in her book that the three essential prayers are Help, Thanks, and Wow. Many of us come from other religious denominations where prayer is foundational. But what does prayer mean to Unitarian Universalists? Where is prayer directed? What does prayer mean to you? Can it be part of your spiritual journey?

Russ Menk is the newly appointed minister of the UU Fellowship of Santa Cruz County. Russ graduated from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley with a MDiv degree in 20013. He was given Preliminary Fellowship by the UUA. Russ has been a guest minister at UUFLG in the past. He and Rev. Lisa are engaging in a pulpit switch on this date.

Dec. 22: “Lights of Hope: Celebration of the Winter Solstice and Christmas”

A Combined Service

with the Center for Spiritual Living & UUFLG
Rev. Lisa Wiggins & Rev. Alice Carpenter
& the UUFLG Choir

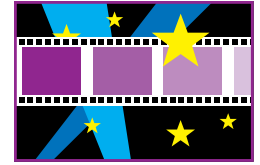
Come celebrate the spiritual season with lights, music and our own internal glow of hope.

Dec 29: “Becoming God”

Rev. Denis Paul, Lifelong Learning Specialist

God the Super Humanoid is a lot of things to a lot of people including father or mother, savior or even tyrant. God the Verb is something completely different though. Together we’ll engage in the Process of God. We’ll make God together. We’ll become God.

Rev. Denis Paul is our new Lifetime Learning Specialist. He also serves as the contract minister for the UU Community of the Mountains in Grass Valley, and worked for five years as an outreach minister for the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco. He lives in Modesto with his beloved, Rev. Joe Cherry.



Ministerial Musing

At our recent New to UU Conversation we had an engaging conversation about personal journeys, beliefs and shared even our favorite books. One book with which I was not familiar was “Night Circus” by Erin Morgenstern which I have spent these last two weeks reading. At times it reminded me of our own congregational circus we held last year with images of JJ Martin, our ring leader, Irving Yabroff and Jim Stahl, as our clowns, which made me smile. And the book itself was a wonderful reminder about how to step outside the bounds when the rest of the world insists on competitive one-upmanship, as well as a wonderful love story which delights the imagination.

At the end of the book a character was given a business card for the new “proprietor” of the circus, Bailey Clarke, with an email address in the story. On the remote, off-chance I wrote to Bailey using that email in the text to let him know I really enjoyed the story and I received a reply from the author “assistant to Mr. Clarke.” Erin thanked me for my interest in Le Cirque des Reves [Night Circus] and went on to say that “If you are inquiring as to the itinerary of the circus, we apologize, but it is against our policy to disclose information about current or upcoming locations” with a “Cheers, Erin.” ;-D Ahhhh; but we know that wonder and a magical life can come alive in each of us everyday. May you be filled with similar subtleties, surprises and smiles which live on in your heart.

And thank you all, new and old members and friends, for the wonder of serving you. UUFLG continues to be a marvelous and inspirational group which gives me warmth and light amidst the lengthening nights of the winter season.

Gracious love, Rev. Lisa

First Friday Flick: "Blue Butterfly"

Dec. 6th, 7 PM

Think your life's purpose is no more than pure happenstance? Then this movie is meant for you. It is a story of a terminally ill 10 year old boy, whose dream is to catch the mythic and elusive Blue Morpho butterfly. His mother persuades a renowned lepidopterist (William Hurt) to take them on a journey into the jungle which transforms their lives forever. The engaging story is based on a true experience. Come for a real feel-good, visual cinematography treat, and conversation with friends and popcorn.

Introducing Lea Cox – Office Manager

We are pleased to welcome Lea Cox as our Office Manager. Lea is a good fit for the position of part time Office Manager. Lea comes off a career in microbiology research where she has worked for the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and the Jet Propulsion Lab. Lea is transitioning into her present life as painter and independent contractor in web design and graphic design. Lea will have a home / studio in Santa Cruz.

Lea will have regular office hours from 10 am to 2 pm generally on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Lea will become part of the Admin team headed by Rev. Lisa and including Rev Denis Paul, our new Lifespan Learning Module Specialist will also be part of that team.

You are invited to stop by the office and say hello to Lea.

We Are Grateful To You

The pledges that fund the program and staff are on target and we appreciate your continued, generous support. Together, we have developed a strong education program for our children, which we are continuing to improve with new resources. Our space is serving us better with the conversion of the Lounge to another classroom and combining office function with classroom function. Our Fellowship is becoming more accessible to the community, our members and friends with established office hours three days a week. Our volunteer coordination program will help integrate new friends and members into the life of our community. We are enjoying the opportunities to connect more deeply with one another through our Sunday morning “Spiritual Café” services and our spiritual cinema evenings. Our Sunday services are vibrant with music, images and inspiration.

This is an exciting time to be a member and friend of the Fellowship. We couldn't do it without your financial support. As you consider year-end donations to many non profits that solicit at this time of year, please remember that UUFLG can use extra funds to support our ongoing operations. Thank you in advance for whatever gift we will receive.

Best wishes for the holiday from the Finance Committee.

Let's Meet for Brunch in January

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 19, for a 1 p.m. brunch in the banquet room at Cup and Saucer, 1375 Blossom Hill Road. Members and friends of UUFLG of all ages are welcome. Let's eat good and feel good! You can order from the breakfast or lunch menu. Separate checks will be provided. (This brunch replaces Dinner for Eight in January.) Watch for information on reservations from Pam Pierson a few weeks before the brunch.

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



Prison Book Drive a Success!

In early fall, UUFLG, together with the Redwood City and Sunnyvale UU congregations, raised a total of \$1,700 to purchase college textbooks for use by prisoners taking the online classes available at Avenal Prison. Carolyn Chaney of Redwood City, who led the project, recently reported that since she was able to purchase used books, the money collected “stretched to a purchase of 18 textbooks, including all of the ones on Avenal’s high priority list and two copies each of their three most coveted books,” which were shipped to the prison in October. She further reported that the education coordinator at Avenal “sends a big Thank You and is still amazed, because this is the first gift of its kind” and to “please tell your congregations that our gift of textbooks was received with real gratitude.”

December Birthdays

- 1 Tom Olson
- 7 Luke Chacon
- 9 Kathryn Wood
- 15 Erma Browning
- 25 Jan Wygant
- 28 Yvonne Liu
- 30 Jack Stubstad

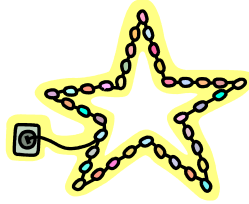


Green Holiday Tips

Simple ways to save money, energy, and paper during the holiday season

Holiday lights:

- Use low-energy LED lights.
- Use fewer lights.
- Reduce the number of days or the hours per day your lights are on.



Shopping:

- Shop online to save gas and stress.
- Combine trips; shop at just a few stores.
- Buy gifts made from recycled materials.
- Bring your reusable bags.



Gifts:

- Give home-made gift certificates for a day of babysitting, house or yard help, or cooking a meal.
- Give home-made cookies, bread, or muffins.
- Give energy-saving gifts: tire pressure gauges, under-door draft guards, low-energy fluorescent bulbs.
- Give “like new” used books from thrift stores or “friends of the library” sales.

Gift Wrapping:

- Wrap gifts in scarves, old maps, or newspapers, or decorate brown-paper grocery bags.
- Use reusable gift bags or boxes.
- Make gift tags from old cards or scrap paper.
- This year: open gifts carefully and save the paper, ribbons, and cards for reuse.



Entertaining:

- Use your own dishes and silverware whenever possible.
- If you must buy one-use items, choose plates and cups that are recyclable and made from unbleached materials. (Don't use Styrofoam!)
- Wash plastic forks and spoons and save them for future parties.
- Make it easy for your guests to recycle. Put a bin for cans and bottles next to the one for garbage.
- Mark it with a sign or the recycling symbol.

Some Reasons Why:

- If everyone replaced their old holiday lights with LEDs, two billion kilowatt hours of electricity could be saved in one month.
- If each family cut holiday gasoline use by one gallon (about 20 miles), we'd reduce greenhouse gases by one million tons.
- If every family wrapped just 3 gifts in recycled paper, the paper saved would cover 45,000 football fields.
- If every family reused just 2 feet of ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the Earth!

INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO? The Board minutes are listed under “Administration” on the right 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 Jim Beebe (jebebe1102@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.

December 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:15a -11:30a Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 10:30a-11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -1:15p Social Action Team Meeting	2 6:30p -8:00p Women's Spirituality Group	3 10-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir.	4 10:30a -12:00p Caring Committee Meeting - Bi-Monthly 7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	5 12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch	6 10:15a -12:00p Finance Committee Meeting 7:30p -10:00p UUFLG First-Friday Heartful, Soulful Cinema	7 9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.
8 10:15a -11:30a Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service 11:30a - 1:30p Holiday Boutique	9 7:30-9:39p, Great Books Discussion Grp.	10 7:00 -9:00p Sunday Programs Committee	11 7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	12 9:45a-12:00p, Thursday Morning Women's Group	13 4:00p -7:00p Leah Drake - Recital (3:00-7:00)	14 10:00a -11:30a Carmella's Job Club
15 9:00-10:15a, Membership Committee Meeting 10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Rel. Ed. /Playtime 11:30a -1:30p Holiday Boutique	16 6:30-8:00p, Women's Spirituality Grp.	17 10-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir.	18 7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	19 12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch 7:00--8:30p, UUFLG Board Mtg.	20 9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.	21 9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.
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29 10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Rel. Ed. /Playtime	30 6:30-8:00p, Women's Spirituality Grp.	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch	3 10:15a-12p, Finance Committee Mtg. 7:30-10:00p, First Friday Heartful Soulful Cinema	4 9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



Fellowship News

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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. If you would like to be added to our email list to receive our monthly newsletter, please call or email our administrator: admin@uuflg.org or 408-358-1212.