

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

January 2014 No.1; 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

January 2014
Sunday Services at 10:30

Worship Theme for the Month:

“Justice, Equity & Compassion in Human Relations”

Jan. 5: “Poco a Poco” (Little by Little)

Rev. Lisa Wiggins

Come become a part of a tale of a farmworker community learning that justice, equity and compassion begins and continues with the heart felt connections we make with each other.

We will also welcome our newest congregational member: Kathryn Harper!

Jan.12: “The Power of Empathy”

Christian Real

Whether you want to create more intimacy in your relationship, make better decisions, negotiate global crises, or just feel less judgmental about others sometimes, the one key factor is empathy. Following the foundations of Rev. Fa Jun’s December service on compassionate communication, this sermon will explore powerful questions like the difference between empathy and sympathy, how we can help others really feel heard, and will introduce ancient Buddhist methods of putting yourself in another’s shoes to create deep and lasting understanding.

Come and bless yourself with the gift of tolerance and openheartedness!

Jan. 19:

“The Spirited Resolve for the Struggle Unresolved”

Rev. Lisa Wiggins

with the Serendipity Choir Singing African American Spirituals

How can Unitarian Universalism contribute to the call for justice, equity and compassion which was championed by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. without being overwhelmed by the seeming growing and insurmountable inequities of our social order?

Jan 26: “Spiritual Café”

Members of Sunday Services Group

The Spiritual Café service reflects on the theme of the month. After a short summary in the Sanctuary, the congregation goes to the West Room or deck (weather permitting) to reflect more directly in small groups to discuss Justice, Equity & Compassion in Human Relations.

This sharing is meant to deepen each’s understanding of the topic and also deepen the connections/friendships of people who come to our services. Guiding questions, as well as coffee and tea, will be available to facilitate the discussions.

Ministerial Musings

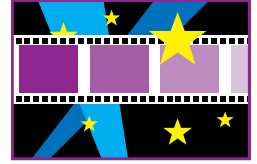
At the beginning of this New Year I am struck with how many people make resolutions. Even though such resolutions are consistently broken, we initially believe that we can dig ourselves out of a hole we have made—trying to right some action/s that we should, or should not have executed. As a UUFLG congregant recently said to another member who was berating herself for things not going right at one of our gatherings: “Don’t should on yourself!” This speaks to a much deeper issue of identity. If we think we are not enough, or flawed in some aspect, instead of seeing ourselves as a much more complex, nuanced being on our challenging journey, then we believe that there is always something to do to better ourselves and right our wrongs. As morally astute individuals, we have made it a discerning practice to second guess ourselves, to acutely feel our “failures” and try to make amends. And we seek assurances from an outside inspirational well that we will be forgiven and accepted in the end.

What would it take to turn this situation around? I am reminded of a Chinese medicine proverb which says: “Don’t dig your well when you are dying of thirst.” If we didn’t see ourselves as dying of thirst (lacking in moral resolve) then we would have a greater ability to feel ourselves as part of the naturally dynamic river of life. Yes, there will be the inevitable obstacles, yet we would have better resources to unblock these hard places and flow once again. Much like preventative medicine, we can develop our psychic, emotional, spiritual, and even our bodily resources to become more like flowing water. These small actions allows us to become more adept at handling our bigger challenges. This is what our spiritual journeys are all about—keeping us reminded of sustaining values and acting on those values which can help us create moving, breathing currents on this earth. Our focus at UUFLG is not a destination where we transcend our limitations, but rather an ongoing practice of vitality--living to our fullest. We gather here to help each other to gain more energy and assurances that we can navigate through the twists and turns, even when our rivers end within the larger ocean of the universe.

So, as you step into the waters of this new year may you review your list of resolutions and throw out those that speak of your limitations. Keep only those which will help to bring out your inner healer with all its resourcefulness and energy to tackle those creative challenges in the eddies of living. And then share it with others so that they can see that even the most human of us can discover a pathway into the flow.

Rev. Lisa

Spiritual Cinema: “The Man From Earth”



Friday, January 3rd, 7 PM

In a dialogue-rich movie, we come to know why Professor John Oldman prepares to move on to a new home during his impromptu farewell party with his University colleagues. They find out a fantastic revelation: Despite all appearances, John is not a modern day human; rather he is a 14,000 year old immortal who has survived centuries of evolution from the Cro-Magnon Era to the present. His life story challenges his colleagues (a biologist, history professor/devout Christian, an anthropologist, a psychiatrist, an archaeologist, a student, and a woman in love with him) on all their levels. But the most incredible is yet to come—an even more astonishing truth in which their exchanges culminate.

Popcorn and drinks provided.

Celebration of Life for Doris McGeorge

Saturday, January 18th, 10 AM
Villa Vasona Apartments, Recreation Room

The family of Doris McGeorge invites us to the Celebration of Life for Doris to remember and say goodbye for our dear friend of the congregation. Her family said that Doris often spoke in very loving terms about the congregation and how much it meant to her to be an accepted part of such a fine fellowship. Rev. Lisa will speak along with the family.

FOOD DRIVE WAS A SUCCESS!

UUFLG's annual food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank collected 141 pounds of groceries, delivered to Second Harvest on Friday, December 6th. Second Harvest also received from us \$275 in cash and check donations which will be used to purchase more than 350 additional pounds of their most-needed food items.

Thank you, UU's!

Volunteer Coordinator Selected

The Board is please to announce the selection of Carmella Condino as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Carmella is ideally suited for this position. She will start on January 1, 2014.

The purpose of this position is to consolidate the volunteer recruiting function into a cohesive organized function.

There are several benefits:

1. Committee members can attend to core functions of their respective committee.
2. Encourage a wider participation in volunteer activities
3. Minimize the use of announcements to solicit volunteers and decrease the frequency of broadcast requests by using the direct approach
4. Serve as liaison to committees and committee chairs prior to and during recruitment to decrease repetitious contacts.

The Volunteer Coordinator will also maintain database of volunteer information including talents, skills and interests of members and friends. This has been attempted in the past and is now a part of the Volunteer Coordinators job description. Everyone is encouraged to provide their information when Carmella requests it.

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.*

New member, Kathryn Harper

We are pleased to welcome Kathryn as our newest UUFLG member. She will formally be welcomed to the UUFLG community on January 5, 2014. Please join in meeting and greeting Kathryn who has followed a meandering spiritual path. She started in childhood with Roman Catholicism, and in her 20s was an atheist, followed by a period of Christian fundamentalism, and then in her late 30s to the present as an agnostic exploring Zen Buddhism. She practices zazen meditation. She believes in the scientific process and also is open to possibilities that science hasn't yet proven. She loves to read, make art, explore her creativity, and to nurture it in others. She has a 6-year-old daughter, Claire, and a husband, Alex. She is excited to become part of this spiritual community!

Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Join Kathryn Harper in the West Room, and delve into a new creative outlet!

SoulCollage® is a fun, relaxing way to play with images and explore new avenues for inner wisdom and discovery. All supplies are provided. A donation of \$10-15 would be appreciated to offset the cost of supplies, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. Class size is limited to 12. Please email kathryn@pobox.com by January 11 if you plan to attend.

SAVE THE DATE!

Workshop:

Getting Your Estate Plan Organized and More

Saturday, Feb. 8 - 10AM - 12PM, West Room

Everyone needs an exit strategy. So how well designed is yours?

We all know we are not planning to "pass on" anytime soon. But, it gives our families and friends great comfort to know we have expressed our wishes and created a plan just in case.

There is much more to consider than just wills and trusts if we want to ensure our legacy will be thoughtful, easy, and meaningful. Come join us and find out where you might need a planning tune-up and some interesting ways to communicate your love and wishes to those who matter.

Led by JJ Martin, Licensed Fiduciary and Maureen O'Connell, Trust and Elder Law Attorney along with other experts in the field.

(This workshop is free and designed to inform and educate our Fellowship members. There will be a \$20 charge for friends. Please email JJ with your intention to attend. [JJMartin23@gmail.com] Thanks!)



January birthdays

- 3 Alan Chacon
- 22 Coralee Linton
- 26 Irving Yabroff



Happy New Year!

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.

January 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			NEW YEARS DAY	12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch	9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. by Appt. 10:30a -12:00p Finance Committee Meeting 7:30p -10:00p Heartful, Soulful Cinema	9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:15a -11:30a Children's Religious Education Classes 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -1:15p Social Action Team Meeting	6:30p -8:00p Women's Spirituality Group	10:00a-11:45a Tues. Chalice Circle	7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	9:45a-12:00p, Thursday Morning Women's Group		9:30a-11:00a UUFLG Job Club
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:15a -11:30p Children's Rel. Ed. 10:30 - 11:30a Sunday Service	7:30p -9:30p Great Books Discussion Group:		7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch 7:00p Board Meeting	9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.	9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt. 9:30a -1:30p SoulCollage Session 10:00a Doris McGeorge Celebration of Life (Villa Vasona)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00a -10:15a Membership Committee Meeting 10:15a -11:30p Children's Rel. Ed. 10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service	6:30p -8:00p Women's Spirituality Group MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	10:00a-11:45a Tues. Chalice Circle	7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal		9:30a-11:00a UUFLG Job Club	9:00a -12:00p Last Saturday Bldg. & Grounds Work Party
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:15a -11:30p Children's Rel. Ed. 10:30 -11:30a Spiritual Cafe			7:30-9:30p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal		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.