



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

our mission

think about our lives grow spiritually care for each other
act to make a better place honor how all things connect

April 2018

Sunday Services at 10:30 am

April & May Theme – The Stages of Faith in the World's Great Traditions

For these months of showers and flowers, we'll take some time to explore the great religious traditions of the world and how they can manifest in various different "stages". It is known that a liberal Christian can be one of the kindest people on the planet, but the same tradition also gave us the Inquisition. Buddhism is known for its compassion, and yet some people find ways to reconcile this teaching with militancy or even terrorism! To explore these phenomena and more we'll utilize James Fowler's research into the Stages of Faith, Spiral Dynamics and more to paint a vivid picture of the World's Religions and how we relate with them.

April 1 – "Easter Fool's Day!"

This year, Easter and April Fools' Day fall on the same date, and we'll use this opportunity to explore how fear of foolishness and failure makes it harder for us to change and grow. Specifically, we'll see how the teachings of Christ have often been arrested at a certain stage of religious experience and how this may be harming our world. Most importantly, we'll learn what to do about it! Come learn how to be a fool with us so that you may be revitalized! –Rev. Fa Jun

April 8 – "Flower Communion"

Each year, UUs across the nation celebrate Flower Communion, a ritual that honors beauty, uniqueness, diversity and community. This morning, Karen O'Brien and Lynn Golbetz will facilitate Flower Communion through poetry, meditation and song. If you are able, please bring one or more flowers to the service. These will decorate the chancel, and each of us will choose one to take home, symbolizing the sharing of our diverse beauty.



April 15 – "The Buddha on Death and Taxes"

The Buddha is great for inspirational quotes, but one challenge some people find is that after leaving the retreat or delving beyond pop-Buddhism paperbacks, it can be difficult to square the teachings of Buddhist religion with the realities of our lives.

This morning, we'll discover some of the many diverse traditions of Buddhism, and what they each have to say about how the Dharma relates to the challenges we face as real people. Through this, we'll study how the stages of faith take place in a tradition that prizes itself on rationality, compassion and direct experience. –Rev. Fa Jun

April 22 – "Learning from Our Losses, to Better Love Our World"

Today, April 22 is Earth Day, and this is a difficult era for those who love our planetary Mom. What can we do to deal with recent setbacks to ecology and other humanitarian causes? Rev. Chris Schriener believes we can learn from our defeats and fight back skillfully against the forces of cynicism and greed. Chris is Minister Emeritus of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont. He is also a retired psychotherapist, and the author of six books including *Do Think Twice: Provocative Reflections on Age-Old Questions*. He has spoken at our congregation many times.

April 29 – "The Stages of Faith"

"Stages of Faith" is terminology developed by James Fowler. In his work, he unifies theories of great developmental thinkers to address the question of what "faith" looks like from different levels of human maturity. Contrary to many of our instinctual reactions to the word, "faith" doesn't have to mean blind adherence to a set of fundamental beliefs. It's possible for the religious sentiment to be expressed in ways that do not deny science, multiculturalism and freedom of thought. This morning, we'll explore in a general way how we grow through stages of faith, and what this means for our own lives and for our communities. –Rev. Fa Jun



April Share-the-Plate Beneficiary: Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

This month, the offertory on April 22 (except checks and envelopes marked “pledge”, will go to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth. UUMFE provides UUs with organized ways to connect energy, ideas and information about how their lives relate to the living Earth, environmental justice and future generations. They do this by:

- focusing on modern web and communications tools
- providing and sharing ideas and resources developed by many people
- engaging members and friends in connecting and partnering with each other
- finding ways to influence the infusion of earth ministry into all levels of the UUA by collaborating with individuals and groups involved with policy and action
- supporting grassroots action

Support of UUMFE’s environmental justice work inspires, facilitates and supports personal, congregational and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings. Learn more:

<https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations/unitarian-universalist-ministry-earth>

<https://www.uumfe.org>

–UUFLG Social Action Committee



Fun Night at Talent Show

We held our first annual UUFLG Talent Show March 10. Organized and masterfully emceed by Colleen Hamilton, the show featured (in order of appearance) Louis Gendzel,

Zemeri Holst, Parker Lopez, Sierra and Lynn Golbetz, Joe Rafferty, Albert James, Ron Kirkland, Dave Kiebert, and Michele Foster-Begly. Acts included performances on piano, acoustic guitar and electric guitar; singing; and poetry. Donations for the show and for concessions raised a total of \$284 for the Fellowship. Several unsuspected talents were revealed. And most importantly, a fun time was had by all!

March’s

Share-the-Plate with UUSC

In March, we collected \$1,041 for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

UUSC is a human rights organization that focuses on a partner-based model, where they not only provide grants to their grassroots partners globally, but also provide help, assistance and guidance to each of their partners. UUSC focuses their relief efforts on meeting the needs of those vulnerable communities who may be overlooked or subject to discrimination. UUSC often makes a multi-year commitment that turns disaster response into ongoing, sustainable recovery, focusing on human rights violations that are often ignored by larger relief organizations.

UUSC partners with local grassroots organizations that best understand and represent the needs of the community at risk.

Thank you for your generosity!



Successful Survival Sacks Winter Drive!

The Social Action Committee

collected personal hygiene items, and from these, the Religious Exploration students assembled 16 hygiene kits and 16 survival backpacks for the homeless.

We delivered the sacks and kits (and 13 rain ponchos) to SHCS staff, who gratefully accepted them into their inventory of supplies to support the basic needs of our homeless brothers and sisters.

Thanks to all who donated and worked on this!

Submit items for the newsletter by the 20th of the month to Lance Jacobson (editor) at news@uufg.org. Submit as single-spaced Microsoft Word documents in rich text format (.rtf) or plain text.

Upcoming

EVENTS

Celebration of Generosity: Potluck & Concert!

Sat., Apr. 21, 5:30-9 pm

Be sure to come out for an evening of fun and fellowship to celebrate the time, talents and treasure of UUFLG members and friends as the Annual Giving Campaign draws to a close. After dinner, our talented Dave Coldren will entertain us with song in the sanctuary.

Our 2018-2019 Giving Campaign kicked off April 1. Help our Generosity Tree bloom with your pledge. Each leaf represents \$1,000 toward our goal of \$86,000. Do your part to make it green!

Contact Donna Brewer, Laurie Roberts and Ann Campbell with questions about our Giving Campaign and celebration event.



APRIL HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



1ST LYNN O'KEEFE
3RD KAREN FITCH
16TH DAVID THORPE
27TH RICK ROBERTS
28TH JIM BEEBE

To be added to the birthday list and to request a mailed card instead of an ecard via email (default), simply email admin@uufg.org or leave a message at (408) 358-1212. The office will forward requests to our Caring Committee.

Compassionate Communication – Practice Group

Thu., Apr. 19, 7-8:30 pm

Come bring your inter- and intrapersonal communication challenges and explore them in a friendly and compassionate group. Using tools developed by masters of communication and empathy, we'll look for specific ways to hack how we relate to ourselves and others, to create more harmony, peace and satisfaction! –Rev. Fa Jun

How to Meditate – Practical Emptiness

Sun., Apr. 29, 12:30-1:30 pm

Join us for our monthly meditation class for all levels. This month, we'll explore a primary concept from Yoga and the Buddhist traditions, that of "emptiness". Specifically, we'll explore this idea in terms of what in the world it has to do with our lives and our own meditation practice. Rather than a nihilistic numbing out, we may find that meditating on "emptiness" awakens us to a more vibrant and flexible world than ever before! –Rev. Fa Jun

Save the Date!

May 20: Leadership Mini-Retreat

Sun., May 20, Right after Annual Business Meeting

Calling all committee members and chairs! We'll be taking a quick hour to come together and touch base about our process of strategic and long-term visioning at UUFLG. More information coming soon! –Board & Rev. Fa Jun

Come to the Redwoods!

Our Fellowship will begin celebrating Earth Day a week early this year, on **Saturday, April 14**, with a “Day in the Redwoods” at **Henry Cowell State Park**, near Felton. This beautiful park features an accessible trail, the Redwood Grove Loop Trail, a visitor center with ecological and historic exhibits of interest to all ages, and a nature store.

Highly recommended: A docent-led hike on the Redwood Grove Loop Trail, which begins at 11:00 on Saturdays. To join the hike, meet at the visitor center shortly before 11:00.

Bring a picnic lunch to the park and join us in Picnic Area 2 (open year-round). Bring a few folding chairs if you have them; we will bring an extra table or two from the Fellowship, to allow us to sit together.

April 14 is one of the “free second Saturdays” sponsored by the Save the Redwoods League. The registration window for free admission to the park on April 14 begins on March 31. To get a free pass for your vehicle, go to the website:

FreeRedwoodsDays.org. You must print out your pass and bring it with you to the park. Passes displayed on smartphones or tablets are not accepted.

To reach the park, take Hwy. 17 to Mt. Hermon Rd., then take Mt. Hermon Rd. west to Felton. Turn right on Graham Hill Rd. then left on Hwy. 9. The park entrance will be on your left, less than a mile from the intersection of Graham Hill Rd. and Hwy. 9. Allow about one hour from San Jose to reach the park.

Sign-up to Visit a Redwood Park – Free!

Experience the “interconnected web of life” in a redwood forest for free! In 2018, the Save the Redwoods League is celebrating its 100th birthday by distributing free day passes to 40 California redwood parks for the second Saturday of each month. To get a free pass, go to FreeRedwoodsDays.org. Reservations for each month begin at 8 am the Saturday two weeks before the next “second Saturday”. Registration for Saturday, April 14 began Saturday March 31; registration for May 13 will begin April 28, and so on. Passes are limited each month so it’s best to register as soon as the window opens. Of course, we may choose to use this as a prompt to commune with nature whenever and wherever possible!



Do you have something to say to the Board of Trustees? A guest commentary time for members can be made available at the beginning of each monthly Board meeting. Contact Lynn Golbetz (lynngolbetz@comcast.net) for more information. View the minutes of Board meetings online at uufg.org/board-of-trustees-minutes/.

UU Pacific Western Regional Assembly April 27-29 in Portland, Oregon

Registration Open Until April 15

Join your fellow western Unitarian Universalists in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29. [Registration](#) for the Pacific Western Regional Assembly will be open through April 15. Still haven't decided if you're going? Take a look at the variety of workshops, dynamic speakers and other offerings via the [Regional Assembly website](#).

Got youngsters? Great! We have an exciting [Kids' Camp](#) planned for them.

Got teens? Wonderful! They'll be [Making CoUUrageous Connections](#) together.

Each district will hold their annual meeting on Saturday afternoon, April 28. If you will be attending Regional Assembly and would like to serve as a delegate for your congregation, contact your board president. They have through April 20 to [certify the delegates](#) from your congregation.

Hope to see you in Portland! –Pacific Western Region Team



Board Updates Fellowship Policies

Quick – what are the Fellowship's rules on ensuring a safe congregation? How about on donating nonconsumable items for Fellowship use?

The answers to these, and to many other questions that may arise (though many of them not very often), can be found in the Fellowship policies and procedures, conveniently located under the Administration and Governance tab on our website.

Over the past year, our Board has worked with stakeholders to update the existing policies and procedures and has enacted a couple of new ones. If you are interested, take a look – and if you believe we should have a policy in an area that is not listed, please let a Board member know. Current policies govern the following, at varying levels of detail:

- alcohol use on the premises
- inclusion/nondiscrimination
- management of donations
- trustee elections
- personal safety and prevention of abuse
- building and grounds safety
- Fellowship email lists
- finance and bookkeeping
- new member induction
- updating our website
- updating our membership list
- board operating practices
- staff supervision
- development of an endowment
- disruptive behavior

Save the Date!

Fellowship's Annual Auction – May 12th

Our yearly auction is coming up May 12. Always a fun way to raise operating funds for the Fellowship, we will again have a lot of wonderful things to bid on donated by congregants and local businesses. Since services that our members offer are always our best sellers, please think of what you can do that is useful or fun for someone else and donate! For example, running some errands, “UUer” rides to the airport, gardening chores, a hike with lunch, dinner party. Be creative!

It takes a great team to create a successful event. Our Finance Committee could use help with planning food, soliciting items and running the show. Please contact Ann Campbell, Laurie Roberts or Donna Brewer to lend a hand.

Sure to be an enjoyable evening, make plans to attend!



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday	2 7-9p Resistance Choir	3 10-11:30a Chalice Circle	4	5 12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch (RUUMs) 4-6p Minister Ofc Hrs by Appt (MOH)	6 1-2p Connections C. 2-4p Memoir Writing California Poppy Day	7 10a-12p Resistance Choir
8 9-10:15a Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) Committee (C.) 10:30-11:30a Service & CRE	9 7-9p Resistance Choir 7:30-9:30p Great Books Discussion	10 10:30a-12p Finance C. 2-3:30p Caring C.	11	12 9:45a-12p Morning Women's Group 4-6p MOH 7-8:15p Board	13	14 UUFLG Day in the Redwoods (Henry Cowell State Park near Felton)
15 10:30-11:30a Service & CRE 12p Sunday Services C.	16	17 10-11:30a Chalice Circle	18	19	20	21 5:30-9p Celebration of Generosity: Potluck & Concert
22  10:30-11:30a Service (Share-the-Plate: UU Ministry for Earth) & CRE Earth Day	23	24	25 6-7:30p Men's Circle	26 4-6p MOH Richter Scale Day	27 2-4p Memoir Writing Arbor Day	28 9a-12p Building & Grounds Workday 10a-12p Resistance Choir 6-9p Game Night
29 10:30-11:30a Service & CRE 12:30-1:30p How to Meditate	30 Passover 7-9p Resistance Choir	May 1	2 May 1	3 12-1:30p RUUMs 4-6p MOH	4	5 1-2p Connections C. 2-4p Memoir Writing

Note: In case of errors, omissions and te changes after publication, find the most up-to-date calendar online at www.uuflg.org. To request updates to the online calendar, email admin@uuflg.org. For recurring event details and contacts, refer to [Activities & Programs](#) online.