

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

May 2014 No.5; 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

May 2014

Sunday Services at 10:30

Monthly Theme: World Community with Peace, Justice and Liberty for All

May 4: "Unitarian Universalist South Bay Shout-out! and Picnic"

Rev. Lisa Wiggins, Presiding

at Cañada College

4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City

11 AM

What happens when you bring 5 Unitarian Universalist congregations together under the open sky? The spirit begins to move into song and celebration of embodying liberal religion. You won't want to miss this first historic gathering of our South Bay Unitarian Universalists to shout-out our history and connections in providing a haven for liberal values of an open and vibrant world community to grow within our extended area.

Come hear the stories, the choirs sing, sing yourself and be invited to the Altar Call for Doubters. Bring a picnic lunch, a sun hat and a cushion to sit on the cement benches of the outdoor amphitheater. Interactive games and activities will be available during the picnic time so that you can engage with other UUs. And as an outreach activity, the offertory will be taken for our neighbors at the Day Worker Center of Mountain View.

(The Fellowship building in Los Gatos will be closed for the morning to encourage all families and friends to attend the service at Cañada College.)

Please email Lea (admin@uufg) or call her in the office (408) 358-1212 if you need a ride or can drive to the Shout-out!

May 11: Mother's Day - "Your Mother and Mine"

Rev. Fa Jun

Join us for a very special Mother's day service, in which we will revel in our own mothers, the mother within each one of us, and the Great Mother as an archetypal principle. This highly interactive service will center around allowing each of us to celebrate how we love mothering others and being mothered ourselves, as well as a chance to mourn the ways that we, our loved ones, or our world need better mothering in order to thrive.

May 18:

"And Peace, in Paradox, Be Unto You"

Rev. Lisa Wiggins

with a special presentation by San Jose's Serendipity Choir

The hope and quest for peace is as old as humankind and yet it still eludes us. As we continue to stretch to reach the higher spiritual and moral plane where tensions are resolved and we can live in tranquility, with justice and liberty for all, are we just dreaming? Or do we not understand the nature and character of peace?

May 25: "Spiritual Café"

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 Acceptance of One Another & Encouragement to Spiritual Growth.

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:

There are moments in life, brief spans, that can ignite the heart in meaningful, memorable ways. This is the way I feel as I prepare to leave what has become for me “my beloved community of Los Gatos.” Getting to know each other and more importantly to grow together in love and then to extend that love out to others in our larger community is the treasured gift of life. In our creative challenges we have been stretched to new understandings and grown deeper in our connections... like a really good morning in our 'Spiritual Cafe.' And you never know where our contributions to life will go. From a grandchild taking our hand to feel at home, or a new thought you or your child begin to explore in the universe, or a CA congregation in the mountains wanting to experiment with our version of the 'Spiritual Cafe.' Life continues to spiral out and beyond our centers while we are blessed with the experiences we have made into our memories. Thank you for the blessing of your sharing and making my world, and the world of others, a better place to live and be loved. You will always be in my heart.

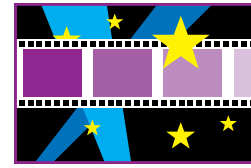
As ever, your Rev. Lisa

The UU Mosaic-Peace Camp will be held June 16-20 at San Jose UU.

This day camp is for kids in 1st-6th grades, with middle schoolers eligible to be counselors in training. It will focus on the Mosaic values: M (mutual respect), O (open-mindedness), S (self-respect), A (attitude), I (individuality), and C (community) (see www.mosaicproject.org for more).

The camp will run from 8:30 to 3:00 with aftercare available until 5:30. Activities will include noncompetitive games, singing, and field trips to Emma Prusch Farm and the Children's Discovery Museum.

Staff will include Rev. Lisa as well as staff and ministers from three other UU fellowships. The cost is \$175. For more information, please contact <GRimositis@gmail.com>.



Friday, May 2: Spiritual Cinema: “The Forgotten Kingdom” 7 PM

The filmmaker, Andrew Mudge, visited his brother who was in the Peace Corps in 2003 in Lesotho. There he visited this "majestic land of waterfalls, mountains dotted with thatched huts, and blanketed men traveling long distance on horseback." It had a mystical quality about it. And so in this place of magical realism, much like the American frontier used to be, he set this powerful film about a young man embarking on a journey to his ancestral land of Lesotho. The man will bury his father and discover the mystical beauty and hardships of the people and the land he had forgotten.

Join Kathryn Harper on Saturday, May 17, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and delve into creativity!

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 is 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 May 14 if you plan to attend.

May Birthdays

- 4 - Glen Marchant
- 17 - Barbara Feldman
- 18 - Marilyn Buelteman
- 20 - Jim Stahl
- 20 - Claire Steeley
- 23 - Mary Hoover
- 25 - Audrey Freeman
- 26 - Colleen Hamilton



Reflections from the Lifespan Learning Specialist

Yesterday, I got to teach Gabby how to ride a two-wheeler.

Gabby is my eight-year old neighbor. She lives with her grandmother as her mom serves in the Navy. Joe and I have kind of adopted her, and she calls us both "uncle," so I beamed with slightly tearful pride as I ran alongside her up the shady block, green Modesto Elm leaves raining down upon us.

The funny thing is that Gabby didn't really need me. She had been riding her little bike with training wheels since she was five, and had a good sense of balance from the start. I had decided that she was ready, and despite mild protests from Gabby, her grandmother, and even Joe, I insisted. Gabby cried a bit as she strapped on her helmet and Joe pulled out the camera.

I held onto that seat for about three seconds before I let go, which she was shocked to learn at the end of the block. "You already knew how to ride a bike," I told her. "You were just afraid to not have the training wheels. But you took a risk! I'm so proud of you!"

Taking a risk can be incredibly scary. Even here in Silicon Valley -- where risk is part of the ethos and even the romance of the place -- taking a chance on the unknown can create an almost unmanageable tension in a system. UUFLG's Lifespan Learning program is no different.

Last fall, you took a risk in hiring me, a storyteller/minister with a good sense of fun, to write curricula for your children. There were so many other serviceable curricula available through the UUA that you could have chosen one of those and forgotten about it. But the needs here weren't being met by the curricula, so with input from the youth and the teachers, and with guidance from a couple world-class Religious Educators, I created two curricula that have been successful. The latest one, called "World Explorers," gets the children and youth outdoors, observing themselves and the world, and learning to reflect on what they learn. Good Unitarian Universalist skills.

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

As the Lifespan Learning Committee, the teachers and I have worked together, we've prepared everyone to expand the program next year. We're looking at the wealth of resources available to us from the UUA, and we know now how to expand them to meet the needs of our children.

All I've been doing is running alongside you, doing the labor, taking the initiative to shake things up, and encouraging you. You've taken the risks, and you're reaping the rewards.

If you are not a parent, I encourage you to join us, at least once in a while as a volunteer. It's been a fun ride.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

CREEK CLEANUP SATURDAY, MAY 17

There is a creek cleanup scheduled for Site 20 at Los Gatos Creek near Vasona Park. Work will be done between 9:00 am and 12 noon. Meet at 9:00 am at Garden Hill Drive near Vasona Dam. Free parking is available at the site. The work site is appropriate for both adult volunteers and supervised volunteers under age 16. Sturdy shoes (no sandals) and long pants are recommended. Bring a hat, sunscreen and a refillable water bottle. Water, snacks, gloves, and trash bags will be provided.

If you can be one of our 10 volunteers, please sign up on the clipboard in the foyer. If questions, contact Jim Beebe (408 315-5066 or Ellen Hill (408 371-5776).

Weekday Walkers/Day Hikers

Get out for a walk with others on the fourth Friday of the month. In May, we will meet on Friday, the 23rd at 10:00 am. This time we will meet at Los Gatos Creek trail at 1250 Dell Avenue in Campbell. Right near Winchester Ave. We will walk for about an hour for an easy to moderate walk.

Come join us and if you have any questions, please contact Julie Morgan at (650) 817-5118 or at alljmail@gmail.com

Message from the Board

The Board of Trustees regrets to inform you that Rev. Lisa Wiggins will not be renewing her part time ministerial contract with UUFLG beyond June 2014. In the three years Lisa has been our part minister she has contributed a great deal, particularly in the area she was hired to focus on which were to work with our leadership in organizational development and revitalizing both the Religious Education and Caring Committee Program.

On behalf of the congregation, the Board graciously thanks her for her service.

Annual Business Meeting

Our Annual Business meeting will be held on Sunday, June 22, at 12pm in the Sanctuary at which time we will:

- Elect Board members
- Elect a new Nominating Committee
- Approve our budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year

Please let Jim Beebe know if you have any other items of business for the agenda.

Small Group Meetings

The Board is planning for next year (July 2014-June 2015) and we would like input from the members and friends of our congregation.

To do that, members and friends are meeting in small groups of six or more in a member's home. The meetings are scheduled to take place Sunday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on April 27, May 4, and May 25. This gives everyone time to go home, get lunch, change clothes, and then come to a meeting.

To make sure everyone has a chance to participate, the Board will appoint a Facilitator and a Recorder for each meeting and will also suggest some topics to discuss, although we are free to discuss other topics as well.

You can sign up at the Fellowship on the clipboards on the table in the foyer. When you sign-up, please indicate if you would like to host a meeting in your home.

When you are not at the Fellowship, you can sign up by email or phone call to Lea Cox, our Office Manager (Lea Cox, admin@uufg.org; 408-358-1212), giving her the date or dates you want to attend.

On June 1st we'll have a town-hall style meeting at the Fellowship at 12:30pm following our Sunday service for all who want to participate so we can all hear one another's thoughts about our future together at the Fellowship.

We encourage everyone to participate in at least one meeting, and two if possible.

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 (jebeebe1102@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.

MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				12:00p - 1:30p, Retired UU Men's Lunch	9:00a - 4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt. 7:00p - 10:00p UUFLG Friday Spiritual Cinema	8:30a - 4:00p Habitat for Humanity 10:00a-11:30a UUFLG Job Club
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11:00a - 2:00p South Bay UU Shout-Out! 3:00 - 5:00 Small Group Ideas Meeting	6:30p-8:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p - 9:30p Great Books Discussion Group	10:00a-11:30a Tuesday Chalice Circle	7:30p - 9:00p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	9:45a - 12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group		9:30a - 1:30p SoulCollage Session
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:15a - 11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service		10:30a-12:30p "So and Sew"		12:00p - 1:30p, Retired UU Men's Lunch 7:00p - 8:15p Board of Trustees	9:00a - 4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.	9:00a - 12:00p River Cleanup-Vasona Park 10:00a - 11:30a UUFLG Job Club
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00a - 10:15a Membership Committee Meeting 10:15a - 11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service	6:30p - 8:00p Women's Spirituality Group	10:00a-11:30a Tuesday Chalice Circle	7:30p - 9:00p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal		10:00a - 11:00a Weekday Walkers	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:15a - 11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Service 3:00 - 5:00 Small Group Ideas Meeting	MEMORIAL DAY	10:30a-12:30p "So and Sew"	7:30-9:00p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal		Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt.	Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt. 9:00a - 12:00p Bldg/ Grnds Work Party

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



Fellowship News

May 2014

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.