

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

April 2014 No.4; 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

April 2014

Sunday Services at 10:30

April theme: Right of Conscience and Use of Democratic Process

April 6: "Burned on the Cross of Mythologies"

Rev. Lisa Wiggins

Unitarian Universalists, once burned on the cross for their heresy in our early years, took government heat in our publishing the Pentagon Papers in 1971. And now as the whistle-blower Edward Snowden sits in Russia do we warm to his actions as those of conscience which will strengthen our democracy, or does he leave us chilled, believing his disclosures to be a threat to democracy?

April 13: Music Sunday

Dave Coldren – Service Leader

Dave Coldren will present a service with music, songs and stories providing an uplifting spiritual experience.

April 20: "Easter! in Belief and Blossom"

Rev. Lisa Wiggins

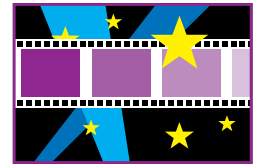
with guest pianist, Louis Gendzel
and the UUFLG Choir

From the resurrection story of Jesus to new growth on bare limbs, the world sings a song of its own colorful spirit re-birthed into the growing light. It is indeed time to celebrate. So please come with buds, blossoms and blooming flowers for our traditional flower communion in which we bring, we share, and go home with a floral gift from another. Our younger Louis Gendzel will play "Amazing Grace" and our choir will sing.

April 27: "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:

I grew up as an Unitarian Universalist. From nurturing my early curiosity and wonderment of an ever evolving and changing world, it was also there when my world was being torn apart by social injustices and assassinations. Holding my anguish and tears it gave me solace until it told me to get out there and be the change I wanted to see. Within its depth my religious faith has kept me a strong advocate for our potential and capacity, even as I have seen our world's sometimes ugly underbelly. Yes, Unitarian Universalism remains a real positive force and energy in my life--which I share with many of you. And there are many Unitarian Universalists who feel the same way in our area. And so no matter how small I am, or how small our UU congregation is, the Unitarian Universalist pulse flows strong into our wider world.

Our UUFLG congregation has therefore instigated the first-ever South Bay Shout-out! And Picnic so we can greet the other UUs in our area. Think 'revival' but way more modern, no proselytizing, but a passionate sharing. We even plan an "Altar Call for Doubt" which keeps our sense of mystery and wonder alive. How cool is that?!

From Santa Cruz to Palo Alto we will all converge on the campus of Canada College in Redwood City on Sunday morning, May 4th (11 AM) for fun and festivities. Bring a picnic lunch, a hat and a cushion as we will assemble in their outdoor amphitheater for lots of music, storytelling and playing/talking/and eating with our UU neighbors, young and old alike. Please call or email the office so that we can set up carpooling from UUFLG. (There will be no service here in Los Gatos.) We will provide more information in the next couple of weeks. So stay tuned!

Shouting-out to Team UUFLG! Your Proud Rev.

Friday, April 4, 7 PM Spiritual Cinema

A couple of documentary shorts:

"Granny's Got Game"

(7 fiercely competitive women in their 70s compete in basketball games)

"The Birdman"

(A quirky owner of a New York City music store keeps his shop through changing times)

Feature film: "Heart of the Country"

With her husband jailed for Wall Street fraud, Faith leaves her life of luxury to return to rural North Carolina and the father and sister she'd left behind.

Snacks at Social Hour

Last fall the Membership Committee began reviewing the issues about providing snacks during our Social Hour. In February the Committee voted to try something new for a while. Starting April 6, there will snacks only on the Sundays when we have Spiritual Cafe. On other Sundays, we will have only beverages - coffee, tea, and juice.

An exception can be made if someone wanted to celebrate/recognize some person or event at our Social Hour by providing a snack for everyone. (The person providing the food would be expected to serve the food and then clean up.) Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Carmella Condino, to make arrangements.

“Education commences at the mother's knee, and every word spoken within hearsay of little children tends toward the formation of character.” – Hosea Ballou

For those who don't know, Hosea Ballou was a nineteenth century Universalist minister, and author of the 1805 classic *A Treatise on Atonement*, in which he proposed the radical notion that humans had nothing to atone to God to. He went so far as to suggest that perhaps God should atone to humanity, for the poor behavior and bad judgment he displayed in the Hebrew Bible.

One of my favorite legends of Hosea Ballou, one of the tall tales woven about him by later storytellers was included in *A Lamp In Every Corner*, a Unitarian Universalist primer by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer.

In the story – which could be called a wonder tale based on a real-life quip – Ballou is a child portrayed as having a penchant for playing in the mud. Repeatedly, his parents admonish him, begging him to refrain from getting dirty.

Finally, his father gets upset and confronts the boy. Hosea hung his head and kicked at the dirt with his toes, then he dared to look up, just a little, to ask, “Do you still love me?” “Hosea,” said his father, and his father didn't sound stern anymore. “I will always love you, Hosea, no matter what you do.”

“Even if I get mud all the way up to my eyebrows and between my fingers and my toes and in my hair?” “Even then,” his father said with a smile. Then he added, very stern again, “But remember, Hosea. You must try to stay clean.”

The elder Ballou's actions were an act of grace. Despite being upset with the boy, despite the pressure by the women of the family to be more stern – perhaps even to even beat the boy – the father, Maturin, took the high ground, thereby modeling the Grace of God that may have ultimately formed the theology of the adult Hosea. His was a theology in which God's love of all people was so great that he made room in heaven for everyone. No exceptions.

When we make room in our lives for the youth in our congregation, we are following in the footsteps of Maturin Ballou, being role models of right relationship, magnanimity, and kindness. Children have a funny way of being profoundly affected by the kinds of things that go right passed adults, the kinds of things we take for granted. Telling a story, teaching a class, mentoring a teenager, or simply making room in the sanctuary for the fussiness of babies can affect the world in ways we couldn't possibly imagine.

We could together give birth to the next great theologian.

If you are interested in learning more about historical figures like Hosea Ballou, join us for a few sessions of the Tapestry of Faith curriculum called *What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology*, the Rev Dr. Thandeka. Monica Hege and I will be leading discussions after church once a month.

If you are interested, send me an email at denispaul@gmail.com.

3/30 Hosea Ballou
4/20 Margaret Fuller
5/4 James Luther Adams
6/8 Thandeka

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

Saturday, April 19: Dinners for 6 or More

It's a time to relax and to get acquainted. So far, one dinner is lined up for UUFLG members and friends for April. Can you come? Singles are welcome.

Would you like to host a meal for another April date or another month? For 6 people or for 8? With many people downsizing, tables for 6 seem a more reasonable option for some people.

The host home determines the entrée and asks those attending to bring appetizer, vegetable, and so forth. Dinners start at 6:30pm or a time convenient to the host home.

Contact Pam Pierson at 508-561-4474 or pierson@gmail.com.

Join Kathryn Harper and delve into creativity!

Saturday, April 12, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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 April 9 if you plan to attend.

Attention walkers/ day hikers

A new group is forming for weekday walkers and day hikers on local trails. We will meet at 10 am on the fourth Friday of each month, starting on April 25th.

For our first walk, we will meet in the parking lot at Belgatos Park, located at 308 Belgatos Lane Los Gatos, CA 95032. Belgatos Lane is off of Blossom Hill Rd.

<http://www.town.los-gatos.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=900>

We expect the walk to last for about an hour. Anyone interested can contact Julie Morgan by email at alljmail@gmail.com or call her at: (650) 817-5118.

April Birthdays

1- Lynn O'Keefe

4 - Eric Pierson

7 - Alexander Morgan

16 - David Thorpe

28 - Jim Beebe

28 - Gray Dadek



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.

APRIL 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00a - 11:30a Tuesday Chalice Circle	10:30a - 11:30a Caring Committee 7:30p - 9:00p Choir Rehearsal	12:00p - 1:30p, Retired UU Men's Lunch	9:00a - 4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt. 10:30a - 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting 7:30p - 10:00p UUFLG Friday Spiritual Cinema	9:00a-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. By Appt. 10:00a-11:30a UUFLG Job Club
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:15a -11:30a Children's Religious Education Classes 10:30a - 11:30a Sunday Serv. 12:00p -1:15p Social Action Team Meeting	2:00p - 5:00p UUFLG Artists Workshop 6:30p-8:00p Women's Spirituality Group	10:30a-12:30p "So and Sew"	7:30p - 9:00p, UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	9:45a - 12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group	10:30a - 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting	9:30a - 1:30p SoulCollage Session
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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27	28	29	30			
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



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April 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.