

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

December 2015 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 2015 Sunday Services at 10:30

Dec. 6: “Manifesto For a Christian Nation”

Rev. Fa Jun

We hear a lot from some people in America that we should be living up to our role as a “Christian Nation” - but what could this mean? What would it be like to take the radically humanist teachings of Jesus Christ, and apply them to the way we treat each other? What would it look like to truly live in a Christian nation? Join us as we explore this question together!

Dec. 13: “Open Cannon/Closed Cannon”

Rev. Fa Jun

The Christian tradition decided to create an official version of the teachings of Christ at the time of the Nicene creed, but what we don't often discuss is how many alternate versions were suppressed in order to create this orthodoxy. In contrast, the Nyingmapa Buddhists of Tibet created a unique method of teaching called “treasure revelation”, by which they could continually update the teachings of the “orthodox” Buddhist cannon to fit the times.

What would have happened had Judeo-Christian traditions continued to roll with the advances of the times? What type of spiritual traditions can be created with an “open cannon” that allows orthodoxy to mold and shift according to the needs of the people. Find out more this Sunday!

Dec. 20: “Gifts of the Shadow”

Rev. Pam Gehrke

As we in northern latitudes cycle through another winter season, how can we best appreciate the comforts of longer nights and the wisdom of the darkness? Rev Pam Gehrke is a Unitarian Universalist minister and a graduate of Starr King School of the Ministry. Before attending seminary, she taught writing, literature, and mythology for many years. She is a longtime member of the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, and lives in Burlingame with her life partner and their cat.

Dec. 27: “New Hopes For a New Year”

Rev. Fa Jun

As the New Year approaches, people all around the world gather with those that they love, and dream together in a spirit of solidarity.

Sometimes hope is hard - keeping hope alive for ourselves, and for our world. But when we call on each other's strengths, and band together to lift each other up, we can breath life into each others dreams. Join together this Sunday morning to have your hopes inspired, speak them into the cauldron of loving community, and dream in what is possible for us all this coming year.

The Art of Meditation

- Ethics, and the Quiet Mind

Dec. 13 - 12:15-2:30

Many, if not all, of the ancient schools of meditation propose a system of ethics by which to live ones life. Modern people, though, may wonder what codes of ethics have to do with quieting ones mind.

Come and learn the theory of how ethical practice relates to meditation practice, and some secret keys to creating a sweet and quiet mind. We will explore together the Yamas and Niyamas of the sacred text of the Yoga Sutra, and explore some modern explanations for the power of the ancient discipline of "Karma Yoga"

Office Management News

Lea Cox, our office manager of two years, has resigned due to health issues. I miss her cheerful presence and willing help, and we wish her a speedy recovery and lots of time for her artistic endeavors. Yvonne Liu stepped in while Lea was out, mastering the ins and outs of the job with an eye to simplification, and now we have a volunteer office manager in the person of Lance Jacobson. I'm very grateful to both Yvonne and Lance for giving their time and talent to the Fellowship when they saw the need.

But there's more office management news – Donna Brewer has volunteered to manage our building rentals and Isobel Carson has volunteered to take care of kitchen supplies for us. I'm bursting with gratitude for all of this generosity!

Thank you Lea, Yvonne, Lance, Donna and Isobel from the entire Fellowship!

Ann

From the Board

To help us move toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation Fa Jun will include it in some of his sermons, there will be a Fellowship discussion about it after the holiday season, and we may have a guest speaker, maybe someone from PFLAG.

As you may have noticed, we are experimenting, until December, with taking a break from Time for All Ages. This will give more time for adult discussion and for children's lesson plans.

Board voted to hire Pavco to resurface our driveway, using our unrestricted endowment funds. Delay will lead to further deterioration and higher cost in the future. We can do some maintenance ourselves digging out and filling cracks, to extend the lifetime of the new surface.

We have implemented the procedure to have two people count the money from the offertory on Sundays, so don't be surprised if Ann requests your counting skills from time to time. We have the procedure that the same person who writes a check from UUFLG, cannot sign it. We have implemented the procedure that the person who signs a check will need to first see the justification for the check.

If you are interested in the direction of our Fellowship, there is an opportunity for you to have a direct impact - volunteer to be Secretary for the Board for the remainder of our fiscal year, until July. In addition to taking minutes of the Board meetings, you will contribute your ideas and opinions to the discussions and votes on the issues that come before the Board.

If you are interested but not as Secretary, the position as Vice President is also open, again until July. The requirement is that you have been a member of the Fellowship for one year.

At the Business Meeting in May, the Fellowship will elect a Secretary and Vice President to begin July 1. If you are interested in either opportunity, contact Jim Beebe or Ann Campbell.

Jim Beebe

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

Caring Committee News

The following is a list of the services we provide and the Caring Coordinators you should contact for each service. If you know of someone in our congregation who is in need, please let the Caring Committee know so that we may follow-up.

Transportation will be provided for doctor's appointments, church services and functions and in case of an emergency. Ann Campbell, Coordinator, 408-374-8844.

Meals will be provided for those who are ill and need help with food. Maggi Benson, Coordinator, 408-559-5229.

Members of the Caring Committee and members of the Fellowship visit the home bound, if requested, to bring news of the Fellowship and a little good cheer. Maggi Benson, Coordinator, 408-559-5229.

Memorial service planning, if requested, including helping with food and flowers, coffee, set-up and clean-up will be provided in cooperation with the family, Edy Young, Coordinator, 408-978-8244.

Correspondence including get well, sympathy, thinking of you or birthday cards, Coordinators Edy Young, Gratia Trevey, Robin Connelly, and Coralee Linton.

Teddy bears and other services will be given to families of new babies in our Fellowship. Edy Young, Coordinator, 408-978-8244

Dave Kiebert, Chair of the Caring Committee, will provide assistance to the above coordinators.

If you would like to be part of our Caring Network, please let any member of the Caring Committee know of your interest. We would be delighted to welcome you.



A Way to Show Gratitude for Your Holiday Meals - Add the Food Bank to Your Shopping List!

This year, UUFLG's annual food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank runs from Nov. 29 through Dec. 13. As you are shopping for holiday meals, please remember to add a few extra cans to your cart for the many struggling families and seniors who depend on Food Bank assistance. If you can, have your children help choose, buy, and bring in some items for the food drive collection box in the UUFLG hallway, moving their focus from "what they want" to how they can help others during this holiday season.

Most needed foods are:

- tuna or canned meat
- peanut butter
- soup, stew, chili
- canned foods with pop-top lids
- canned fruits packed in juice
- low-sodium canned vegetables
- canned tomatoes/ tomato sauce
- low-sugar cereals

Cash/check donations are also very welcome; put these in the envelope in the collection box or give them to Jim Beebe or Coralee Linton. (Checks should be made out to UUFLG, with Second Harvest Food Bank written in the memo line.)

MEMOIR GROUP - IT'S A HIGHLIGHT

A Memoir Writing Group meets each Friday at 2:00, in the home of the facilitator, Edy Young, 1684 Sandyrock Lane, San Jose, 95125. (Near the intersection of Meridian and Hamilton Avenues.) Please call Edy at 408-978-8244 to join or for more information.

The purpose of this group is to record the stories of our lives for our descendants and for our own reflection. Though published works have come from groups like this, publication is not our primary goal.

The most satisfactory part of meeting is that we have a wonderful time writing and then reading to each other. You need not be a good writer to enjoy participating. Each of us improves with doing and listening. You need only have lived an ordinary life to have had remarkable experiences.

We have lived in "interesting times." Our grand children can not imagine how our childhood was lived and they will want to know. As we listen to each other's stories we are astonished at the differences among us, yet, the human spirit is the same, we relate to and appreciate each other.

This is a healing, transformative activity. We neither criticize nor tell each other's stories out of the group. Beyond all of that, we laugh and we can't wait for next week. It's a highlight! We hate to leave at 4:00. Won't you join us?



December birthdays

*prefers e-cards

Dec.

- 1 - Tom Olson
- 5 - Isobel Carson
- 7 - Luke Chacon
- 13 - Spencer Zimmerman
- 14 - Audrey Banerjee
- 15 - Erma Browning
- 25 - Jan Wygant
- 28 - Yvonne Liu
- 30 - Jack Stubstad

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.

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
930a-10a Morning Meditation 1015a-1130a Children's Religious Education (RE) 1030a-1130a Sunday Service		10-130a Chalice Circle 1030a-1230p "So and Sew"		12p-130p Retired UU Men's Lunch	2p-4p Memoir Writing	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9a-1015a Social Action Cmte 9a-1015a Lifespan Learning Cmte 930a-10a Morning Meditation 1015a-1130a Children's RE 1030a-1130a Sunday Service	730p-930p Great Books Discussion 630p-8p Women's Spirituality Group	7p-830p Sunday Services Committee		1030a-12p Finance Committee 945a-12p Morning Women's Group	2p-4p Memoir Writing	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
930a-10a Morning Meditation 1015a-1130a RE 1030a-1130a Sunday Service 12p-115p Membership Cmte 1215p-2p The Art of Meditation with Rev. Fa Jun		10a-1130a Chalice Circle 1030a-1230p "So and Sew"		12p-130p Retired UU Men's Lunch 7p-815p Board of Trustees	2p-4p Memoir Writing	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
930a-10a Morning Meditation 1015a-1130a Children's RE 1030a-1130a Sunday Service	630p-8p Women's Spirituality Group			Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	9a-12p Building & Grounds Work Party (Tentative)
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
930a-10a Morning Meditation 1015a-1130a Children's RE 1030a-1130a Sunday Service				New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	

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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.