

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

March 2016 No.3; 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

March 2016 Sunday Services at 10:30

March Theme – The Feminine Power of Prayer in the World's Great Traditions

(see page 2 for description)

March 6: “Sophia, and the Christian Power of Prayer”

Rev. Fa Jun

The Christian tradition is perhaps the most well known version of “prayer” in the world - but did you know there are many different ways that Christians pray? While some forms of Christian prayer seem to violate Jesus’ own teachings against vanity – others are very consistent with what many humanists, Buddhists, and other seekers regularly engage in.

A little known aspect of the Judeo-Christian traditions is the inspiration of the feminine spirit of the divine. Sometimes known as Shekhina by Jewish Mystics, and Sophia by Christians, the feminine has long been the hidden face of God.

Join us as we explore the diversity of Christian forms of prayer, and how they are informed by God the Mother!

March 13: “Most Merciful and Compassionate, the Womb of God in Sufism and the Koran”

Rev. Fa Jun

“Bismillah Erahman Erahim” is the beginning of many passages in the Koran. Translated, this means “We begin in the name of Allah, the merciful and compassionate”, but the ancient root words of both Merciful (Rahim) and Compassion (Rahman) come from the arabic root for the Womb.

In the teachings of one of the most patriarchal religions on the planet, a primary emphasis is placed on the

qualities of tenderness. In the prayer of a Sufi – the mystics of Islam – distinctions of gender, class, and sect are all transcended in the presence of the divine, who is Father, Mother, and more.

Today we will study and practice together the ways of embodied prayer handed down to us from the Sufi masters of old.

March 20: Getting to Know UUs

This service will be a group effort featuring brief presentations by various Fellowship members about the Board and our various committees. Bring any questions (“what does the Board do, exactly?” “Who makes the decisions on topic X?” “Does the Caring Committee provide rides to Sunday services if I lose my means of transportation?”) and enjoy seeing your contributions appreciated, plus maybe learn about other opportunities to help keep the Fellowship thriving. There will also be plenty of music and possibly even jokes.

March 27: “Easter, The Resurrection of The Christ Within”

Rev. Fa Jun

Easter Celebrates the mythic revival of the Messiah of the Christian faith. In the earth centered traditions of ancient Europe, this holiday celebrates the Spring Equinox, when the solar light is returning from the dark of winter. As dark times come in each of our lives - spiritual or psychological “deaths”, some call them - we can, like the Christians of old, hold fast to our faith in the resurrection of our own spirits. On this Easter Sunday, we will rejoice together in the power of the Christ which resides in our own hearts, and feel it coming forth into the light again!

From the minister:

What is a welcoming congregation, and why is it important?

In the early 1980s and 90s the word 'welcoming' became a code word implying safety for people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender communities (LGBT). While the UUA has held an open and accepting stance of LGBT individuals since the 1970s, early surveys found that homophobia, misunderstanding, and exclusion still persisted in our churches. In 1989 the Welcoming Congregations program was adopted to begin to remedy these actions and attitudes.

Unitarian Universalists are known for their open and affirming attitudes, but sometimes it is important to make those beliefs known in a stronger way - especially in religious institutions, which in general have a long history of shaming, excluding, and punishing people with "alternative" lifestyles or sexualities. In a culture of widespread shame and intolerance, the designation of 'Welcoming Congregation' is a beacon of safety, acceptance, and caring.

Engaging in the steps to become a Welcoming Congregation also causes each one of us, whether Gay, Straight, or any other designation, to continue to educate ourselves, to learn to be powerful allies for each other, and to develop deeper understanding and empathy for each person's own path.

Keep your eyes open for special events related to the Welcoming Congregations program in the coming months at UUFLG. They are sure to be illuminating, growthful, and full of affirmation of the principles we hold most dear as UUs.

March theme's description:

Almost every religion in the world prays in one way or another, but some of those ways may be so very divergent, that they look very foreign to an outsider's eyes. This month and next, we will learn about the power of prayer as a way of deepening our understanding of the world's great spiritual traditions.

We'll start off with four of the biggest religions on the planet, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism, and as a special honor to Women's History Month, we will explore the often-hidden feminine side of prayer within these major world religions.

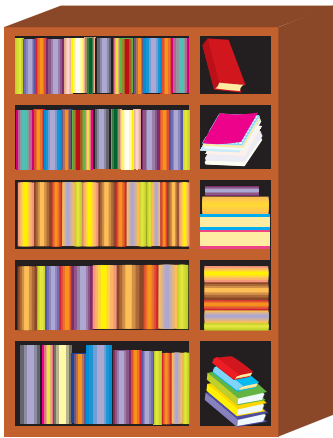
2016 UUFLG Annual Pledge Drive Underway

It's that time of the year when we get to express our gratitude for our inspiring and beloved community with our financial support! The many enriching services, events, programs and outreach by the Fellowship are possible because *you* contribute.

A pledge letter from Rev. Fa Jun should have reached you by now. Please complete and return the pledge card included as soon as possible.

Heartfelt thanks for all that *you* continue to do! Here's to an amazing year of spiritual growth and opportunities to serve each other and our greater community!

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



Members' Book Exchange

The shelves of the Member's Book Exchange in the office are full. Thank-you everyone for your enthusiasm over the past year. At the end of February, we began donating to charity books on the shelves for over 11 months. We will purge like this regularly to make room for new and fresh reads. Participants so far are enjoying the give and take. Remember, it's free and a resource for all of us. Come browse our stacks!

Game Night at the Fellowship!

Come enjoy fun times and fellowship at Game Night on Saturday, March 26th from 6–9p at UUFLG! We'll have a fun assortment of board and parlor games. Bring your favorite games, too, and be prepared to laugh a lot as we engage our minds and hearts in friendly competition! February's game night was a theme for our quarterly All-Ages Potluck. There is no potluck dinner March 26th so be sure to eat dinner beforehand, but definitely bring a snack or beverage to share. Contact Albert James, albertjames420@gmail.com. Game on!

Thanks for Offerings of Service

We plan to recognize the many offerings of service given by friends and members of our Fellowship. This will be done weekly at the beginning of the Offertory. If you have observed an offering of service would you please recommend the giver for commendation? You will find a small leaf decorated box in the foyer and a small note pad.

Please write the name of those to be thanked with a brief description of their service, the date and your name. We are very grateful for the many gifts of service, generously and thoughtfully given.

UUFLG birthdays March

- 4 - Albert James
- 7 - Merritt Benson
- 7 - Jim Stubstad
- 10 - Ann Campbell
- 14 - Ken Bull
- 19 - Zoe Thorn
- 23 - Brady Williams*
- 24 - Dwight Wygant

* prefers e-card



Interest 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 (jebeebel102@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.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
930–10a Morning Meditation 1015–1130a Children's Religious Education (RE) 1030–1130a Sunday Service		10–1130a Chalice Circle 1030a–1230p "So and Sew"	1030a–Noon Caring Committee	12–130p Retired UU Men's (RUUMs) Lunch	2–4p Memoir Writing Group	12–3p Tai Chi Class with Rev. Fa Jun
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9–1015a Lifespan Learning Cmte. 930–10a Morning Meditation 1015–1130a Children's RE 1030–1130a Sunday Service 1230–230p Meditation Class	630–8p Women's Spirituality Group			945a–12p Morning Women's Group 1030a–12p Finance Committee	2–4p Memoir Writing Group	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9–1015a Social Action Committee 930–10a Morning Meditation 1015–1130a Children's RE 1030–1130a Sunday Service	730–930p Great Books Discussion	10–1130a Chalice Circle 1030a–1230p "So and Sew"		830a–2p League of Women Voters 130p RUUMs (Rock Bottom Brewery, The Pruneyard, Campbell) 7–830p Board of Trustees	2–4p Memoir Writing Group	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1015–1130a Children's RE 1030–1130a Sunday Service 12–115p Membership Committee	630–8p Women's Spirituality Group				2–4p Memoir Writing Group	9a–Noon Building & Grounds Work Party 6–9p Game Night @ UUFLG
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

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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.