

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

April 2010 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 2010

Sunday Services at 10:30

### April 4: Easter Sunday - Intergenerational Service

Rev. Victoria Ingram

This Christian story of Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus, but that's not the only story in the world's cultures and religions that talks about rebirth. And many of us have our own story of feeling as though we've "come to life" again, perhaps after a life-changing experience. This Sunday, we'll explore what it means to get a second chance!

### April 11: *Becoming Earth Community*

Bill Scarvie

Thomas Berry writes, "The human community and the earth community form a single sacred community. We shall go into the future as a single sacred community, or we shall both perish in the desert." We are at a moment of grace, a point in deep time when the fate of the Earth is in our hands. Let's seek a life-affirming truth that can guide us toward becoming Earth Community.

Bill Scarvie was called to bring the good news of Earth Community to Unitarian Universalists after reading David Korten's book *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community* in 2006. Since then he has preached on the subject to congregations in the Pacific Central and Pacific Northwest Districts, facilitated *Change the Story, Change the Future* workshops for UU congregations, district meetings, interfaith gatherings, and the 2006 General Assembly. Bill serves as Coordinator of Outreach for the Earth Community Initiative of Korten's People Centered Development Forum. Bill

lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington, with his wife, Karen. They are members of the Cedars UU Church of Bainbridge Island.

### April 18: Earth Day Action Sunday

Rev. Victoria Ingram

On this Action Sunday, you'll have the opportunity to select from four options for honoring and celebrating our home planet. Whether planting herbs and flowers, participating in worship, learning about sustainable living, or discussing ethical eating, there's something for everyone as we consider living on Earth.

### April 25: *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

While the physical neighborhoods in which we live seem to have become more isolating, we do have the opportunity to create "neighborhoods of choice," like UUFLG. Letting people know that we're here and available for them, and welcoming them in are a part of our mission. Our values, our covenant, and our commitment make UUFLG a safe and inviting neighborhood to be a part of.

### May 2: LEAP:

### Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

## Minister's Column

Transitions, a change in course, comings and goings – life is full of opportunities to change. I understand how upsetting transitions can be. Just when you thought things had settled down, something gets stirred up! You think you've got it all figured out, and then it all goes topsy-turvy.

UUFLG is facing changes, too. With the announcement of my pending relocation to Canada, there will be a time of transition as you make choices about ministry and moving forward as a faith community. I know there will be challenges that come with this change. But transitions are also times of opportunity.

Now is the time to consider what your needs, wants, and resources are for ministry. You've grown and learned so much about working with a minister in the three years I've had the privilege to serve you. From comments I've heard, you've discovered that a minister can be a loving, helpful, and welcome addition to your community, a resource for worship, exploration, support, and leadership that, when shared with all of you, creates a stronger, more vibrant community.

Perhaps, during this time of change, there are other things that need to be revisited at this time, as well, or ways of doing things that need to be reconsidered. This is a time to be involved and stay engaged in the conversation within your faith community. Dream the future together. Create a vision and mission for who you will become together and how UUFLG will serve the larger community.

I've seen your love and commitment for UUFLG. I've experienced your warmth and caring. I know your passion and energy. I have faith in this community. I believe in the possibilities for UUFLG. And I wish for you a shining, beautiful, and blessed future.

Love and Light,  
Victoria

## The Qu'ran

Due to low enrollment, the class on the Q'uran and the study of Islam has been cancelled.

PG.2

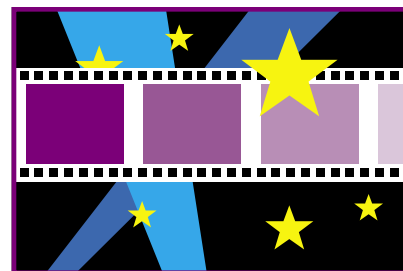
## District Assembly: HARVEST THE POWER

You're invited to join with over 400 other vibrant and vital UUs for a weekend of networking, laughing, learning, and worship on April 30 through May 2. Planned events at this year's District Assembly (at the Fremont Marriott) include: banner parades and opening ceremonies, a keynote breakfast with the Rev. Stefan Jonasson,, Director for Large Congregations, Unitarian Universalist Association, a banquet dinner with the featured: Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor, Director for the Center of the Study of Religious Freedom, workshops for everyone, youth and children's programming, and the District's Annual Meeting. You can also enjoy the bookstore, old friendships and new faces!

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Check out the program and details at [www.pcd-uua.org/](http://www.pcd-uua.org/)

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## April Inspirational Film

*The Bucket List*, starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson

Directed by Rob Reiner (2008)

Friday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Ingram's Home, 515 Newville Drive, Los Gatos

Our Final Film in this Venue! Corporate billionaire Edward Cole and working class mechanic Carter Chambers have nothing in common except their terminal illnesses. While sharing a hospital room, they decide to leave it and do all the things they have ever wanted to do before they die, creating their "bucket list." In the process, both of them heal each other, become unlikely friends, and ultimately find the joy in life. (from [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)) Funny! Thought-provoking! Join us!

## What Moves Us: UU Theology

Saturday, April 3, 10 – 11:30 a.m., at the Fellowship

This month, we explore the theology of Margaret Fuller, editor, writer, and leader of the Transcendentalist Movement of the mid-1800s. Margaret was a woman ahead of her time – she yearned for a world of opportunity not available to women in her lifetime. Yet, she managed to be a brilliant spark for the Transcendentalists, a non-conformist in her choice of love and life. Her writing influenced Unitarians and Universalists, and leaves a legacy for us today.

Sessions scheduled for April 17 and May 8<sup>th</sup> will be rescheduled. Watch for the announcement about their new date and time.

### Vespers: April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

#### *Death, Taxes and Dealing with the Inevitable*

This 30 minute service of readings, music, and meditation this month focuses on those aspects of life with which all of us must eventually cope. Making the best of the inevitable is a spiritual discipline and a key to finding happiness in life.

### Pledge Drive Results

Given the financial stress the current economy has imposed on many of our community families, we actually did well. We contacted 80 member families and 15 friend families. We received 68 pledges. 21 of these gave an increase from last year, 18 gave a decrease and 29 gave the same, giving us \$111,000 in pledges. The Finance Committee is hard at work translating this into our budget for next fiscal year.

I want to thank the 13 Visiting Stewards for the good job they did in contacting 32 families and Victoria Ingram for organizing the visiting steward campaign. Thanks go to Lou and Irving Yabroff for conducting the mail campaign and to Paul Yeadon for his publishing support.

Irving Yabroff  
UUFLG Treasurer

**Our Nominating Committee** has completed the slate of candidates for election at our Annual Business Meeting in May.

The offices to be filled for the Board of Trustees and the candidates for the offices are as follows:

Secretary of the Board - Jim Stahl  
Treasurer - Irving Yabroff  
The Membership Trustee - Katie Stubstad  
The RECCY Trustee - Moira Sullivan  
The Social Justice Trustee - Walt Main

Jim Stahl is currently completing a partial term as Secretary of the Board and is eligible (and willing) to serve a new two year term.

Irving Yabroff is currently completing a partial term as Treasurer and is eligible (and willing) to serve a new two year term.

Katie, Moira and Walt will all be new to their positions.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee are:

Lynn O'Keefe  
Lou Yabroff  
Edna Windes  
Jim Beebe  
Jennifer Dadek

Lynn has served one year on the nominating committee and is eligible for another one year term, the other four candidates will be new to the nominating committee.

As always, write-in candidates and nominations from the floor are welcome. For both of these, it's important to get the nominee's approval before bringing a name forward.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to our candidates who will be playing an important role in governing our Fellowship in the coming two years, and for the incoming Nominating Committee who have the very important job of finding candidates for next year's election.

Ann Campbell, for the Nominating Committee

# Annual Auction

Saturday, April 24, 2010

5:30 pm

Everyone is Welcome!



“Celebrating our Community” is the theme for our annual fund-raising auction because Community is at the center of all we do at UUFLG. We will have a fabulous time as we gather at the Fellowship Saturday evening, April 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 to share an evening together, and raise money for the many programs and activities at UUFLG. We will enjoy a silent auction, and a spirited “live” auction. Yummy tid-bits will abound, and childcare will be provided.

All are welcome at the auction, which is our largest and most fun fundraising effort of the year. Plan to join the festivities and have a great time! Entry to the auction is free. Donations will be requested for food and drink.

And don't forget to contact Ann Campbell right away ([annbcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:annbcampbell@gmail.com)) (408-374-8844) with a description of your donations!

**Charles Walton**, long-time UUFLG member, has moved to assisted living at Our Lady of Fatima Villa in Saratoga. His new phone number is (408)741-3633. He would love to hear from fellow Unitarians!

## **Barbara Kalmoutis has a PROJECT.**

If anyone has any BUTTONS they are not using...she would be very appreciative if you could save them for her...any size, shape, old, new... whatever you can spare. Please leave buttons in the box on chair of the office administrator.

Next work day for **Building & Grounds** in April & following months: we're changing our official monthly Saturday to the first Saturday of the month.

Best regards, Tim

## **Dinners for 8 -April**

Our April Dinners for 8 will be Saturday, the 17th<sup>th</sup>! We need hosts for this month! Newcomers are always welcome, so if you have not signed up, please be sure to! Sign-up sheets are in the foyer. For those who have already signed up, you need not sign up again. I will be sending a mass email toward the end of March to check on your availability. Please be sure to respond yes or no to me by March 30th as time is needed to coordinate the guests and hosts. Thank you for your cooperation and participation! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks and have a great time – reports are that March continued the tradition of a good time being had by all! We appreciate all our hosts and participants! And, the food is terrific! Bonnie George – [Bonnie.E.George@comcast.net](mailto:Bonnie.E.George@comcast.net) – 221-6606

## **“THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS at UUFLG:**

The first line of the Mission Statement of UUFLG as stated in our “Fellowship News” is to “Provide a place where people are inspired to think about and discuss values, ethics, and the meaning of their lives.” This is, in large extent, the goal of Great Books discussion groups. Margaret Howard, a lifetime member of UUFLG, founded the Great Books discussion group at UUFLG over forty years ago, and the group is still going strong.

Founded in 1947, Great Books Foundation in Chicago is an independent, nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to help people learn how to share ideas in an atmosphere of respect and genuine interest. Just like Unitarian-Universalists, Great Books recognizes that some important questions can have more than one valid answer and that this diversity of opinion affirms “the inherent worth and dignity of every person”.

The Great Books discussion group at UUFLG meets the second Monday of every month from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. On May 10, 2010, we will begin a new series entitled “The Seven Deadly Sins”, beginning with Pride. We will, in turn, then delve into Envy, Anger, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony, and Lust – the discussion of same, not necessarily the participation in them. All of our discussions stand on their own as they are confined to the selection we have all read and do not require knowledge of other readings.

If you would like to join us, call either Brent Browning or Erma Browning at 408-353-6340. “

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

## Social Action

### Gardening with Native Plants

According to the San Jose Mercury News about half of the water used by most families goes to landscaping with the majority of that used to water lawns. Chemicals needed to maintain lawns, such as pesticides and fertilizers, are also harmful to human health and pollute our waterways and the Bay. Native landscaping is a beautiful alternative to lawns. Because native plants are adapted to our climate, most do not require chemicals or much supplemental watering once they are established. These plants also provide habitat for native animals ([http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-living/ci\\_14463286](http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-living/ci_14463286)).

Our Fellowship's own Sustainable Ground Project is a great opportunity to learn more about native plants and how you can use them in your own landscaping! We feature many native and drought tolerant plant resources on the Sustainable Grounds section of the UUFLG website: [http://www.uuflg.org/sustainable\\_grounds\\_project.html](http://www.uuflg.org/sustainable_grounds_project.html)

### UUFLG Tee Shirts

Want to spread the word about UUFLG and let people know that we care about social action? Our UUFLG tee shirt will make a stylish statement! Available in sizes from 6 months – 4X, and women's plus sizes. See Jessica and Ryan Spaulding or Connie Springer, or order directly from our Cafepress shop: <http://www.cafepress.com/uuflg>



## Share-the-Plate

Our April Share-the-Plate will go to Friends Outside, a nonprofit community-based organization that provides programs and service to families and individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Their Mission is to improve the quality of life of families and children impacted by incarceration, and assist with successful community reentry and family reunification for those transitioning from confinement to freedom.

Their services to families include emergency food, clothing, and household goods; referrals for legal information and local assistance; mentoring, peer counseling, and networking; and assistance with transportation. For incarcerated people they provide visits in jail, books, counseling and communication with family and other. And for those just released from jail they offer use of phone, phone book, daily newspaper; bus passes and clothing for work, job interviews and inclement weather; emergency food and referrals for emergency shelter.

As a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, Friends Outside in Santa Clara County depends on the generosity and support of individuals like us to help the county's most isolated and at-risk children and families. We can make a huge difference for a youth or family with our donations.

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**INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO?** The Board minutes and agendas are listed under “Board Meetings” on the left hand side of the home page of our website [www.UUFLG.org](http://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 Paul Yeadon ([paul\\_yeadon@yahoo.com](mailto:paul_yeadon@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](mailto: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.

## First Lesson

Lie back, daughter, let your head  
be tipped back in the cup of my hand.  
Gently, and I will hold you. Spread  
your arms wide, lie out on the stream  
and look high at the gulls. A dead-  
man's float is face down. You will dive  
and swim soon enough where this tidewater  
ebbs to the sea. Daughter, believe  
me, when you tire on the long thrash  
to your island, lie up, and survive.  
As you float now, where I held you  
and let go, remember when fear  
cramps your heart what I told you:  
lie gently and wide to the light-year  
stars, lie back, and the sea will hold you.

-Phillip Booth

**Joe Rafferty** read this beautiful poem at the meeting where I signed my contract to become Director of Religious Education. In a way, I see it as his mission statement. Please join me in congratulating him as he receives this year's Junella Hanson Award for excellence in Religious Education, presented by the Pacific Central District.

Joe has been a member of UUFLG for several years, and an invaluable part of religious education for just as long. In addition to assisting with the Coming of Age program and youth classes, he became a central part of our elementary classes the same time I took them on. Joe has been the most conscientious volunteer I've ever had the joy to work with, at any job. He always takes his commitment to helping with our classes very seriously. As a teacher of religious education, Joe's most valuable contribution is leading by example, which cannot be underestimated when dealing with children. He frequently comes to the church by bicycle, and never fails to stop at the local farmer's market to buy grapes for the children to snack on during our lessons. I have sometimes thought that years from now, when these children are grown and taste a fresh grape, it will trigger happy memories of our classes and the love they received there. So, before class has even started, Joe is setting a positive example by showing environmental responsibility, demonstrating the benefits of fun physical activity, supporting the local economy of the farmer's market, and providing a healthy alternative to the sugary snacks that often show up in our classrooms and at our coffee socials.

To be able to relate to every child as an individual is an important skill for any teacher to possess, and this is what Joe exhibits in every class. Many times, I have observed Joe using his intuitive skills to reach a child at her or his own level, and make them feel comfortable at our fellowship. The fact that he is also able to maintain a gentle sense of humor through any situation draws people of all ages to him, as well.

The well-rounded wealth of his knowledge always adds to our lessons, and whether we are discussing religion, literature, philosophy, history, art, music, geography, or science, I know I will learn something, too. Because of his input, I often think I have learned as much as the children during one of my own classes.

Joe's compassion is not limited to the children, as he continues to demonstrate his awareness of our interconnectedness. When a teacher mentioned feeling run down during class, he disappeared during coffee social, only to re-emerge with a Jamba Juice loaded with vitamin C and echinacea. He routinely stops on his way home from class to visit with a retired teacher who is elderly and infirm. When a friend of his was struggling with the effects of chemotherapy, Joe shaved his own head in solidarity. The children notice these things, and they remember these things. He not only teaches them the valuable information he knows, he teaches them how to be good people. He is frequently present at our social action events such as creek cleanups, when he donates even more of his valuable time.

I know that Joe is teaching our children to be better people, because he teaches me to be a better person. Congratulations, Joe, and thanks.

Tamara-DRE



# April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:00p-8:15p Intro to Buddhist Thought and Meditation	10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle 7:00p-9:00p Studying Sacred Texts: The Q'uran	11:00a-12:30p Auction Cmte Mtg. 7:00p-9:00p Wed. Eve. Sm. Group Min. 7:15p-9:30p Dulzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	9:30a-Noon Thursday Morning Women's Group 5:15p-5:45p Vespers 7:00p-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	2:00p-8:00p HOLD for Wedding Prep  6:30p-9:30p Inspirational Film: The Bucket List	2:00a-8:00p HOLD for Wedding  9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 11:45a-4:00p Workshop Noon-1:15p Social Action Meeting	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p-9:30p Great Books	7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Meeting	11:00a-12:30p Auction Cmte Mtg. Meeting 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	Noon-1:30p RUUMs Brown Bag Lunch	7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	10:00a-11:15a What Moves Us: UU Theology 6:30p Dinners for Eight
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 1:00p-3:15p Hike the English Camp Loop in Almaden Quicksilver Park	6:45p-8:15p Intro to Buddhist Thought and Meditation	10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	11:00a-12:30p Auction Cmte Mtg. 7:00p-9:00p Wed.Eve.Sm. Grp. Mtg. 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center		5:00p-9:00p Auction Set-up	1:00p-11:00p Annual Auction
25	26	27	28	29	30	
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	8:00a-5:00p US Census Training	8:00a-5:00p US Census Training 7: 15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center		7:15p-9:00p Trance Work Study and Support Group	

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**  
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person”*



**Fellowship News**

**April 2010**

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](http://www.uuflg.org). Members may elect to receive a printed copy. Individual friends and visitors may receive the printed Newsletter free for three months. After three months, the suggested subscription rate for non-members is \$10 per year.

(Send to: Newsletter, c/o Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos, 15980 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032.) The subscription expiration date appears on the name line of the mailing label.