



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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### 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

### August 2010

Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m.

#### August 8:

##### *Dust Bunnies – Tent Revival*

"Come gather between the worlds for a syncretic celebration of love and laughter in the time honored tradition of the Ole Time Tent Revival. Join the Dustbunnies\* in a mystical congregation where the Gods will be called to come on in, kick off their shoes and set a spell. Bring out your Sunday Best and come lift up your hearts and voices, as we raise the roof in Southern Feri Style!

(\*The Dustbunnies are a working circle of Feri Witchcraft initiates and practitioners who meet monthly to do Magick and celebrate direct connection with the Gods. We are Everywhere!")

#### August 15:

##### **Personal and Community Legends,**

Rev. Sonya Sukalski is a Consulting Minister with the UU Legislative Ministry of California, working to empower adults aged 18-35 in leading justice work based in their UU values. Paulo Coelho talks of personal legends and the stages we go through in discovering and living them in the novel, *The Alchemist*. Sonya will explain his framework and reflect on how this translates to Communities, and the legends they live out.

#### August 22:

##### **The Way of Play: Reclaiming Divine Fun and Celebration**

Come and play! For the past 15 years, University of Arizona psychologist Dr. Victor Shamas has been leading "divine play" circles that integrate chanting, rhythm, movement, and laughter, with healing intention to create a unique and lively spiritual ceremony. In this "playshop," Dr. Shamas will share some of the ideas in his new book, "The Way of Play: Reclaiming Divine Celebration" and show you how to put them into practice in the spirit of celebration. Percussion instruments are definitely welcome!

Victor Shamas, Ph.D. is the founder of Global Chant and the author of two books, *The Way of Play: Reclaiming Divine Fun and Celebration* (2011) and *The Chanter's Guide: Sacred Chanting as a Shamanic Practice* (2007). He teaches psychology at the University of Arizona and is the Executive Director of PlayHaven, a non-profit organization that uses various forms of play to advance spiritual development, create fellowship, reduce stress, promote compassion, and build a sense of community among people of diverse cultural backgrounds and religious faiths.

**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](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.

## Sunday Services, continued:

### *August 29:*

our developing world (odw) has since 1970 been giving voice to the voiceless in “developing countries through programs, reality tours for groups no bigger than 12, a newsletter three times a year and handcraft sales with stories about the crafts people.

The coup in Honduras a year ago was one of the most underreported and misreported story of Latin America.

Barby and Vic Ulmer, co-founders and co-directors of (odw) recently returned from Honduras with a group accompanying the People in Resistance at the time of the first anniversary of the coup. The Resistance is made up of a broad and deep swath of the people.

The program will include the voices of diverse ethnic, class, gender and sexual preference, education, profession and religion whom they met and how they feel and what they feel we can do.

### *Religious Education:*

By now I hope you have all had the opportunity to meet our two new teachers, Kalpana Galagali and Christine Kendall. They are already off to a great start and we are fortunate to welcome them to our UUFLG family. Kalpana is focusing mostly on our new, pre-elementary kinetic class. Christine is often seen in our preschool, but ready to help out wherever she is needed before she is whisked back to school in San Francisco in the fall.

Moira and I thank everyone who participated in her recent workshop meetings. While most UU religious education programs are on snooze for the summer, here we are up and running and starting new things! Our new family co-op started the same time as our new class. Meanwhile, the elementary kids continue to learn more about famous Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists through stories, art, crafts, puzzles, games and music. Our upcoming Harry Potter day will tie together much of what we’ve learned so far. Over in preschool, Melinda and Rebecca have done much to reinforce our principles for our youngest ones. Melinda recently used the lessons of the Gulf oil spill to remind us how we are connected to everything around us, including the animal world and the earth itself.

Katie and I hope to see you at the next all-ages potluck on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Wishing you a great summer,

Tamara

## *September 5:*

### Labor In the Pulpits

At the end of summer, the nation takes a last vacation before recommitting themselves to work. For people of faith it is an opportunity to remember and recommit ourselves to justice in the workplace, to the dignity of labor, and to the rights of all people to fair employment. In recent years, through the *Labor in the Pulpits* (also *Labor in the Bimah* or *Minbar*) program, thousands of members of congregations around the country have listened to clergy, workers, and labor leaders speak about labor issues during worship services.

The Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice is entering its 12th year of hosting *Labor in the Pulpits*. In the Silicon Valley, last year’s *Labor in the Pulpits* was part of over 165 religious services, one of the largest in the country, reaching over 60,000 people. No other event gives a human face to the labor movement and brings a message of social and economic justice to such a large number of congregations. This year, *Labor in the Pulpits* is a way for congregants throughout the county to hear both the principles and the people committed to shaping moral budgets in our city, county, state and nation.

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.

### ***Social Action:***

We got off to an active start of the new church year with the launch of the Pack-a-Back drive on July 11 and the Sustainable Grounds workday on July 17 and we have much more planned for the months to come. Those of you who enjoyed the pear harvesting last year will be glad to know that we are looking into a Harvest for the Hungry event again this summer. Watch for developing news.

### **Want to get involved in the Social Action Team?**

It couldn't be easier! Everyone is welcome to attend our regular meetings on the second Sunday of the month from 12:00 to 1:15 in the lounge/office. Come share your ideas and priorities with us. If you can't make the meetings read the minutes that are distributed by email each month and contact our leadership with any questions or comments. Watch for announcements on email, in the Orders of Service, on the bulletin board and on the website for projects underway and for upcoming events.

Sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities are usually circulated during coffee hour and/or available on the table in the foyer. Or just talk to any of the Social Action Team. We are easy to spot – look for the green Social Action Team ribbon. We welcome your input.

### **Share-the-Plate**

We started the sixth year of the Share-the-Plate program with an offering of \$183 for Integrative Touch for Kids.

The recipient for August is St. Luke's Pantry. Serving the homeless in the Los Gatos area, the pantry is open on Tuesday mornings to provide food, companionship,

clothing, and other assistance to those who need it most. Our financial gifts help provide funds for shelter, supplies such as tents, tarps, and sleeping bags, bus tokens, food vouchers for hot meals, and health care supplies.

We are occasionally asked why, in times of tight UUFLG budgets, we are giving away the Sunday offering once a month. On a strictly financial level the cost to UUFLG is low as the average weekly non-pledge offering on non-Share-the-Plate Sundays is only around \$50. More importantly however we have to ask, with our relative abundance and our strong UU tradition for social justice, how could we not? This program is offered as spiritual practice in gratitude and generosity that helps us put our principles into practice.

Sharing our Sunday offering once a month provides us with an opportunity to express gratitude for

our abundant blessings. While we are all feeling the pinch of the tough economic times we also realize that by much of the world's standards we live lifestyles of great privilege and wealth. We have much to be grateful for; we have much we can share.

Sharing the plate also provides us an opportunity to exercise our generosity and our concern for those less fortunate than ourselves. We support the worth and dignity of each person through these offerings. We affirm our commitment to justice, equity, and compassion with these offerings. We work toward our goal of a world with peace, liberty and justice for all with these gifts. We live our principles through these offerings.

Thank you for your generosity to all our Share-the-Plate recipients!

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### **President Notes:**

As many are aware, our new Administrator started in July. We are pleased to welcome Sharon Potts to the Fellowship staff and look forward to working with her in the coming months. Among her many strengths, Sharon has extensive experience in managing facility rentals. If you know any person or organization that has values consistent with ours and is looking for space, please have them contact Sharon.

Our minister search team continues to work toward hiring a part-time consulting minister. It is a process that takes a little longer that we would like, but we are forging ahead. We are working with Cilla Raughley, District Executive of the Pacific Coast District of the UUA. With her help, we are making sure to get the word out to all potential ministers who might be interested in joining with us to partner in our growth. Growth on many levels; as individuals, families, congregation and into the community at large. We have decided, as a community, that we initially want our new minister to focus on three areas: Being a key contributor to quality Sunday services, providing for pastoral care and consulting with various committees and members to bring guidance and support.

We are delighted to welcome a new trustee to the board. Bonnie George will be the trustee for "Community Visibility". The goal of this committee is to find new and creative ways to attract potential new members to visit our Fellowship and find out more about Unitarian Universalism. To some degree it is our "marketing" committee. Bonnie is building a team and if you would like to get involved or have some ideas, please contact Bonnie.

Paul Yeadon

## UUFLG Community Connections:

We have a variety of ways to connect within our community, enrich our spiritual experience, and bring our principles to life through social action. You do not need to be a member of our Fellowship to participate in the activities and programs that we offer.

The following are brief descriptions of some of the activities that take place at UUFLG on a regular basis. For dates, times and to find out more, check out the calendar on the next page, or call our office at 358-1212 or email our administrator at [admin@uufg.org](mailto:admin@uufg.org).

### ALL AGES POTLUCK

Held every other month on the fourth Saturday evening of the month at the Fellowship, families and friends come together for a potluck dinner.

### CHALICE CIRCLES

These intimate groups support members in exploring individual paths of spiritual growth and deepen the understanding of UU principles and values through discussion and contemplation. Circles are facilitated by a member of the lay ministry team.

### COFFEE HOUR

Join us after our service on Sundays for social time! We meet on the deck -- or inside, depending on the weather.

### DINNERS FOR 8

The 3rd Saturday of every month, groups of eight people will meet for dinner. The dinners will be held in members' homes.

### HIKING

We live in an area that has many good hiking trails. If you enjoy the out of doors, please join us on the third Sunday of each month for a 2-hour hike. Members, visitors, family, and friends are welcome.

### RUUMs

Retired Unitarian Men get together and talk about a wide variety of topics: one's latest trip, politics, UUFLG issues, favorite jokes etc. There is no program and there is no leader. Bring a bag lunch if you wish!

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

We strive to put our UU principles into action through service, education, and advocacy. We promote and support activities which empower us to shape safe, sustainable communities within our Fellowship, our cities, our country and worldwide.

### THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

This group is open to all women of the Fellowship and provides opportunities for friendship and community building among women of the Fellowship. We talk about what is going on in our lives, take part in a project that benefits the Fellowship, and have a lively discussion on a topic chosen by our discussion leader.

### WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The purpose of the Women's Spirituality group is to support individual spiritual growth, support one another, reach out to women in the Fellowship and provide social interaction. Each year the group selects a curriculum that will stimulate spiritual growth and provide a basis for group discussion.

### Other Regular Activities at UUFLG Where UUs Are Welcome

#### MEDITATION CLASS

The Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center of San Jose holds a weekly meditation class at the Fellowship on Wednesday evenings. Details on what the classes cover can be found at their website.

#### GREAT BOOKS

The Great Books Foundation "is an independent, nonprofit educational organization with a mission to help people think and share ideas."

# August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	2	3 10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:00p-2:30p Membership Committee Meeting 7:15-9:15 Evening Chalice Group	4 7:15p-9:30p Duizín Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	5 Noon-1:30p RUUMS Lunch	6 7:30p-9:30p Wyrð Wanderers	7 1:00p-3:00p Sacred Heart Pack-A-Back
8 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p-1:15 Social Action Team Meeting	9 7:30p-9:30p Great Books Discussion	10 7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Mtg	11 7:15p-9:30p Duizín Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	12 7:00p-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	13	14 9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting 5:30p-10:00p Membership Committee Greeters Potluck
15 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Noon-1:15p Social Action Team Meeting	16 7:00p-9:30p Adidam Video Night, www.adidam.org	17 10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle	18 7:15p-9:30p Duizín Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	19 Noon-1:30p RUUMS Lunch	20 7:30p-9:30p Wyrð Wanderers NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 6:30p Dinners for Eight
22 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 3:00p-10:30p Great Books Potluck then "Othello" in Santa Cruz	23	24	25 7:15p-9:30p Duizín Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	26	27	28 5:00p-8:00p All Ages Potluck
29 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	30	31				

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



***"Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person"***



***Fellowship News - August 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.)