

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

December 2009 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 2009 **Sunday Services at 10:30**

Dec. 6: *Days of Future Passed:* *Lessons of the 1960s*

Rev. Chris Schriener

It's now over 40 years since the historic Woodstock music festival. Today we will look back at a remarkable decade that helped shape many of our lives. What can we learn, both from what worked and what didn't? Counter-cultural attire is encouraged! Dig out your tie-dyes.

Rev. Chris Schriener is Minister Emeritus of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont. He also worked as a psychotherapist for 25 years, and he is the author of four books including "Do Think Twice: Provocative Reflections on Age-Old Questions." Chris is currently writing a book about theism and atheism.

Dec. 13: *I Hope You Dance*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Life is full of choices – do you sit it out, or do you dance? This week, we'll look at what it means to be involved, engaged, and plugged in, no matter what stage of life you're in. This sermon topic was inspired by Ryan and Jessica Spaulding, who purchased it at this year's auction.

Dec. 20: *For the Earth Forever Turning*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

The darkening of the days is about to be reversed as the Earth keeps turning and we pass the Winter Solstice. Time to celebrate the cycles of the seasons and the wonders of the planet as we anticipate the return of the light. **This Sunday is an intergenerational service.**

Dec. 24: Celebrating Christmas 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Note: This is an early evening, intergenerational service.

What are your beloved holiday stories or songs? You're invited to bring your favorites along! We'll share them all with each other as we prepare for the coming of Christmas. Larry Chin, a favorite UUFLG accompanist, will be with us to sing carols.

Dec. 27: *Humor as a Spiritual Practice*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

You may have seen the bumper sticker: "Life's too mysterious to take too serious." Not everything, we know, is funny, but it doesn't hurt to approach life with a sense of humor and a willingness to laugh out loud now and again. Are there ways to exercise our laugh muscles as a part of our spiritual practice? Let's find out!

Jan. 3: *The Sound of Music*

Bert Olson

This service will be led by Bert Olson. Be there to hear how music can and should have a positive impact on the way we lead our lives. This will include a history of music through the ages both secular and religious. Bert will share his personal history with music.

Minister's Column

December is upon us, the end of another year of days and months filled with all that life brings our way. For many of us, December can seem like a month on steroids – lots of activities to do, tasks to be accomplished, parties to go to, people to see, and dreams to be fulfilled. When you look around, you see people bustling about and making plans, trying to get it all done. No matter how you choose to celebrate the winter holidays, December can keep you hopping.

The aspect of December we don't talk about as much, however, is how challenging all of this can be. You can easily wear yourself out, trying to keep up and get everything on the list crossed off. What comes for many of us in December, along with the happy memories and joyful anticipation, is yearning for people who are no longer a part of our lives, sadness at the losses or disappointments that are also a part of life, a sense that the whole world has someone when we feel, perhaps, that we are alone or are unable to be with those we love.

Just as winter light plays against the leafless trees, creating images composed of dark and light, so too, can December be a pastiche of brightness and shadow.

Remember to be gentle with yourself and with others during this time of the year. Setting realistic expectations about what you can and can't do is always important, but especially during the holiday season. Remember to take some time each day to be outdoors and to be alone. Count your blessings. Make traditions for yourself and your family – simple, meaningful ones that allow you to connect and show your love for one another.

If your tendency is to overdo or over commit, slow it down and learn the joy of saying the words “thank you, no.” If your tendency is to hide yourself away, make a commitment to reach out to at least one other person and suggest a get together.

I wish you a season of peace and joy. Blessings to you all.

Love and light,
Victoria

For Your Information: Carl and I will once again be in Pennsylvania to care for Carl's mother from December 3 through December 9th. I will have my cell phone with me, if you need to reach me during that time.

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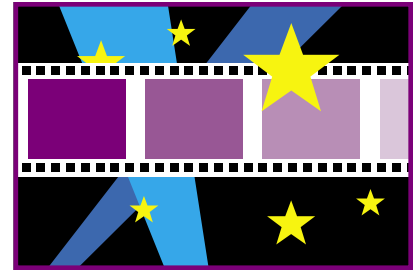
December Inspirational Film:

The Bucket List

starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman

You only live once, so why not go out in style? Before they “kick it,” an unlikely pair of feisty seniors decides to tackle their list of things they've always wanted to do. Their “bucket list” leads them on an around-the-world adventure to discover the joy in their lives before it's too late. Rob Reiner directs this funny, heartwarming film.

Friday, December 11 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
At the Ingram's, 515 Newville Drive, Los Gatos



Studying Sacred Texts:

Buddhism and UU

An Adult RE Class

Tuesday, December 1 and 15, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Join Rev. Victoria to learn more about Buddhism and why it's become one of the most popular spiritual practices in Unitarian Universalism. We'll use excerpts from Buddhist sacred writings, along with articles from various authors and UU's, to explore this world religion and how UUs are incorporating it into their lives.

Come Grow With Us

As we begin to consider the pledge drive for FY 2011 we think of all the ways we benefit from our collective generosity. The Finance Committee has chosen the theme for this year's pledge drive to be "Come Grow with Us."

Growth has many meanings. We have opportunity for personal emotional and spiritual growth. We have the opportunity to share our Fellowship community and activities with an ever broadening number of Members – and grow ourselves from their contributions. We have expanded our Social Action programs and have opportunity for more.

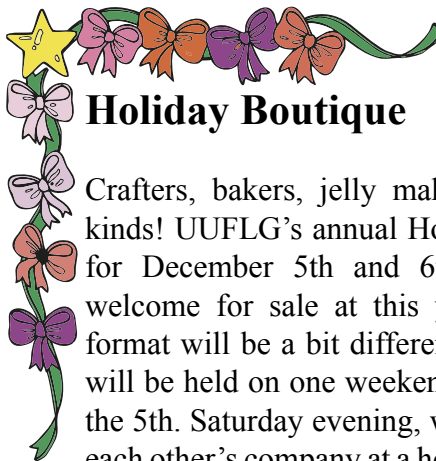
We have obligations in the broader community which we must grow to fulfill, such as our contributions to the UUA and PCD. And we have increasing need for growth in our physical space.

Along with all the possible areas of growth we want to also maintain what we already have.

All of this needs resources of many kinds. Many of us contribute our time and energies in providing Sunday services and associated activities – including simply attending and adding to the community spirit. Others serve on various committees that make our Fellowship function.

There are several fund raising activities held during the year such as our successful auction and the Christmas Boutique sale. We also derive income from rental of our facilities. But the vast majority of our yearly financial needs are met through payment of pledges from our Members.

So – Come Grow with Us. When we embark on our new pledge drive, remember all the opportunities and challenges we have and help us choose to grow in all ways.



Holiday Boutique

Crafters, bakers, jelly makers, jewelers, artists of all kinds! UUFLG's annual Holiday Boutique is scheduled for December 5th and 6th, and your creations are welcome for sale at this year's event. This year our format will be a bit different from in the past. The sale will be held on one weekend only, starting on Saturday, the 5th. Saturday evening, we'll dine together and enjoy each other's company at a holiday soup supper. Boutique items will be available for browsing and buying, and other activities and entertainment will make a fun and festive evening. The Boutique sale will continue on Sunday, the 6th. For more information, please contact Walt Main, Jessica or Ryan Spaulding, Karen Boulanger, or Dorice Piraino. Their Chalice Circle is coordinating this exciting and fun event.



Work Party at the Building Saturday Dec. 12th at 10:00 AM

In the spirit of the season, the Building Committee's December 'event' will be a work party starting at 10:00 AM. The Board has authorized a deck retro-fit; so that will be one of our areas. Several other projects entail painting and plastering. Refreshments and lunch will be available. A nominal ending time will be 1 PM-- if you stay for lunch. The deck project 'team' may be working longer depending on logistics.

Contact: Tim Connelly (Mobile: 408-221-7357)

Religious Education

By now you have met our new teacher, Rebecca Edelman, who is helping us with elementary and preschool classes. Rebecca is ideal for our fellowship, a credentialed and experienced elementary school teacher who grew up in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Her presence allows me to also divide my time between elementary and preschool classes, which is making me a very happy teacher.

If you smelled something good coming from the kitchen on Sunday, November 15th, you know by now it wasn't for you! Both classes were making chicken Parmesan "puppy biscuits" for the local animal shelters while learning about Unitarian Henry Bergh, founder of the ASPCA. They did such a good job, we've decided to have another baking day in December – cookies for people, this time. We will also continue to explore the lives and legacies of other Unitarians and Universalists who have made a difference. Some of our upcoming classes include Charles Dickens and Beatrix Potter.

Children attending our last all-ages potluck not only got to carve pumpkins; they were lucky to catch a glimpse of Jupiter and some of its moons, as well as our own beautiful half moon in the telescope. It is not often we get such a perfect opportunity for night gazing. Katie Stubstad and I hope you will be able to join us for the next potluck, coming up on Saturday, January 23rd. (Yes, 2010 is sneaking up on us.)

With Love,
Tamara



UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: see www.UUreHome.com for an application. If you have questions, contact us at info@uurehome.com or call 828-281-3253.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2010 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card, or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

*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

Sustainable Grounds Project on Twitter and Flickr

Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as followers (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter>). Flickr is a photo sharing website. UUFLG's pictures are set to be viewable by anyone.

Now you follow the progress of the Sustainable Grounds Project on Twitter and Flickr! The Twitter profile can be found by going to: <http://twitter.com/UUFLG> and the Flickr pictures are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/UUFLGSustainableGarden> We are hoping by using these "new media" we will better be able to communicate with the congregation about this exciting project, and also reach out to new people. If you have any questions about setting-up a Twitter or Flickr account please see Ryan Spaulding.

UULM

On November 6th, 7th and 8th UULMCA (Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California) held a leadership summit in Sacramento. Jessica and Ryan Spaulding both attended. The focus was on the three current UULM issues: water justice, marriage equity and healthcare reform. There were also workshops on leadership, organizing volunteers, and building stronger relationships within and between our congregations. Nancy Neff of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, gave an impressive speech on CA Fair Elections campaign finance reform (<http://www.yesfairelections.org/>). For more information on the UULM please visit their website: <http://www.uulmca.org/main.html>

November Food Drive

Our November Food Drive was a big success! On November 18th Tamara brought 87 lbs. of donated food to Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and to Tamara for transporting the food!

Guest at Your Table

For more than thirty years, the Guest at Your Table tradition has helped UUs build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for universal human rights. It is a simple and meaningful way to incorporate "faith in action" into your life (<http://www.uusc.org/guest>). Soon we will be passing out boxes and materials for this awesome program! Stay tuned for further details.

Share-the-Plate

November's Share-the-Plate collected \$273.86 for ACT for Mental Health. Because UUFLG is participating in Guest at Your Table in December, we will not have a December Share-the-Plate collection.

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.

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) 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.

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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



Fellowship News

December 2009

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. 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.