

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

December 2011 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 2011 Sunday Services at 10:30

December 4 - Rev. Lisa Wiggins “Our Wall of Tears”

While traveling in rural Romania there is a town that was submerged under water by the communists who had planned (but never built) a hydroelectric plant. Nearby the remains of the Catholic and Unitarian churches, which are crumbling into the waters' edge is a “Wall of Tears” dedicated by the town's people in honor of religious tolerance and the lives of its congregants. It left me wondering about the hidden walls of tears within our own U.S. Unitarian Universalist congregations in which so many of our members have been ostracized by their religiously intolerant families and friends of different faiths. How does this experience affect our spiritual development and the life of the UUFLG congregation?

December 11– Martha Kendall “Doo-Dah, Doo-Dah!”

From “Camptown Races” to “Hard Times” and “Oh Susanna,” the tunes written by Stephen Foster defined the American character for more than a hundred years. In her presentation, Martha Kendall will perform some of Foster's most beloved music and tell the poignant story of the life of America's first professional songwriter.

Martha Kendall lives in Los Gatos and has spoken at the Fellowship many times, on subjects ranging from Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Ben Franklin to the Erie Canal to cycling the Camino de Santiago across Spain.

Saturday, Dec. 17, 9 AM--3 PM

A Blessing of the Animals by Rev. Lisa Wiggins
Kings Court (Shopping Center),
corner of Blossom Hill Rd. & Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos

As part of Los Gatos community holiday observance, Rev. Wiggins will conduct a non-denominational “Blessing of the Animals” at the base of our UUFLG-decorated Christmas Tree. Bring your pets to our UUFLG tree in the Kings Court shopping center to have them blessed in the spirit of the season. Pictures of pets with their owners will also be taken.

December 18 - Rev. Lisa Wiggins “Don't Let the Light Go Out!”

As our Jewish neighbors prepare to light the Menorah for their Festival of Lights, we will look at how to keep religious values shining through our love and our tears.

December 24 “Christmas Carols”

We will have early afternoon songfest featuring the UUFLG choir and Dave Coldren. Our blossoming children's choir will perform. Come join us for an entertaining program starting at 1:30 pm followed by a Christmas goodies at 2:30.

There will not be a service on Christmas Day, December 25. Those who wish to attend a worship service on December 25th are encouraged to attend First Unitarian Church of San Jose.

January 1, 2012

UUFLG will have a service on January 1. Speaker and topic to be determined.

CHARLES WALTON 1921-2011, THE FATHER OF RFID

Charles Alfred Dodgson Walton died peacefully on Sunday, November 6, at Our Lady of Fatima Villa in Saratoga, with his son at his side. He was 89 years old.

“Chappie” was born December 11, 1921, in Spondon, England, the son of Charles Dodgson Walton and Clara Ledger Walton. He came to the U.S. with his family as a young child. He was raised in Cumberland, Maryland, and Scarsdale and Pleasantville, New York. He was educated at George School and earned a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University in 1943. Walton became a U.S. citizen in 1944 while serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. After several years of employment as an engineer in Maryland and New York, Walton earned a Master of Science degree from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1950.

Walton was working for IBM in New York state when he was moved to San Jose in 1960. He settled with his family in Los Gatos. He worked in new product development for IBM for twenty years before starting his own company, Proximity Devices, in 1972.

Walton was a pioneer in radio frequency radio identification, now known as RFID; the first patent to use that abbreviation was issued to Walton in 1983. As the first application of RFID technology was on door locks, Proximity Devices was merged with Schlage Lock and Walton became vice president of Schlage Electronics in 1974. As President of Walton Electronics, he “retired” to a life of independent research and development in 1982.

The keyless system used today on numerous doors and parking lots is descended from Walton's inventions. RFID tags are now used by the billions as a substitute for bar code identification, to track warehoused goods and many other applications.

A 2004 article in the San Jose Mercury News described him as “one of Silicon Valley's unsung inventors”. In 2005, Walton received the Founder's Medal, the highest award made by the International Society of Logistics. In 2006 he was nominated for the Lemelson-MIT Program Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his over 50 patents.

Walton had a strong social conscience and was equally proud of his work as a peace advocate and writer, the subject of a 1996 Doer's Profile in the San Jose Mercury News. His many letters to the editor earned him the San Jose Mercury's Silver Pen Award, and a highlighted box in Scientific American (January 2000). To get young people involved in thinking about remedies to global problems, he founded and supported the Walton Peace Essay Challenge contest for high school students in Santa Clara County, California. The contest was conducted annually for twenty years.

Walton was an active participant with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos, where he served in several positions of responsibility. He was also involved with such organizations as the Committee for Green Foothills, Sierra Club, West Valley Democratic Club, Amnesty International, Peace Center of San Jose, and Collins Foundation. He was the largest single donor to the construction of the lighthouse at the mouth of Santa Cruz Harbor, completed in 2001. The Walton Lighthouse is named in honor of his father and his brother, Derek, a seaman.

Walton's two younger brothers, Derek and Stanley, predeceased him. Walton honored the memory of his parents and brothers by endowing redwood groves in Big Basin State Park (California) through the Sempervirens Foundation. Walton is survived by three children: his son Christopher of Santa Cruz, California, his son Jonathan of East Lansing, Michigan, and his daughter Anne of Amherst, Massachusetts; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos on Sunday, December 18, 2011, at 3:00. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Sierra Club.

Ministerial Musings:

Winter stars of distant galaxies,
barely seen against the heavens~
far away have you traveled to us seekers.

Years ago women and men gazed upward
toward the dark canopy that held you
and you spoke to them.

What did you say?
What did you tell them?
Where did your light shine for them?

For they gathered your magic
one precious fragment at a time
and with that radiance borne us onto this world.

Please touch our hearts again
with a light fantastic, however so small~
for even yet there are children awaiting our joy and splendor.

May your holidays be blessed with many sparks from the chalice of life.
In deep faith and love, Rev. Lisa



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December	7	"Luke" Chacon
	9	Kathryn Wood
	11	Charles Walton (deceased)
	15	Erma Browning
	21	Hugh Warner (deceased)
	25	Anne Christine Magee
	25	Jan Wygant
	28	Yvonne Liu
	30	Jack Stubstad

December Anniversary

December	6	Bonnie and Bert Olson
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Dinner for Eight

This monthly tradition is taking a month off! Enjoy your holiday dinners with family and other activities. We'll resume in January 2012.

Bonnie, Membership Chair

It's the 20th Annual Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show .

It stars Will Durst, Johnny Steele, Debbie Durst, Michael Bossier, Arthur Glauss and Me!- Mari-Esther Magaloni. It is a look back at the year with comedy sketches, political stand- up by Will Durst, and Johnny Steel as well as the improvisational comedy of "Deb and Mike" of Holy City Zoo fame. The show is a local holiday tradition and tours the Bay Area with 8 show in 7 nights.

We'll be at the San Jose Stage Company on December 29.

For show time and tickets call San Jose Stage Company at (408) 283-7142. You can find other locations by looking up Will Durst and going to his calendar.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2012

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2012 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation.

To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Social Action

Sustainability tip of the month: Fair Trade

The Sustainability topic this month is Fair Trade. What's Fair Trade got to do with sustainability? Fair Trade producers are encouraged to use environmentally friendly practices that preserve the health of the soil, air, water, and workers. Fair Trade certification ensures that farmers obey all internationally monitored environmental standards while empowering farmers and workers with financial incentives and resources for organic conversion, reforestation, water conservation and environmental education.

Fair Trade is an international trade model that aims to build just, equitable, and sustainable business practices by linking producers in developing countries directly to purchasers. Fair Trade purchasers work directly with cooperatives and other small scale producers, eliminating the middlemen present in conventional trading and ensuring that producers receive a higher percentage of the price.

In addition to setting a minimum floor price for commodities, which aims to cover the cost of production and cost of living in a local context, Fair Trade aids producers by requiring fair labor conditions, safe environmental practices, and fostering community development. The Fair Trade principles, to which all producers, importers, and exporters must adhere to receive certification, include:

- **Fair Prices:** Democratically organized farmer groups receive a guaranteed minimum floor price, plus a premium for certified organic products. Artisans and producers of non-commodity items are guaranteed a living wage in the local context.

- **Fair Working Conditions:** Laborers are guaranteed safe and healthy working conditions, freedom of association, and opportunities for advancement. In particular, women's leadership and participation in cooperatives is encouraged. Human rights and child labor laws are enforced and upheld to the most stringent standards.

- **Direct Trade:** Fair Trade importers purchase directly from farmer and artisan cooperatives, thereby building long-term relationships and sustainable business practices.

- **Transparency:** All Fair Trade businesses are open to public accountability and must maintain records of their environmental and business practices.

- **Democratic Organizations:** Fair Trade supports cooperative systems in which each producer is a stakeholder in the business, participates democratically in decision-making, and benefits equally from generated revenue.

- **Community Development:** A "social premium," a set sum given to the cooperative for each Fair Trade item sold, is invested in a business or organization in the local community democratically selected by the cooperative.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) and certain agrochemicals are strictly prohibited, and organic practices are encouraged and rewarded. Fair Trade producers are also required to adhere to practices that maximize use of raw, sustainable materials, and promote water and soil conservation, reforestation, species diversity, and environmental education.

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

Coffee: Fair Trade coffee is currently the fastest growing segment of the US specialty coffee industry. Nearly two-thirds of all Fair Trade coffee farms are organic. UUFLG already serves Fair Trade coffee and periodically offers it for sale to members and friends. Let's renew our commitment to using and promoting Fair Trade coffee.

Chocolate: The average American eats almost 12 pounds of chocolate a year. If you are among the 46% of Americans who say they can't live without chocolate, you can avoid the well documented problem of child slave labor in the cocoa industry and direct your share of this \$16 billion market toward chocolate that helps communities and the environment. Look for Fair Trade candy bars, baking cocoa, hot chocolate mix, and chocolate chips.

Tea: Fair Trade Certified tea is one of the fastest-growing segments of the Fair Trade market. You can find Fair Trade teas bagged, loose, and bottled as well as other food products prepared with tea extracts such as nutritional bars, energy drinks, and ice cream.

Sugar: While the USD produces around 85% of its sugar domestically, it is often under conditions that degrade the environment. Phosphorus run-off from the sugar industry in Florida has devastated the ecosystem of the Everglades for example. Fair Trade sugar from Paraguay, Malawi, and elsewhere is available in the US. Other sustainable alternatives include locally grown, organic maple syrup or honey. Whether we lobby for environmentally responsible practices in the US sugar industry or buy Fair Trade sugar or other alternatives we need to be aware of costs to our ecosystem of our high sugar consumption.

Rice: While most of the white and brown rice consumed in the US is grown on US farms, most of the aromatic varieties of long-grain rice comes from small-scale farms in Asia where workers are often sickened by pesticides and farmers are squeezed by middle merchants. Look for Fair Trade coral, violet, Jasmine, white Basmati and brown Basmati rice.

Other Fair Trade products include cut flowers, vanilla, sports balls, wine, olive oil, apparel, home décor, jewelry and handicrafts.

For more information about Fair Trade see:

<http://www.greenamerica.org/programs/fairtrade/>

and:

<http://www.newdream.org/programs/beyond-consumerism/consuming-consciously/buy-green/fair-trade>

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 Bert Olson (br2olson@earthlink.net) 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.



Holiday Food Drive

You have made our year-round food collection for Second Harvest a great success. The need is great and growing, and we can be proud to be doing our part to meet it.

This harvest and holiday season is a great time to consider with gratitude the many blessings we enjoy and to remember with compassion those who have so much less than we do.

Last year we collected 436.5 pounds of food (248 in food and \$145 which Second Harvest turned into 188 pounds of food)!! This year the Social Action's goal is to collect 500 pounds (food + monetary donations). Between November 27th through December 18th we challenge you to bring something for the food basket each time you come to the Fellowship. When you come for Sunday service, for committee meetings, for chalice circles, for discussion groups or just to work on a UUFLG project make each trip an expression of your gratitude and your compassion with a food donation.

Items most needed are:

- Meals in a can (stew, chili, soup)
- Tuna/Canned meat
- Peanut butter
- Canned foods with pop-top lids
- Low sugar cereals
- 100% fruit juices in single serving boxes
- Canned fruit packed in its own juice
- Low salt canned vegetables

Please do not donate items packaged in glass or bulk quantities of rice, flour, or sugar.

If you would like to give a monetary donation Second Harvest can turn one dollar into 1.3 pounds of food.

Thanks for all you do to put our principles into practice!

Used Clothing and Goods

Do you have any usable clothing in good repair that you are thinking about donating? You might want to hold onto it a bit longer so that you can make a larger donation after the holiday season. People need good quality used items all year round.



Share-the-Plate

In November Share-the-Plate collected \$517 for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Our December Share-the-Plate will benefit Low Income Self-Help Center in San Jose. Their mission is to empower, educate, and organize the diverse low-income communities of the Silicon Valley to fight for their rights. One of the things they provide is a drop-in center offering information, advocacy, use of a computer, fax, and phone as well as a listening ear.

The people who come to them for help include the homeless, job hunters, people looking for affordable health care and low-income housing, immigrants, the disabled and increasingly people who have fallen into need for the first time and don't know where to turn for help. At the same time that the need is growing available funding sources for the center are shrinking. They could really use our help.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	DECEMBER 1	2	3
	5:00p - 7:00p Women's Spirituality Group		7:30-9:30p UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	9:00a-12:00p & 1:00-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 10:00a-12:00p Finance Comm. Mtg.	8:00a-1:00p, Holiday Boutique Set Up 9:00a-12:00p & 1:00-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 1:00-7:00p, Holiday Boutique; 4:00-7:00p, Wine & Cheese Party
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11:30a - 1:00p, Holiday Boutique - After Service 10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime		10:00-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir.	11a-12:30p Membership Committee Mtg 7:30-9:30p UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	9:45a -12:00p Thurs. Morning Women's Grp. 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime	7:30p -9:30p Great Books Discussion grp. "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson	7:00 -9:00p Sunday Programs Committee	Hrs 7:30-9:30p UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 7p -8:30p UUFLG Board Mtg. 7:30 -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	9:00a-12:00p & 1:00-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 6:00-10:00p, "PeaceNick" - Satirical Holiday songster	9:00a-12:00p & 1:00-4:00p, Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 10:00a, Bldg. & GnDs Work party
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 12:00-1:15p, Social Action Team Meeting 3:00p, Memorial Service for Charles Walton		10:00-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir. 7:30-9:00p, Choir Rehearsal	7:30p -8:30p Winter Solstice Celebration/ Service	7:30 -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all		2:00p - UUFLG - Christmas Carols - Christmas Eve Songfest with UUFLG Choir and children - Light refresh- ments follow
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS DAY NO UUFLG Sunday Service today. Those who wish to attend a worship ser- vice are encouraged to attend First Unitarian Church of San Jose.			7:30-9:30p UUFLG Choir Rehearsal			NEW YEAR'S EVE

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



Fellowship News

December 2011

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.