

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

February 2008 No.2; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

February 2008
Sunday Services at 10:30

February 3

A Principled Life: UU Principle #4

Rev. Victoria Ingram

The fourth of our Unitarian Universalist Principles encourages us to engage in a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Philosophers and sages throughout the ages have questioned the nature of “truth” and pondered the meaning of life. What are UUs called to do in finding answers in their own search?

February 10

Life Lessons: Love

Rev. Victoria Ingram

This Sunday before Valentine’s Day we’ll explore the delights of love in our lives in an intergenerational service. Love comes in all kinds, all shapes, all sizes. Today’s service will explore the role of love in our lives, for others and for ourselves.

February 17

The “S” Word

Rev. Victoria Ingram

SHHH! We hardly ever talk about it at church. Some might think it shocking! Some might think it unseemly. But, if we don’t talk about it, who will?

This is Share-the-Plate Sunday

Our recipient this month is UU Legislative Ministry for California.

February 24

Reflections on Peace in a Time of War.

Nina Kalmoutis, Ministerial Intern

The Dalai Lama writes: “Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually. Peace...starts with each of us.” Nina Kalmoutis, who is currently serving as the ministerial intern at the Redwood City Fellowship, will be our speaker.

Worship Associate Linda Krenicky

March 2

A Principled Life: UU Principle #5

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Continuing our series of sermons on the foundational principles of Unitarian Universalism, we’ll look at the “right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.” Why is the democratic process important to our religious heritage? How does conscience influence how we work together in our religious community?

MINISTER'S COLUMN

When I was young, I used to think it was quite thrilling to accompany my mother to our local polling place on Election Day. I'm sure at the time I wouldn't have been able to tell you why I enjoyed it so much, perhaps it was just the chance to be with Mom or to do something different. Perhaps I enjoyed having the "voting ladies" fuss over me and comment positively on seeing a child accompanying their parent to vote. There might have been treats involved, too!

But, as I got older, I realize that I enjoyed the ritual and ceremony of the process. I liked seeing that people felt strongly about their right to vote and being a part of the democratic process. I enjoyed seeing that commitment played in their willingness to come to the polling place, stand in line, and then enter that little booth with the short curtain to participate in this time-honored process. As I thought of all of the elections in the history of the United States, I saw each of those people at the polls as a part of a bigger story. I know that taking me along to see democracy in action was an important lesson my mother shared with me, because I became a committed voter when I turned 18. I can't recall too many elections, either national or local, that I've missed voting in since.

Unitarian Universalists are champions of the democratic process; it's in our foundational Principles and our congregations are directed by the input, discussion, and voting of the members of the community. We value this part of our heritage and take our involvement in the process seriously.

On February 5th, the Fellowship will serve as a local polling place for the Primary Election. We will open our doors and welcome election officials and voters to our Fellowship. I'm pleased that we'll be a host for people exercising their democratic right and privilege and casting their votes in this historic election. Not only are there important local issues on the ballot, but this is the first election since 1952 in which a sitting Vice President is not in the running. Local or national, important decisions will be made. And, it allows people unfamiliar with UUFLG to see where we are, who we are, and what we stand for.

Whether UUFLG is your polling place or not, or you elect to vote by mail, I encourage you to be informed and to exercise your right to vote in the democratic process. It's a part of our UU heritage and a keystone of our values.

Love and light – Victoria

PG.2

Drop-in Lunch and Discussion with the Minister

Rev. Victoria invites you to bring your lunch on Wednesday, February 13th and join in a lively discussion from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Discussion topics may include local or other current events, questions or concerns, theology, or whatever the group present would like to address. This is an opportunity to enjoy a time of conversation and sharing with the minister.

This drop-in lunch and discussion opportunity has been added to the monthly Fellowship calendar of activities and you are welcome to participate as your schedule and interest allow. March 12 is the date for the next drop-in lunch. No reservations required, just show up and be prepared to engage in the dialogue.

Spirit in Practice

UUFLG is one of several Beta test sites for a new UU adult religious education curriculum, SPIRIT IN PRACTICE. The first session is scheduled for Saturday, February 9, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. The program consists of ten sessions, to be held on Saturdays between February and June. Rev. Victoria Ingram will lead the sessions, designed to provide participants with a variety of strategies for engaging in spiritual growth.

The ten sessions of SPIRIT IN PRACTICE provide avenues for deepening spirituality and affirming spiritual growth within ourselves, our Fellowship, and the larger community. Participants are invited to reflect, share, and grow together, exploring ways to nurture their connections with the sacred in everyday life. Each session is a stand-alone unit, so you may attend any, some, or all of the ten workshops, as your schedule and interest allow.

Some of the topics to be covered in the sessions include: personal spiritual practices, communal worship practices, spiritual partnerships, mind, body, and soul practices, life practices, and justice practices. The February 9th session is an introduction to creating a "rich and meaningful Unitarian Universalist spirituality." The second session, scheduled for February 16, focuses on personal spiritual practices.

Please contact the church office to register for a workshop (358.1212), or if you have questions. Please indicate if you require childcare in order to attend.

Notes from the President

We're off to a good start this year and things are going extremely well with good attendance and many visitors. We had three new members join us in December – Ryan and Jessica Spalding and Connie Springer. It's great that they've chosen to join our community. Many thanks to Bob Bixler, Irving Yabroff and Jerry Linton (Coralee's husband) for getting the furnace fixed before the really cold spell arrived. We welcome Victoria back to good health and back from her study leave last month.

Finally, thank you, everyone, for your good humor during our experiment with serving coffee and snacks in the foyer the first two weeks in January! I think it's safe to say that we all felt pretty squeezed and tended not to linger as long as we usually do, but we also felt very crowded when we tried having coffee and snacks in just one half of the west room earlier in the year. So, we're trying out a 3rd option by setting up coffee in the foyer and serving the snacks in half of the west room for the 15 or 20 minutes that the children are still in class. Once the children are out of class, we have access to the entire west room, as usual. With this variation, we're using both the foyer and half of the west room, which gives us more wiggle room. We'll keep trying variations until we get the right compromise between a convivial coffee hour where people enjoy connecting with one another and the needs of a vital children's religious education program. I know we can get it right if we just keep trying!

Yours in Fellowship,
Ann

Social Action

The Share-the-Plate recipient this month is UU Legislative Ministry California (UULM-CA), a statewide justice ministry that is working to change society's harmful structures. The Ministry seeks to develop the skills of civic engagement to educate, organize, and advocate for public policies. Three of UULM-CA's current focus issues are Global Warming & Water Justice, Health Care Reform, and Marriage Equality of Same-Sex Couples.



Board Position Opening

Bill Robertson has notified the UUFLG Board that, for personal reasons, he will be unable to continue in the position of Board Secretary. Bill has been an excellent Secretary but other demands on his time don't permit him to continue in the Board position at this time.

To cover this situation, the UUFLG Bylaws say, "Vacancies on the Board will be filled by the Board until the next general meeting." The board plans to select an interim Secretary at its next regular monthly meeting on February 14, 2008. The next full Secretary term will be filled by Member vote at the May 2008 General Meeting.

Secretarial duties include recording the minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings and the business meetings, giving notice of business meetings, and handling official correspondence. If you are interested in being considered for this interim position please notify either Ann Campbell (408-374-8844) or Jim Stahl (408-866-6652). All Trustees must be members of the Fellowship for at least one year.

SOCIAL ACTION

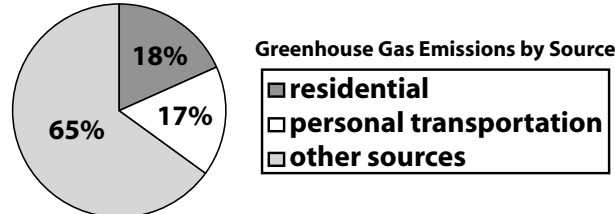
Now that UUFLG's new website is available, we will be relying less on paper and trying to shorten our newsletter column. The social action page on the website has lots of information, including resources on all the global warming challenges. So, check out www.uuflg.org/socialaction.html. If you do not have Internet access, you may request paper handout from Sue Fera.

Global Warming Challenge #4 – Beyond Individual Action

===== Individual === Family/Friends === Local === Regional === National === Global =====

In order to control global warming, action is needed at all these levels. Our challenges so far have focused on individual action and passing the word to friends/family. Although those things are important, they can only go so far. We need to extend ourselves to areas beyond our immediate sphere. The aim of this month's challenge is to give you nudge in that direction.

As seen from the following chart, individuals only have direct control over a small fraction of greenhouse gas emissions. But we can exert considerable indirect control over a much bigger portion by influencing policy and law, publicizing the issues, working with business etc etc. Effort in those areas can have huge payoffs. For example, if we reduce our driving or even buy more efficient cars, that affects only 1 or 2 vehicles. If car manufacturers are required to improve fuel efficiency, that would affect millions of vehicles. And, in reality, most people (even if well intentioned) will not sacrifice much voluntarily. That is even truer for corporations! But with enlightened legislation, tax policy and other external motivations, great improvement is possible.



Challenge Action:

Think Bigger!! Do at least one more thing than what you are currently doing at the local, state, national, or international level. Your support can be financial and/or participatory (both are needed). There are some general suggestions below and we will have links to specific organizations and resources on our website. Find something that fits well for you and do it!!

ORGANIZATIONS: Join an organization actively working on global warming or increase your contribution(\$) to or level of involvement in one to which you already belong.

GOVERNMENT: support candidates that take a strong proactive position on global warming as much as you possibly can. Having committed people in high offices is probably the most effective way to ensure positive changes.

LEGISLATION: exert influence on legislators, especially those who are 'borderline' on the issue. You may do so individually (petitions, letters, email) but, in many situations, may be more effective working through a powerful organization.

YOUR JOB: Urge your employer to adopt energy saving practices, providing them with information and resources.

BUSINESS: Ditto for local businesses. And for larger corporations, go further up the chain.

YOUR POCKET BOOK: Buy products that require less energy to produce and transport – for example: local produce and products with less packaging. Although that is an 'individual' action, money speaks and can change the marketplace.

EDUCATION: Spread the word, either directly or indirectly by supporting groups that do so.

Survey

Thanks to the few of you who have taken part in the Green Practices survey. And for the rest of you it's not too late! The survey is only six questions long and can be completed in about 5 minutes. Just go to the Social Action page of the fellowship website and click on the link under Green Practices Survey. Or click on the link in the announcement email we sent out.

This survey is designed to give you an easy way to tell us what practices you think are most important for the fellowship. The results will be used as we put together a set of guidelines to assist us, as a congregation, in making environmentally responsible choices in our day-to-day operations and in the events and programs that we offer. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think. Your input is vital to this project.

Water Tasting

We hope you learned a lot at our water tasting events and are giving serious thought to your water choices. For more information check out the Bottled Water section of the UULMCA website uulmca.org. Along with a number of informative articles you will find a clever anti-bottled water song sung to the tune of "This Land is Your Land."

Help Wanted

And speaking of UULM-CA (Legislative Ministry- California) we have an opening for a UULM liaison on Global Warming & Water Justice. This person will keep the Social Action team informed on UULM education and action on the issue of Global Warming & Water Justice and, with support from the rest of the Social Action team, will coordinate Fellowship participation in those actions in which we choose to engage. Job requirements are a commitment to UU principles and to putting those principles into practice, comfort with email and web usage, and a small amount of time. If you've been looking for a way to get involved without taking on too much this could be the job for you. Contact Connie Springer or Sue Fera.

Our next meeting is on Feb 10th, 12:15 - 1:30 in the Sanctuary. Newcomers are welcome.

And/or feel free to contact us: Connie (cfspringer@earthlink.net) Sue (sueanon@sbcglobal.net)

News Items

1. New date for the UUFLG auction: Save Saturday, May 3, 2008 for an evening of community fun as we gather to enjoy the return of the annual auction. More information will follow in the coming weeks. If you are interested in helping, please contact any member of the Fundraising Team (Chris Magee, Irving Yabroff, Shelley and Dick Powers, Linda Krenicky).

2. All who live and/or work with children are invited to attend and participate in an overview of Parenting the Positive Discipline Way. It will be offered at the Fellowship on Saturday, February 9, from 9am to 2pm. Child care will be provided. Sign-ups available in the foyer. See Linda Krenicky for more information. Please note the time is different from the recent brochure that lists all adult RE activities.

3. Note from Sunday Programs Chair: I would like to thank Jewel Peyton and Edy Young for providing the impetus to engage two of our speakers in January - Delorme McKee-Stovall from the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations, and Shagor Ghani, from the Muslim Community Association. And many thanks to Walt Main and Kelly Smith for leading the "Wheel of the Year" service. My favorite part of the Sunday Programs Chair role is finding speakers, and looking for a variety of ways for us to follow our own "responsible search for truth and meaning". If you have ideas for speakers on the Sundays Victoria is not here, please let me know.

Linda

Inspirational Film: Adult Religious Education

Friday, February 1

This Month's Feature Film: *Groundhog Day*

Starring: Bill Murray, Andie McDowell

Playing a disgruntled reporter sent to cover the antics of Punxatawnie Phil (the groundhog in Pennsylvania who predicts the date spring will start), Bill Murray gets caught up in a repeating cycle of February 2nds, unsure of what will finally allow him to get on with his life on February 3rd. The "Movie Professor," Carl Ingram, presents insights into the story's meanings and metaphors from the perspectives of myth, psychology, and archetypes prior to viewing the film.

In the Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. Presentation on the film's themes, images, symbols, and archetypes

7:00 p.m. Feature presentation

Following the film: a facilitated discussion

You are invited to come to all/any portions of the evening's program, as you are interested. If you require childcare, please call the church office (358.1212)

Coming attractions:

In March, our feature film will be *Calendar Girls*, showing March 14.

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 Ann Campbell (annbcampbell@gmail.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.

New to UU?

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Considering becoming a member of UUFLG? On February 12, 19, and 26, the Membership Committee welcomes those who are new to Unitarian Universalism and/or this Fellowship to join them to learn more about UU history and governance, being in community, and membership. Rev. Victoria Ingram assists in facilitating the workshop, which meets from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to learn more about our Fellowship, about the history and polity of the denomination, and what it means to become a member of UUFLG. Those who choose to become members will be welcomed into the Fellowship at a special New Member ceremony during Worship on March 2nd.

Please register by calling the office (358.1212), especially if you need to have childcare provided so that you can attend.



From The Hall Way with Lou

What a great calendar for the months ahead!!! Please mark your calendar early, so you won't miss a thing!! I am excited with each of these events, and I hope to see you there. Be sure to pick up the "lavender" paper folder with the insert. They are on the "sign up" table in the hall. All are welcome to attend.

The Dinners for 8 are being organized by Edna and Irby Windes and Maggi and Merritt Benson. This will be great get acquainted dinners, and there are good directions on the sign up table. I am looking forward to a "chat" as well as some good "conversations" with all you good people. Singles and couples, members and friends are welcome. Give Edna a call for more details, and her phone is 386-5317. Her e-mail is ednawindes@mac.com

Save the date of Sat, MAY 3, 2008. THIS THE DATE OF OUR ANNUAL AUCTION. There will also be the SILENT AUCTION. In going thru your closets and drawers, save the "good stuff" for the auction.

See you at the church.
Lou



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

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
					2:00 - Recorder Group 6:30 - Inspirational Films: Groundhog Day	9:00 - Worship Associates Meeting
3	4	5	6	7		9
10:30 - Sunday Service: A Principled Life: UU Principle #4, Victoria Ingram	7:00 - Polling Station Setup	6:00am -9:00pp Presidential Primary Election Day - Polling Place 10:00 - Tuesday Chalice Circle, Quiet Room	2:00 - Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 - Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30 - Meditation Class	12:00 - RUMs on the deck 1:30 - Building & Grounds Committee 7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group	9:00 - Positive Discipline workshop 1:00 - Spirit in Practice: Toward a Rich and Meaningful Spirituality 7:15 - Book Discussion Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30 - Sunday Service: ; Life Lessons: Love Victoria Ingram 12:15 - Social Action Committee	7:15 - Women's Spirituality Group 7:30 - Great Books	1:00 Admin & Communications Mtg 1:00 Long Range Planning Committee 7:00 - Getting to Know UU 7:00 - Finance Committee	11:30 - Dining and Discussion 7:30 - Meditation Class	9:45 - Thursday Morning Women's Group 11:00 - So. Pen. Cluster Minister's Meeting 7:00 - Choir Practice 7:00 UUFLG Board Meeting	2:00 - Recorder Group	1:00 - Spirit in Practice: Personal Spiritual Practices 6:30 - Dinners for 8
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30 - Sunday Service: The "S" Word Victoria Ingram		10:00 - Tuesday Chalice Circle 7:00 - Getting to Know UU	Newsletter Deadline 7:00 - Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30 - Meditation Class	12:00 - Caring Committee 12:00 - RUMs on the deck 7:00 - Choir Practice 7:00 - RECCY Meeting	2:00 - Recorder Group	7:15 - Book Discussion Group
24	25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1
10:30 - Sunday Service Reflections on Peace in a Time of War. Nina Kaimoutis	7:15 - Women's Spirituality Group	1:00 - Long Range Planning Committee 7:00 - Getting to Know UU	12:15 - Stitch & Bitch 7:30 - Meditation Class	7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group	

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

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



Fellowship News

February 2008

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.