

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

February 2010 No.2; 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

February 2010 Sunday Services at 10:30

Feb. 7: *Come Grow With Us*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Growing as a faith community – in numbers, in spirit, in faith, in enthusiasm! What a goal for 2010 and this year's pledge campaign. For 60 years, UUFLG has made its mark in the Silicon Valley. What's next? What more can we be together? Let's talk!

Feb. 14: *Meditation*

Reed Sherman

On Valentine's day we focus on our romantic relationships. It is also a good time to look at all affairs of the heart: our family, our co-workers, the people in our community, they are all important relationships. The more clarity and compassion we can bring to our relationships the more enjoyable our days will become as greater meaning fills each moment of our life. Meditation helps us find and follow this inspired focus.

Reed Sherman began his meditation practice in Seattle in 1994. After moving to San Francisco he has continued to practice and teach meditation in the Buddhist tradition. He is married and runs his own design business.

Feb. 21: *Spiritual, But Not Religious*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

When Americans are surveyed, more and more describe themselves as being "spiritual," but not "religious." Now, what in the world do you suppose that means? Usually, it means that people care about developing their spiritual selves, but aren't as interested espousing a specific doctrine or joining a church. We'll talk about being spiritual AND religious, in a UU way.

Feb. 28: *Guest Minister*

Rev. Christina Sillari

March 7: *Joy*

Linda Krenicky

Worship Associate is Karen Boulanger.

In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy. (Brother David Steindl-Rast) Today we'll explore ways to increase our joy in very specific and mindful ways. Be ready to have fun and GET HAPPY!

Minister's Column

Come Grow with Us!

Annually, we take the opportunity to think about the future of this Fellowship and pledge our financial support for its operating budget. Not very exciting or inspirational, you say? I don't see it that way! What could be more exciting than an invitation to GROW – the theme for this year's budget drive campaign.

We've experienced so much exciting and inspirational change at UUFLG in the last couple of years as we've grown and learned together in ministry. I'm so grateful for the way our relationships have continued to grow and deepen, as you've come to know me and invited me into your hearts. I love the dialogues and interchanges when you share your ideas and hopes with me, especially for what this Fellowship can be and become. Hearing about what you love and appreciate in the Fellowship keeps me, and our other staff members, excited about the work we do for UUFLG.

Hope and aspiration are one of the joys of being in community and sharing our lives together. Together we can create and accomplish so much more than any of us could do alone. We can provide more help to those in need in our neighborhoods. We can learn from one another and share our skills and talents. We can reach out and support one another to live our best lives and become our best selves. We can be the kind of supportive and loving community that visitors are looking for when they come to see us on Sunday.

However, another reality must be acknowledged. Our aspirations and hopes for UUFLG can only reach as far as our budget and available resources. Living within our means is a necessary reality of life. Our Board and Finance Committee do an excellent job of stewarding our financial resources. Each of you demonstrates your love and commitment by volunteering for the many necessary tasks and activities that make UUFLG possible.

How would you like to keep growing in faith, in spirit, in outreach, in service?

Come grow with us!

Love and light,

Victoria

Vespers

For those interested in a mid-week opportunity to meditate, reflect, and reconnect with themselves, Vespers will be offered on a monthly basis beginning on Thursday, February 11. These short services, from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m., include readings, meditations, visualizations, and inspirational messages. Rev. Victoria will lead the services. The theme of February's service is "Bread of Life."

Getting to Know UU

If you're new to UU, or want to know more about UUFLG and, perhaps, becoming a member, join us for these two sessions on Tuesday, February 23 and March 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fellowship. We'll share information on the origins of our faith tradition, the focus of our denomination's work in the world, and answer your questions about UU, membership, and being a part of UUFLG.

Spring Schedule for Adult Religious Education

The flyer of UUFLG classes, workshops, meetings, and activities for spring is now available in the foyer. We have a number of exciting options, including Buddhist and Islam studies, a personal discussion group, sessions on UU theology, and a chance to share your travels and what you discovered abroad.

February Inspirational Film

PHILADELPHIA

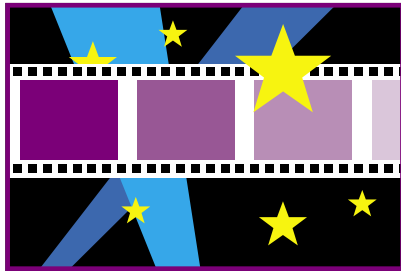
Starring Tom Hanks (Best Actor Oscar) and Denzel Washington

Directed by Jonathan Demme, 1993

Friday, February 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Ingram's, 515 Newville Drive, Los Gatos

Andrew Beckett, a gay lawyer infected with AIDS, is fired from his conservative law firm in fear that they might contract AIDS from him. After Andrew is fired, in a last attempt for peace, he sues his former law firm with the help of a homophobic lawyer, Joe Miller. During the court battle, Miller sees that Beckett is no different than anyone else on the gritty streets of the city of brotherly love, sheds his homophobia and helps Beckett with his case before AIDS overcomes him.

(Summary by Geoffrey A. Middleton at www.imdb.com)



Religious Education

Families of children in RE, as well as our teachers and volunteers, are invited to meet with us after service on Sunday, February 28th for a “town hall” style gathering to discuss children’s religious education at UUFLG. We look forward to hearing from you about what is working well, what else you would like to see, and how we can share a vision of RE for our future.

Our elementary students had so much fun recently learning about Unitarian Fannie Farmer, and using measurements to make their own edible play dough. That recipe was such a hit, there were several requests for copies to take home. Our preschoolers will be trying it next. Children in both classes will soon be exploring the lives of Charles Dickens, Frank Lloyd Wright and Beatrix Potter.

In Faith & Fellowship,
Tamara

Dinners for 8 - February

Our February Dinners for 8 will be Saturday, the 20th! 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 January to check on your availability. Please be sure to respond yes or no to me by January 31st 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 January was a great hit! We appreciate all our hosts and participants!

Bonnie
408 221-6606

Dear Friends and Members of the UUFLG Community,

On Sunday, February 28th at 4:00 PM I will be installed as the settled minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale. I want to take this opportunity to invite all of you to share in this wonderful occasion with me.

My installation will be held at the Congregational Church adjacent to the Chapel where the Sunnyvale Fellowship meets on Sunday mornings.

The church is located at 1112 South Bernardo Avenue, on the corner of Bernardo and Remington Avenue. Following the installation there will be a reception on site.

Please RSVP your acceptance or your regrets by February 12th to uufs@sbcglobal.net or call 408 739 0549.

When RSVPing please let us know if you will need childcare during the service.

I am looking forward to celebrating with you!

Nina Kalmoutis

Social Action

Sustainable Grounds

The Sustainable Grounds project has been plugging along behind the scenes for the past couple of months. Sue Fera and Connie Springer did a plant audit to determine what we already have and to classify them in terms of water use. Check out the bulletin board for a plot plan showing the results. The good news is that we already have some drought tolerant and even some native plants. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the next step filling in some key spots with native plants and more mulching.

California's Drought Continues

Although we just had several weeks and inches of rain, many counties in California are still entering into the third year of a serious drought. San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed stated on September 21, 2009 in the San Jose City Council Chambers based on the inadequate structure and condition of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levees and available water that the Santa Clara County water situation is "teetering on catastrophe". As of the same date the California Department of Water Resources has reduced the 2010 Santa Clara Valley Water District expected allocation by 91.7%! In addition to the drastically reduced allocation, our current water stores are insufficient. Prior to the recent storms the ten county reservoirs are overall only 41.7% full. Lexington Reservoir serves as a dramatic example at 83.5% empty (Dave Lane, West Valley Green Leaf). Santa Clara Valley Water District is encouraging people to continue conservation efforts, and to reduce their water usage by 15% (<http://www.valleywater.org/programs/waterconservation.aspx>).

If you are interested in learning more about the present state and the future of water in our county, please consider attending this presentation:

Santa Clara Valley Water Needs

What: The Cambrian Community Council hosts a presentation by Larry Wilson of the Santa Clara Valley Water District about Santa Clara Valley water needs, both now and in the future.

When: February 1st at 7 p.m.

Where: Cambrian School District, 4115 Jacksol Drive, San José

More Information: Call Vicki Alexander at 507-6050.

Also visit www.valleywater.org and www.valleywater.org/Publications.aspx for more water resources in Santa Clara County.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity has upcoming volunteer opportunities in San Jose and Morgan Hill starting in February and March. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. A more complete overview of these opportunities was provided in January's Social Action Team meeting minutes (please contact Ryan Spaulding if you would like a copy). For further information and to sign-up, please visit www.habitatsiliconvalley.org

Share-the-Plate

Thanks to your generosity, in January we collected an astonishing \$900 for UUSC's relief work in Haiti!

February marks the beginning of UUFLG's pledge drive, so there will no Share-the-Plate collection this month.

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

COME GROW WITH US

The theme for this year's pledge drive sums up our goals at this moment in our history together: *Come Grow With US!*

Sunday, February 7, is the Kickoff Sunday for the pledge drive. The pledge total we receive during the following six weeks determines our budget for next fiscal year, 2010-2011. We are looking to each of our members and friends to continue to generously support this pledge drive.

We have achieved so much in the past several years and we are seeing the results of our efforts with interesting programs, vibrant music, provocative adult RE offers and many young families becoming part of our community. Let's continue growing!

The pledge goal, included in our Target budget for the fiscal year 2010/2011 drive is \$134,000. It was made in the context of our still uncertain economy and with a commitment to keep a tight rein on expenses, but to also continue support for our current programs that are so important to our community.

The only significant changes we have made from the budget that we approved for our current year is to allocate \$5,000 to start rebuilding our modest reserves which we have drawn down to meet expenses over the past few years, \$8,000 so we can again be paying our fair share to the UUA and PCD, and approximately \$2,000 to return our ministerial expense allocation to the contracted amount.

In order to avoid cutting into our key program expenses to develop a near-balanced budget for next year, we encourage all of us in to be as generous as we can be. Every pledge is going to count to allow us to maintain our good progress.

Come join us on Sunday, February 7th for a kickoff lunch immediately after the church service and a short presentation of our Target budget. Following the kickoff, all members and friends will be contacted either by letter or in person during February and asked to review your individual pledge to the church. We want this to be a growth year and we want you to "Come grow with us."

Nominating Committee News

The nominating committee has begun the process of selecting nominees for the elected offices that will be voted upon at our annual meeting in May. The Board of Trustee offices that are up for election this year are: Secretary, Treasurer, Social Action trustee, RECCY trustee and Membership trustee. All five of the positions on the nominating committee are also up for election.

The committee welcomes suggestions for nominations from our membership, so please contact Ann Campbell, JJ Martin, Lynn O'Keefe, Moira Sullivan, or Edy Young in the next few weeks with any suggestions you may have for nominees.

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.

2010 Annual UUFLG Membership Survey

Dear UUFLG Members,

It is again time for our 2010 annual UUFLG member satisfaction survey.

If you would like to see the results of last year's survey, you can find them on our UUFLG web site at:

http://uuflg.org/special/MemberSurveyRpt_2009.pdf

This year we will make the survey available on line. It only takes a minute or less, plus whatever time you wish to spend writing comments. If you don't want to take the survey online please contact Harry Campbell (harryrcampbell@gmail.com or (408) 374-8844) and he will give or send you a printed copy of the survey.

The survey is anonymous and members can take the survey until February 5th at midnight. Results will be tabulated and then made available on our web site by the end of February.

If you would like to take the survey then go to url:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5W7WQ8Y>

Thanks in advance for your participation.
Harry Campbell and the UUFLG Long Range Planning Committee



Wine Country Excursions

As some of you know, the UU Fellowship of North Bay in Napa, CA. conducts "Wine Country Excursions" in the spring through fall during which we host UUs from all across the nation. They stay in our homes and we tour them around the beautiful Napa and Sonoma Valleys, tasting wines, visiting museums and historic sites and enjoying our internationally known gourmet restaurants. All the income from this project goes to fulfill our dream of moving from inadequate rented space into a building of our own.

Last year a UU Church in East Texas featured our wine tours as an item in their service auction. It was a successful effort for both parties. We hope that other churches conducting service auctions may be interested in joining us as well. If your church is planning a service auction this year could you please email me the name of the person in charge of the auction, share this message with them, or both. If you or they need more information I have attached a brief news release on our program.

Thanks,
Tom Wilson
(707-254-7443)
or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00p-9:15p Adidam Video & Discussion Grp.	10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Challice Circle 1:00p-2:30p Membership Committee	7:00p-9:00p Wed. Eve. Sm. Gr. Mtg. 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	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:45a-5:00p Clothes Drive-Last Day!	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Mtg.	7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	9:30a-Noon Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting		9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service		10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Challice Circle	7:00p-9:00p Wed. Eve. Sm. Grp. Min. 7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	9:00a-10:00a RECCY Meeting Noon-1:30p RUUMS Brown Bag Lunch	7:15p-9:15p Trance Work Study and Support Group	6:30p Dinners for Eight
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Noon-1:15p RESCHEDULED Social Action Team Meeting	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group					Newsletter Deadline
28						
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service			7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center			

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
15980 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, 95032
(408) 358-1212



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



Fellowship News

February 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. 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.