

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

January 2010 No.1; 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

January 2010

Sunday Services at 10:30

Jan. 3: Music and Ministry

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.

Jan. 10: *Picking Yourself Up*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Into every life a little rain must fall – and we can always hope it's only a little rain. All of us experience adversity; some of us seem to cope with it better than others. Learning to weather the storms of life is an opportunity for our spiritual growth and learning.

Jan. 17: *Some Are Still More Equal*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Forty years since the heyday of the Civil Rights movement, we've seen much change. And yet, some are still more equal than others. On this Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we'll explore the territory that lies ahead as people of faith and commitment to justice continue to work for equality.

Jan. 24: Healing Service

Karen Boulanger, Veronica Davis

Jan. 31: *A Life So Far*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Being an adult doesn't mean you stop changing, growing, or learning. Nor does reaching a "milestone birthday," whether it's 50, 60, 70, 80, or even 90! No matter our time of life, there's always the opportunity to discover something new, experience renewal, and rediscover our love of life. How do we keep our hearts, minds, and spirits open to life, no matter what our physical age?

Feb. 7: Come Grow With Us

Rev. Victoria Ingram

We kick off our annual budget drive campaign with a salute to growing as a faith community – in numbers, in spirit, in enthusiasm, and in love. For 60 years, UUFLG has made its mark on this community. Let's talk about how to keep the momentum going!

Minister's Column

January's arrived, bringing along with it a new year! I hope 2010 is filled with joy, love, and laughter for you and your family. We can all use a double helping of those delights in order to get through the occasional times we experience uncertainty, frustration, or doubt.

I'd like to thank you all for sharing your joy, love, and laughter with me and Carl. Here in this community, I'm reminded again and again of how important it is to have people in our lives with whom we can share ALL that life brings our way. As we've weathered our share of life's ups and downs, it's been a blessing to have a community in which we can be witnessed and embraced. Communities are good for that – good for those times when you need help, support, or a willing ear to listen.

But, communities are also good places to have fun! There's nothing quite as satisfying as sharing a good story with an eager audience. There's nothing quite as delicious as a hearty belly-laugh among friends. There's nothing quite as affirming as sharing in one another's triumphs, achievements, and good fortune.

Communities should be places where we work together AND we play together; where it's okay to cry, and even more okay to laugh. Communities should be places where we cheer when we get it right, and laugh at ourselves with understanding when we make a silly mistake. And, then we start over again in love.

January's often the time we make resolutions for things we'd like to improve as the new year unfolds. Whatever your personal resolutions, I'd like you to include a new resolve to find the laughter, joy, and love in your life and appreciate it every day. Every day, look for something that makes you smile and glad to be alive. Then, bring what you find to church, and share it with us, so we can all spend the year ahead smiling, too!

Love and light,
Victoria

Note: I will be out of the office from January 20 through 26. Carl and I will once again be in Pennsylvania, taking care of business related to his late mother's estate. I will be available via email (minister@uufllg.org) or cell phone (408.375.2173) during that time.

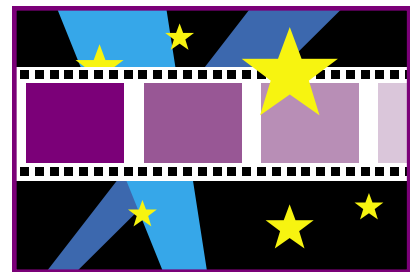
PG.2

Inspirational Film for January 2010

We're sorry - there will not be a film shown at the Ingram's in January. As it was in December and will be in January, Carl and Victoria will travel to Pennsylvania to attend to Carl's deceased mother's affairs.

When *The Bucket List* was released, many people said, "This is a perfect movie for the Inspirational Film Series." Also, Carl was asked if he was planning to reschedule it because the showing was canceled in December. By popular demand, *The Bucket List* is rescheduled for April 9, 2010.

Instead of going to the Ingram's in January, Carl is recommending *The Blind Side*. This movie is the sleeper of the year. The studio considered it a small film that would do modestly at the box office. However after the first week of release, instead of attendance declining, more and more people are going to see it. This is truly an inspirational and surprising success story film about extending compassion and applying your talents. It has been nominated for many awards and is expected to win big. Don't be turned away because football is one of the central elements. This movie is about so much more that cannot be put into words. Go see *The Blind Side* to brighten up your new year.



2010 Schedule – Inspirational Films

February 12

Philadelphia

March 12

The Secret of Roan Inish

April 9

The Bucket List - rescheduled

Sermons Online!

Several months ago, we began experimenting with recording Sunday sermons and posting them on the UUFLG website as MP3 audio files. It works great!

Now, you can experience a favorite sermon again, or hear a Sunday service you missed, by checking out our online resources! Go to www.uuflg.org, and check the pull-down menu under “Ministry.” You’ll see the bottom option is “Sermons.” If you click on that, it will take you to the archive of recorded and print sermon files available

Come Grow With Us!

The annual UUFLG budget drive arrives in February, a time when we all consider our pledge of financial commitment to the Fellowship for the next fiscal year. As members and friends of this faith community, our participation here includes the many ways we show up, not only with our treasure, but with our time and talent, as well. In our relationship with this congregation, we give and receive, sharing our lives together in support of our values, our beliefs, and our yearning to belong and be a part of something larger than ourselves.

And, don’t forget the potlucks, hikes, and coffee hour! There are lots of reasons to be a part of a faith community, and much that happens to make the aspects of the Fellowship we value a reality. It’s a part of our human nature to want to be involved, to want to give and to participate. We are drawn to the opportunity to work with others to realize our vision, to build our dream, and to share together in what we’ve created.

Generosity isn’t just about money – it’s a spiritual practice and a life point of view. Some of us in life have the need to get. More of us have the need to give, because it feels good and it’s good for the soul. Commitment, involvement, engagement – all ways in which we contribute to UUFLG; all ways that help us grow, not only as individuals, but as a faith community.

A Successful and Fun Fund Raiser

The Finance Committee has two major fund raising activities during the year, not counting the pledge drive. The first was the Holiday Boutique held on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6. The second will be the Annual Auction which is scheduled for April 24. The Boutique was highly successful. Many beautiful crafts and delicious food items made by our creative members were sold. We had a wonderful time at our festive soup supper Saturday evening.

The Finance Committee thanks the Thursday Evening Chalice Circle for organizing this event. See their picture below. Also, many thanks go to the many contributors and participants. The Holiday Boutique added \$1,920 to the Fellowship’s revenue.



Ryan & Jessica Spaulding, Karen Boulanger, Dorice Piraino, and Walt Main

(If you are interested in joining this Chalice Circle, please see any member)

Social Action

Social Action Team

The beginning of the year is a great time to focus on goals and renew your commitments. Social justice and action are at the core of being a UU. Our Social Action team is always working on projects to make our community and world a better place. We would love to have you join us! There are opportunities ranging from one-time activities, and longer term projects like our Sustainable Grounds project. We meet in the lounge on the second Sunday of each month from 12:00 to 1:15 to plan, prioritize, and organize. Everyone interested in social action work is welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please contact Connie Springer or Jessica Spaulding.

Share-the-Plate

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to our Share-the-Plate recipients. In 2009 we collected over \$2,000!

The Share-the-Plate recipient for January is Sacred Heart Community Service, a multi-faceted organization working to change lives and impact poverty by providing essential services and offering tools for self-sufficiency. UUFLG worked with Sacred Heart last summer, collecting 283 items and providing 13 volunteers to assemble Survival Sacks for the homeless. We look forward to participating in addition volunteer opportunities with this remarkable local organization. For more information about Sacred Heart, please visit their website at <http://www.shcstheheart.org>

Usually our Share-the-Plate collection brings in under \$300 per month. As we are donating to smaller organizations with smaller budgets, these donations really help. On average Sundays we collect about \$50 of non-pledge donations. Share-the-Plate really inspires our community to be generous, and does not have much of an effect on our general fund.

Guest at Your Table

In December rather than choose a Share-the-Plate recipient, we participated in the Guest at Your Table program helping UUSC promote and defend human rights around the world. The collection results will be provided in next month's newsletter.



Upcoming Events

New Years is a great time to clean your closet, but please hang on to any coats and clothes you would like to donate! This spring we will be holding a clothing drive collecting for Sacred Heart Community Service.

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

(Almost) Everything You Need To Know About Your Child's Development and Tools To Help You Navigate It: A Positive Discipline Workshop For Parents of Pre-schoolers.

Do you wonder WHY your child does what s/he does? Ever ask yourself, "Is this normal?". And if the behavior is developmentally appropriate, but not necessarily desirable, how can you cope with it while treating your child with dignity and respect? This workshop will answer those questions in a fun and interactive format. Participants will understand effective ways to respond to everyday AND more challenging behaviors, using encouragement, kindness, and firmness.

- **Saturday January 30, 2010**
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Location:** Fellowship, West Room
- **Fee:** Free for UUFLG folks; otherwise, \$50 per person/\$80 per couple
- **To Register:** email Linda at linda@taketimefortrainiing.com or call 408-370-1516

Facilitators: Linda Krenicky, Credentialed Parent Educator, and Moira Sullivan, MS, OTR/L Occupational Therapist, Specializing in Pediatrics

Linda has facilitated adult learning for more than 25 years, both in the corporate and non-profit worlds. She is a lifelong learner who loves to share her knowledge and experience. Linda believes we learn from each other, and actively engages participants in her workshops and classes.

Moira believes that the keys to helping children lead happy, fulfilling lives is through connection to others, growth and learning, and empowering them to achieve their full potential. She has helped children with a variety of motor and sensory processing needs and has specialized training in a number of techniques including remediation of sensory processing dysfunction, DIR Floortime, vision rehabilitation, and myofascial release.

Religious Education

As we prepare to begin another year together, I am so proud that we continue to model a crucial lesson for our religious education students. Our holiday delivery to Second Harvest food bank topped off at a whopping 90 pounds – beating our previous record of 87. Thank you all!

Our students were also very proud when their homemade dog biscuits sold out at our recent holiday boutique. The rest of the biscuit were a gift to the Animal Care Center of San Jose.

We hope to see you at our next potluck for all ages, coming up on Saturday, January 23rd. This is such a wonderful opportunity for members and friends of the congregation to get to know one another better, in a relaxed and fun setting. As much as we all love Sunday mornings, we know what a whirlwind they can be!

With Love,
Tamara

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.

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

January 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.