

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

January 2012 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 2012

Sunday Services at 10:30

Jan. 8 - "Stepping Into the Future"

Rev. Lisa A. Wiggins

Does being a Unitarian Universalist affect how we individually and as a group anticipate and deal with the future?

Jan. 15 - Rev. Chris Schriener

"Starting Fresh: The Art of Beginning Again"

As we move into a new year, how would we like to change our lives for the better, and how can we do that? Today Chris will share several practical ideas about making new beginnings.

Jan. 22 - "Gung Hei Fat Choi!" or "From Self-Preservation to Abundance"

Rev. Lisa A. Wiggins

At this time of the Chinese New Year, we will recount the story of Nian, the legendary invisible ferocious dragon and how the human ingenuity can overcome human-eating beasts of old into supporting our desires for prosperity. The service will include the dance of the dragon (without the fireworks!)

Jan. 29 - "Every Little Bit Counts"

Kathryn L. Wood

Political Science Professor - SJSU

All too often one hears, "I'm just one person, what can I do?". This sermon will look at the nature of the One and of the Collective Whole. Concepts such as the Free Rider and the Tragedy of the Commons will be explored along with the notion that as Unitarian-Universalists we are a community of individuals.

Feb. 5 - "Character of the Pilgrim"

Rev. Lisa A. Wiggins

To be a pilgrim of life means living in a state of maximum tension wherein one who seeks willingly lets oneself being acted upon by the new while at the same time seeking certainty and familiarity of that which is known. This tension creates a seeker of bold adventure and one who constantly is in touch with his or her source.

Other Activities:

Friday, January 20, 6:30 PM

"From the Land of our Unitarian Ancestors: Transylvania": A Dinner Slideshow

Rev. Lisa will show slides of her recent trip to Transylvania to help dedicate the newest Unitarian church in Szovata, Romania. She also toured the rural countryside where Unitarian church spires frequently rise from villages which still remember the 1568 Edict of Torda through which the Unitarian King of the region guaranteed religious freedom for all his land. Romanian goulash and hearty bread will also be served. Please RSVP to Rev. Lisa @ minister@uufg.org. (Please call or email the Caring Committee if you need a ride.)



Ministerial Musings: "Stepping into the Future"

Although I have always had a sense of beginnings in September when the new church year begins, I find myself feelings that we are beginning again, after having finished our first quarter together. I am still excited and want more than ever to step into the future of this fellowship. The warmth and commitment of this congregation is something very special and these qualities are still revealing themselves with each successive week that I am with you. Just yesterday we realized that the amount of food we are donating for this holiday season to Second Harvest exceeds half a ton! Quoting Connie Springer, this is "awesome generosity" for our small, yet vibrant fellowship. Thank you for sharing yourselves and working toward the renewed presence and mission of this fellowship. These are growing times of abundance for all of us.

In conjunction with the Sunday Programs Committee I am going to structure my twice monthly services around the theme of "Stepping into the Future," with a monthly sub-theme. I am also working with Rev. Chris Schriener who is excited about collaborating in this way. So during the next six months, you will see several "series" which build or complement with each other as we weave different aspects together in a cohesive whole. We will also have some services which are outside this structure as we respond to current events or other happenings or presentations within and from our community of greater Los Gatos. We want to stay flexible and consistent at the same time. If you would like to work with us on any particular service, or have something that you think would fit into this structure, please let us know. Come join in this exciting component of UUFLG's ministry team. We need you to help offer meaningful, caring, and celebratory thought and guidance on our spiritual journeys as we build for the common good.

January: Beginnings

February: The Character of the Pilgrim

March: Reckless Abandon and Sense of Play

April: Gathering Sustaining Values for the Search

May: Overcoming Fears

June: Loving the Unfinished, the Questions

May I end this year which slides into the next year with one of my favorite quotes:

"We shall not cease from exploration
and at the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
and know that place for the first time." (T.S. Eliot)

Rev. Chris Schriener,

who is part of the preaching team at UUFLG, is now blogging about themes related to his book, Bridging the God Gap.

Check out Theists & Atheists:
Communication and Common Ground,
<http://theistsandatheists.wordpress.com>.

Inquiring minds will be pleased!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

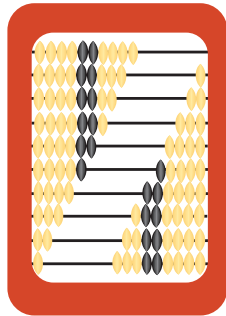
- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Jan. 3 | Alan Chacon |
| 9 | Justin Coughlan |
| 10 | Aerin Schnall |
| 22 | Coralee Linton |
| 26 | Irving Yabroff |



UUFLG Board Meeting Notes

The following are items of general interest from recent UUFLG Board of Trustees' meetings.

- After review of sparse membership input the Board approved addition of a partial payment of UUA and PCD contributions to the UUFLG FY 2011-2012 budget.
- The Board approved use of Building and Grounds reserve funds for upgrade of the wireless lapel microphones used in the sanctuary. One has been installed and a second is planned.
- A Board work-group was formed to develop a list of probable capital expenditures which will need to be funded by Building and Grounds reserves.
- Share the Plate in October and November collected \$175 for ACT for Mental Health and \$571 for the Minister's discretionary fund.
- The 2012 UUFLG Business meeting was scheduled for May 20, 2012.



Under the Abacus

Notes from the UUFLG Finance Committee

- There have been minor adjustments in anticipated income and expenses but the financial projections for the end of the current fiscal year show a balanced budget.
- Planning for FY 2012 pledge drive has started. JJ Martin has agreed to coordinate the drive.
- An UUFLG financial audit is planned for this fiscal year. The audit will be conducted by selected UUFLG members in accordance with the Policy-Procedure document available on the UUFLG web-site. Yvonne Liu will supervise the audit for the Finance committee but not participate directly in the audit.



Dinner for 8 – January 21st

What better way to welcome 2012 than with a dinner with friends! Ring in the New Year by hosting or attending the first Dinner for 8 in 2012.

Mark your calendar and respond to the Announcement invitation when it arrives in your inbox in early January! This is normally an adult's only event, yet if you have a child friendly house, be sure to let me know if other children would be welcome.

Everyone in the Fellowship is invited – friends and members! It's not necessary to have to host a dinner to attend, so don't let a small home/condo keep you from enjoying the company of UUFLG'ers! Newcomers are always welcome, so if you have not signed up, please do! This is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow UUs. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer. Please remember that signing up is not an assumed "yes" to attend. Remember, all those signed up will receive an invitation and an email will be sent out under Announcements to the rest of the Fellowship reminding you of this fun event. Please be sure to respond yes or no to me by Tuesday, January 11 as time is needed to coordinate the guests and hosts.

Bonnie George, Membership Committee Chair
Bonnie.E.George@comcast.net
408.221.6606

Social Action

ALL FAITHS HOUSE PROJECT

We are excited to be taking part, through the Los Gatos Alliance, in the building of the All Faiths House, one of four 'green' homes being built in Cupertino by Habitat for Humanity. All Faiths House is an opportunity to foster interfaith relations while providing housing for a family in need.

Our first scheduled work day is Saturday, February 4 when we will be working with Holy Cross Lutheran. We have a total of ten volunteer slots available: 5 construction volunteers and 5 support volunteers.

Construction volunteers need no previous construction experience, must be 16 years of age or more and will work on site approximately 7 hours. Tasks vary depending on the stage of construction. Tasks are available for all skill levels.

Support volunteers will help prepare and serve a meal, either a mini breakfast or a lunch, for approximately 35 people and will be on site about 2 hours.

Sign-ups for this exciting project begin Sunday January 8. Stay tuned for more details.



Holiday Food Drive

Last year the holiday food drive, facilitated by the Social Action Team, collected food and cash donations that amounted to a total of 436.5 pounds of food. That is a great success, but this year we were able to do even more to help hungry people in our community. Social Action set a goal of collecting food and monetary donations totaling 500 lbs. (Second Harvest can convert each \$1 donated into about 1.3 lbs. of food). This year our congregation generously donated 214 lbs. of food and an astonishing \$803 for a total of 1,257.3 lbs. of food! That is over half a ton of food to help our neighbors in need! Thank you for your generosity in putting our UU principles into practice!

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

Clothing Drive

The Social Action Team will be kicking off a clothing drive to support Sacred Heart Community Service from January the 15th through the 29th. SHCS is dedicated to bringing the local community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley by providing food, clothing, and emergency financial assistance to those in need. Gracie's Clothes Closet is a store where registered customers can shop free of charge twice a month. About 300 local families utilize the Clothes Closet every day and receive much needed items including high quality clothing, bedding, and shoes. This program depends upon the generous donations that Sacred Heart receives from caring individuals and groups such as UUFLG. Please join us in making a difference in the lives of local families in need.

There are two ways that you can help:

1. Donate clothing - All clothing, new or gently used, is accepted at Sacred Heart. New socks and underwear are always needed. Professional clothing and warm winter coats are also appreciated.
2. Make a financial contribution. Please write 'clothing drive' on the memo line of your check

Please place your donations in the boxes in the Fellowship foyer by noon on January the 29th. For any questions or additional information, contact Ellen Hill or Sue Stretch. Thank you for your support!



Share-the-Plate

Our January 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.

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.

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
JANUARY 1, 2012	2	3	4	5	6	7
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	12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	9:00a-4:00p_Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 10:00a-12:00p Finance Comm. Mtg.	9:00a-4:00p_Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours
8 10:30 -11:30a_Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime	9 7:30p -9:30p Great Books Discussion: Selected poems by Lisel Mueller	10 7:00 -9:00p Sunday Programs Committee	11 7:30-9:30p UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	12 9:45a -12:00p Thurs. Morning Women's Grp. 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	13	14
15 10:30 -11:30a_Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 12:00-1:15p, Social Action Team Meeting	16	17 10:00-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir.	18 Hrs7:30-9:30p UUFLG Choir Rehearsal	19 12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 7p -8:30p UUFLG Board Mtg. 7:30 -9:00p - Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	20 9:00a - 4:00p_Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. by appointment 6:30p -8:30p_Rev. Lisa Transylvania Slide Show/Dinner	21 9:00a - 4:00p_Rev. Lisa Offc. Hrs. by appointment 10:00a-12:00p_ Bldg. & Grnds Work party 6:30p, Dinners for Eight
22 10:30 -11:30a_Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime	23 5:00p -7:00p Women's Spirituality Group	24	25 7:30-9:00p Choir Rehearsal	26 7:30 -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	27	28 5:00-8:00 - All Ages Potluck
29	30	31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4
10:30 -11:30a_Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime			11a-12:30p Membership Committee Mtg 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-4:00p_Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 10:00a-12:00p Finance Comm. Mtg.	9:00a-4:00p_Rev. Lisa Offc. Hours 8:30a -5:00p - Habitat for Humanity - All Faiths House

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

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



Fellowship News

January 2012

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.