

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

July 2008 No.7; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

July 2008

Sunday Services at 10:30

July 6

'Tis a Gift to be Free

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Stuff, clutter, complexity, and over-scheduling! Email, junk mail, papers, and packages. Sound familiar? A favorite Shaker hymn reminds us that "'tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free." We'll focus on the joys, and responsibilities, of engaging in simplicity as a practice for creating freedom in our lives.

July 13

Life Lessons: Humor

Rev. Victoria Ingram

A Unitarian, an Episcopalian, and a Jew walk into a bar...

If you've been a UU for awhile, you've probably heard them all! In this service, we'll take a look at the lighter side of being a Unitarian Universalist and how humor makes life just a little bit easier to live. Bring your favorite UU joke to share!

July 20

Healing Service

Do you need a healing retreat? Two healers from the UUFLG community will lead the congregation through a healing experience.

July 27

Let Justice Roll Down like Water

This summer the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry hosts a tour from Shasta Dam to the dairies of Tulare County to learn about water issues in California. Rev. Sonya Sukalski will be a chaplain on this trip in early August, and will explore some of the theology that has guided water planning and use in the past. Water issues will define the next century in the West - how can UUs live our commitment to justice, equity and compassion on the topic? Sonya Sukalski is a 2007 graduate of Starr King, and has just finished a ministry at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose during Rev. Geoff Rimositis' sabbatical. She grew up exploring the mountains and mesas of New Mexico and enjoys being in nature. She has a passion for youth, young adult, and adult education, as well as the study of linguistics and theology.

Minister's Column

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and our Fellowship "village" has joyfully dedicated a number of children this spring, welcoming them into the fold of our Unitarian Universalist family. Not only do I love marking this milestone with the children and their families, I treasure our commitment and re-commitment as a community to the growth and development of our children when, at the end of the dedication ceremony, we covenant to be a part of their lives and welcome them into the congregation.

On July 6th, we will again dedicate children during our Sunday worship service. I'm looking forward to giving our love, and roses, to Hadrian, Alex, Sophie and Willow.

Not only our children need a village in which to grow and thrive. Each of us finds something special in our Fellowship – friendship, comfort, ritual, music, spiritual support, intellectual stimulation – that enhances our life's journey. And, as part of the community, each of us has talents and gifts to share with one another. I want you to know how grateful I am for the love and dedication you show to the beloved UUFLG "village."

There are those who serve on the Board or lead one of our administrative or service committees. In our form of governance, where the congregation takes the lead in charting its own course, those who step into leadership take on important responsibilities. All of us benefit from the attention they give to our systems and processes, maintaining the building and grounds, making sure that the bills get paid and obligations are met, and keeping us on track to achieve our goals. I know we all appreciate what they do.

Thank you.

Some of you provide service to the Fellowship by being worship associates, volunteers in our religious education classes, greeters and assistants making sure we have coffee and snacks after Sunday services. Others serve on the Caring Committee, which provides a loving connection to our congregation in time of need. There are the folks who tackle projects around the building and in the garden, trimming and tidying and keeping things running and looking good. Others of you volunteer for a project or activity, here and there, as your schedule and other obligations allow. Many of you say "Sure I can!" when asked to take something on at the last minute. It's

all good. Thank you.

Our committed Social Action group has kept our awareness on the bigger picture by leading our global warming challenges this year. They've been responsible for helping us impact the community through our Share the Plate monthly offerings. They've been active in the community, too. Each of you makes a difference. Thank you.

There are those who organize and participate in RUMS, the Thursday Morning Women's Group, Stitch-N-Bitch, the Women's Spirituality Group, and our on-going Chalice Circles. You host and attend Dinners for Eight. Connecting with each other and making time for life in community keeps our village alive and vital. You help make us all welcome here. Thank you.

Our support staff is so valuable to this community. Dorice, Michelle, Kari, Melinda, Nicki, Tamara, Caroline, Carol, and Dave put heart and soul and talent into their work with the Fellowship. They, too, are a part of our congregational family, and their contributions add much to our life together at UUFLG. Thank you.

Thank you to you all, for without YOU there would be no UUFLG. I love being a part of this community and feel so honored to be included in the community of caring, committed people who call this Fellowship their religious home.

Love and light,
Victoria

NOTE: Victoria will be on vacation from July 14 through August 13. She will be available during that time for pastoral emergencies at 408.375.2173.

Religious Education

I am so happy to announce the addition of Melinda Graff as the newest teacher to join our preschool staff. Melinda is an experienced educator filled with enthusiasm, and she is already an enormous asset to our program, and a big help to me!

I would also like to thank Moira Sullivan for her many contributions to the preschool program. In addition to the donation of a wonderful rocking chair, Moira will be helping to facilitate our East room makeover. Look for many changes coming soon. As an occupational therapist working with children, Moira also has valuable insights that add to our program as well.

As we head full into summer, I invite parents and anyone else interested in volunteering to guest host one of our classes. My intention is to take on Sunday a month to visit other area RE programs, and I need the help of our community to make that happen. Our theme this summer is science in relation to our principles, but anyone is welcome to contribute with a topic of interest. I know there are a lot of talented and knowledgeable people in our community, so share your gifts with our children!

In Fellowship, Tamara

Sanctuary Lighting

The Sanctuary seems a little brighter these days – and it is – and more efficient too. We recently had an electrical problem with some of the Sanctuary lights and, through a recommendation by Jerry Linton, obtained the services of an electrician to help sort them out. After investigation, the electrician recommended that we replace all the ceiling fixtures and wiring for both safety and efficiency – and offered a generously low price for the work.

The old ceiling fixtures appear to be original with the building and many of them were no longer working properly. The new fixtures and lamps are high efficiency, daylight spectrum. Measurements before and after replacement indicate that the new lights are using less than half the power of the old ones and only about 2/3 of the old ones were actually putting out any light.

Cost of the repairs was drawn from the Fellowship Building and Grounds reserve, set aside for just such

unforeseen and un-budgeted needs. The reserve is funded as monies are available from pledges and other contributions. Similar repairs may be needed to the lights in the hall and Office/Lounge.

The electrician, George Radulescu, is originally from Romania and has many interesting stories. He did an excellent job for us. If you are in need of electrical work, he can be reached at (408) 849-1099.

Hold The Date For October Retreat

The First Unitarian Church of San Jose has invited interested friends & members of the UUFLG to join them for their annual retreat October 3-5 at the Monte Toyon camp and conference center in Aptos. <http://www.uccr.org/monte.htm>

The group will reside in the Cary Lodge - a beautiful two-story building, offers overnight accommodations in 16 four-person rooms and 3 two-person rooms, serving a total of 70 guests.

The full agenda has not yet been finalized, but will include an informal reception Friday evening to introduce everyone followed by games and music. Saturday will have several events including yoga sessions a hike and various discussion groups. After lunch there will be a large group session lead by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones called “Building the world we dream about” additional activities for kids and grownups as well as an evening campfire. Sunday will feature a full Sunday Service and we will pack up and leave after lunch.

UUFLG attendees are encouraged to participate in all events and even propose/lead discussion sessions or activities. The cost for the 2 nights and meals is \$165 for adults and \$100 for kids. \$40 for people who come just for the day and just have lunch, another \$12 if they stay for dinner.

This is a great opportunity to reach out and meet other UUs in the south bay area who share similar values and interests. Please contact John Omvik by email omvik@mac.com or call 831-332-6429 if you are interested and plan on attending.

Social Action Committee

UUFLG Committee Revitalization

What the Committee Does

We strive to put our UU principles into action through service, education and advocacy.

We promote and support activities that empower us to shape safe, sustainable communities within our Fellowship, our cities, our country and worldwide.

We meet in the sanctuary on the second Sunday of each month from 12:15 to 1:30 to plan, prioritize, and organize. Everyone interested in social action work is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Committee

Connie Springer and Jessica Spaulding are this year's Co-Chairs and Jim Beebe is the Trustee. Kate Taylor serves as UULM Global Warming & Water Justice task force member and Betty Feldheim is the Silicon Valley Interfaith Council liaison. In the previous year Walt Main was our Share-the-Plate Champion and Sue Fera Co-Chaired. Other committee members include: Edy Young, Barbara Kalmoutis, Nan Bixler, Paul Yeadon, Ryan Spaulding and Charlie Walton. On occasion other Fellowship friends and members attend our meetings.

When & Where

The second Sunday of each month either in the Sanctuary or on the deck, 12:15 – 1:30

Recent Accomplishments

For an overview of the Social Action Committee's accomplishments over the past year, please refer to the UUFLG website:

http://www.uuflg.org/committee_rpt_2008.html#sjcomm

Most recently in our first undivided Share-the-Plate, the congregation donated \$346 to Friends Outside.

Mini Farmers' Market

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Mini Farmers' Market event! Paul Yeadon, Kate Taylor, Connie Springer, Walt Main, Jim Beebe, Sue Fera, Ryan Spaulding, Jessica, Spaulding, Carra Vaughan-Irwin, everyone who brought produce, and all who attended the event. For more information on how buying local produce is beneficial to our communities and us, please see our handouts on the Fellowship bulletin board.

For further exploration of this topic, please visit these wonderful websites:

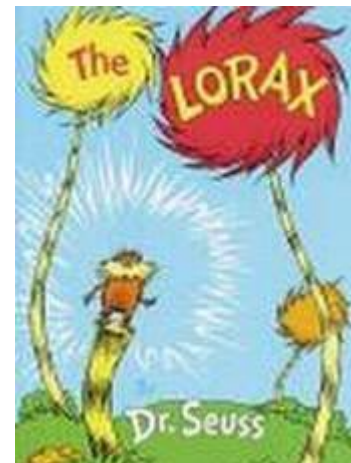
http://attra.ncat.org/farm_energy/food_miles.html

<http://www.nrdc.org/health/effects/camiles/contents.asp>

http://www.sectionz.info/ISSUE_3/content_1.html

Potluck – The Story of Stuff and The Lorax

Please join us on July 27th from 12:00 – 2:30 for a potluck lunch. Bring something to share, and enjoy a thought provoking short film, The Story of Stuff. Come learn about the product life cycle, planned obsolescence and why we feel the need to buy so darned much stuff! For younger viewers we will also be showing Dr. Seuss' classic The Lorax. The Lorax gives children perspective on "need" and the overuse of resources to make "things."



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



Chatter from the Deck!

A great **BIG THANK YOU** to Paul Yeadon who gave us a very creative presentation on Father's Day. Remember that Paul asked if any of us would like to have a picture of us and our Dad in a presentation to the congregation. We searched around in our picture albums and found a picture of ourselves with our Dad. Paul had a unique way of showing each family right there on the screen. I felt a great joy when I saw my Dad on my left side and Grandpa on the right. We Kansas wheat farmers looked like we had just come from the wheat field. Thanks, Paul.

Vacations are here! Several of our greeters are on vacations, and IF you have always wanted to be a greeter/usher, we invite you to sign up with Edna Windes or Lou Yabroff. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hall.

Dinners for Eight continue to be interesting. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hall. Members, friends, and visitors are invited to participate. Please contact Edna Windes or Maggi Benson on or BEFORE JULY 1ST. Good food, interesting conversations, and a wonderful way to get better acquainted with folks in our congregation. Try it, you'll like it!

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.

The Morning Women's Group

will meet on Thursday July 10th at 9:45 a.m. in the West Room. Discussion will center around the article "This Present Paradise" pp 26 thru 32 in the Summer issue of UU World.

New officers were selected in June. They are Convener: Erma Browning, Devotional: Phyllis Foxcroft, Caller: Doris Boyd, Scribe: Ruth Webb, Education leader: Edie Young with Pauline Stonehill.

The group is open to all women of the Fellowship. Call Gracia Trevey, outgoing convener, for information. 395-9036.



Music and Poetry:

What a lovely combination! Our poetry and music service will be held Sunday, August 17, coordinated by Dave Coldren, Susanne Mulcahy, and Linda Krenicky. This is an audience-participation event. Bring out your poetry books and share your favorite with our community. Please call or email Linda Krenicky (lindakrenicky@comcast.net, 408-370-1516) with your selection. We'll make it a joyous day of song and reflection.

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	30	1 10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 2:00p -4: 00p UUFLG Memberships Committee Meeting	2 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class - Sanctuary. Duidzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	3 12:00p -1:00p RUMs on the deck	4 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	5 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting
6 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7	8 5:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee Mtg	9 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class - Sanctuary. Duidzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	10 9:45a -12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p -8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	11 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	12 9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting 10:00a -12:00p Second Saturday work party
13 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:15p -1:45p Social Action Committee	14 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	15 1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee Meeting	16 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class - Sanctuary. Duidzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	17 12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:15p RUMs on the Deck (2nd meeting of month) 7:00p -8:30p RECCY Meeting	18 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	19 6:30p Dinners for 8
20 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Newsletter Deadline	21	22 1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee Meeting	23 12:15p -2:15p Stitch & Bitch 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class - Sanctuary. Duidzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	24	25 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group	26
27 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 12:00p -2:30p Potluck & Films: "The Story of Stuff" and "The Lorax"	28 7:00p -9:00p Rental: Better Investing 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	29	30 7:30p -9:30p Rental: Meditation Class - Sanctuary. Duidzin Dragpa Buddhist Center	31	1	2 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting

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



Fellowship News

July 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.