

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

July 2010 No.7; 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

July 2010

Sunday Services at 10:30

July 4: Patriotic Song-Fest

We'll join together in a joyful celebration of song, national pride, and story-telling. This is an intergenerational service, with fun for all!

July 11: "10,000 Years of Light"

Joel Gilbertson-White

Multiple concurrent crises have been resident in this world since long before any of us were born. While things like earthquakes, hurricanes, asteroids and other acts of nature are beyond our control, the vast majority of the crises that exist in the world today can be traced to human causes. As Unitarian Universalists, we have other dreams that we want to bring into being. Come join us as we explore a vision of what is possible in an intentional world which celebrates universal peace and security every day.

Joel Gilbertson-White will be our minister for July 11, July 25 and August 1. He completed his intern ministry at First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco this June. Joel and his wife Stephanie moved four years ago from Madison, Wisconsin to Oakland to study at seminary in Berkeley.

July 18: *Children as Teachers and Healers*

Karen Boulanger

The Chalice Circle will provide an Intergenerational program.

July 25: "It's a Rorschach Test"

Joel Gilbertson-White

We live in a post modern world, in which much of what we experience is subjectively understood, based on our individual and communal experiences. The words we use to name experiences are tethered to concepts and other words, rather than to the "ultimate" reality or "truth" which is beyond any words we could use. In our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle, we specifically recognize that truth and meaning are complementary terms. Come join as we seek to broaden our perspectives on the world by unfolding our own assumptions and views, and by exploring the art of vicarious reflection.

August 1: "Atonement as Humanity's Present Purpose"

Joel Gilbertson-White

A portion of humanity has created for itself a world of comfort with a high quality of life. This process has come at a high cost to our planet and to many of its inhabitants. While it may be difficult to ascertain an ultimate purpose to human existence, it is clear that the progress humanity has made has taken us out of right relationship. This Sunday, we aim to declare a purpose capable of uniting the human will toward a common purpose--that of returning back to a balance with each other and with nature. Come join us, and bring a friend!

Dear UUFLG Members and Friends:

Thank you so much for the lovely send off party on June 13th. As always, the delicious food, lively company, and touching tributes reminded us of all that is good about this church community. We are very grateful for your generous gifts, as well! The money will help us make our Hamilton house a home, and the towel warmer will insure we have warm thoughts of you all winter long! While it is hard to leave UUFLG, we feel blessed with your good wishes, warm good byes, and loving hugs.

Our new address is 11 Millstream Court, Hamilton, Ontario L9C 6A5 Canada. We'll be keeping our California cell phones, so you can still reach us at 408.375.2173 (Victoria) and 408.375.8691 (Carl).

We will head east on July 10th. Thank you for embracing me as your minister and for making Carl a part of the community. We have been blessed to be with you and will carry you fondly in our thoughts and prayers

- With love and light, Victoria and Carl

Religious Education

I feel very fortunate that we at UUFLG continue our religious education program throughout the summer, when not everyone does. Not only that, but we look forward to so many fun new things this month. We are preparing to welcome a new teacher, as we also get ready to begin a new class for our children.

If you have a child in RE or are interested in volunteering in one of the classrooms, please attend Moira Sullivan's special class after service on Sunday, July 11th. If you are unable to attend that day, an additional session will be held the following week, at the same time, on July 18th.

Wishing you a great summer,
Tamara

News from the Finance Committee

We are at the beginning of a new fiscal year, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Our Annual Pledge Drive, which was completed in April, produced insufficient funds to safely support a full time minister. Just previous to this time, Rev. Victoria let us know of her plans to move to Canada. Thus the Finance Committee began to look at alternative budgets involving less than full time ministers. Two boundary budgets were presented: one for a half-time minister, and one for one or more Sunday only ministers. The congregation was asked, by both a survey and small group discussions, what their desires were for ministerial support. A strong majority wanted a half-time minister. That budget was approved at the May Business Meeting and a Candidate Minister Search Committee has been formed and is hard at work.

Our new budget envisions, in addition to a half-time minister, an additional teacher for the RE program, additional administrative support, additional speakers for the Sunday services not provided by the minister, and paying our full fair share of support to the UUA and the Pacific Central District, PCD, organizations of our denomination. We expect to achieve a surplus which will be used to pay down our outstanding loans held by five of our members. Paying down these loans will give us greater financial flexibility in the future.

As of the end of May, 2010, the projection for the current year ending June 30, 2010, shows a deficit of \$4,200, an increase from the \$2,100 projected at the beginning of the year. This deficit is less than 3% of expenses. We have an operating reserve of \$8,000 to cover that deficit for this year.

Thus our financial stability is solid for this new fiscal year and we will be able to give full support to our new minister and operational program.

Notes from the May 23, 2010 UUFLG Business Meeting

Twenty-five Members attended the meeting and an additional thirty-six submitted absentee ballots. Information on six agenda items had been distributed by mail to all Members prior to the Business Meeting. No additional items were introduced in the meeting. The six items and their disposition were as follows:

- Five Members were approved for UUFLG Board Trustee positions beginning July 1, 2010.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Trustee</u>
Secretary	- Jim Stahl
Treasurer	- Irving Yabroff
Membership Trustee	- Katie Stubstad
Lifespan Learning Trustee	- Moira Sullivan
Social Justice Trustee	- Walt Main

- Five Members were approved for the UUFLG Nominating Committee beginning July 1, 2010. They are Lynn O'Keefe, Lou Yabroff, Edna Windes, Jim Beebe and Jennifer Dadek
- After correction of a typographical error, the proposed amended Bylaws were approved.
- The UUFLG Board of Trustees was granted authority to recruit and hire a part time Consulting Minister.
- A budget for fiscal year 2011 was approved reflecting a half-time Consulting Minister.
- A resolution of thanks from the UUFLG to Rev. Victoria Ingram and Carl Ingram was approved.

Full minutes of the Business meeting are available on the UUFLG web site.

Board Notes

Notes of interest from the June 10, 2010 Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

- During May, there has been a decrease in projected income for the year of \$1,215 which increases the projected deficit for the year to \$4,206.
- Candidates for an additional RE teacher are being interviewed.
- The Social Action Team plans to participate in the Sacred Heart Pack-A-Back project for families that will need backpacks for their children.
- Plans for Sunday Services are complete for the rest of the summer.
- A minister exit interview between the UUFLG and the PCD Executive was held with several Board members and members of the Consulting Minister search team. When an updated Congregational Record is complete, a posting will be placed in the PCD Currents.
- Minutes of the 2010 Business Meeting are posted on the UUFLG web site.
- All Annual Committee reports are also posted on the UUFLG web site.
- A yearly performance evaluation for Victoria is in process.
- Updates to two UUFLG Policy-Procedures were discussed and deferred for further review.

Social Action

California Goes BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag)

It's time to get better at bringing your reusable shopping bags. On June 2, the state assembly approved AB 1998, which would ban plastic bags like the ones used in grocery and convenience stores, and require shoppers to either bring their own bag or purchase one. The bags the store has available have to either be reusable or made of paper that is at least 40% recycled. This goes even further than the ban in effect in San Francisco and the one set to begin next year in San Jose. Several other cities have passed or are considering their own bans. Next the bill goes to the state senate for approval. Gov. Schwarzenegger has pledged to sign the bill into law.

Each year, Californians use 19 million plastic shopping bags. That's 2 million barrels of oil that we use to bring the Cheerios from the car to the kitchen. As our culture transitions to greener energy sources, an extra 2 million barrels of oil per year can make the change much less difficult. We recycle only 5% of plastic grocery bags (we're doing well – worldwide it's more like 1%) and spend \$25 million a year collecting and burying them. These bags, nicknamed "urban tumbleweeds," often end up getting blown out to sea and become part of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a floating garbage dump that may be anywhere from the size of Texas to the size of the continental US. Studies are underway to get better measurements of its size and depth. Plastic bags that become marine debris kill 1 million seabirds and 100,000 other animals each year. Worldwide, 267 species have been killed or injured by discarded plastic grocery bags.

Grocery chains like Safeway and Whole Foods support the bill. It's much more cost effective for them not to have to provide free plastic bags to everyone. It is also much easier to have one uniform policy so that they do not have to worry about a patchwork of different regulations across various cities, and removes the competitive advantages of stores that are mainly located in cities with more lenient policies. The bill is also supported by Defenders of Wildlife, the National Resources Defense Council, the Surfrider Foundation, and environmental groups and agencies up and down the state.

AB 1998 has been referred to the Committee on Environmental Quality and is set for a hearing on June 28. For anyone inclined to weigh in on this, Joe Simitian of the 11th district (Campbell, Cupertino, parts of San Jose, several other cities in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz Counties) is the committee chair.

Pack-a-Back Project

The Sacred Heart Community Service annual Pack-a-Back program helps provide underprivileged children in our community with a great start to the school year by giving them backpacks filled with school supplies appropriate to their grade level. This year we are going to help! We will begin accepting donated materials soon. Watch for lists of needed materials. And we will be looking for volunteers to help sort materials and assemble packs Sunday August 1. Save the date and stay tuned for more information. See www.sacredheartcommunityservice.org for a short video about the project.

Share-the-Plate

We collected \$224.02 for Low Income Self-Help Center in June. Thank you for your generosity!

Our Share-the-Plate recipient for July is Integrative Touch for Kids, a national non-profit organization whose purpose is to enhance well being, minimize suffering and facilitate healing for children with chronic, acute and life limiting illness through a first of its kind healing retreat center for the children and their family members. Our own Karen Boulanger has volunteered at the retreat twice and will tell us more about the organization on Share-the-Plate Sunday.

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

Dinner for 8 will continue through the summer if there is enough interest! Dinners are the third Saturday of every month, hosted in members homes! This is a great way to get to know members of our Fellowship in a relaxed setting. Everyone participates by bringing a salad, dessert or appetizer and the menu is provided by the host. Please contact BonnieGeorge@comcast.net or 997-9894 if you are interested in participating! There is also a sign up in the foyer at the Fellowship.

UU Adult Labor Day Camp 2010

at Camp 2 of the Mendocino Woolands
from September 3-6, 2010

An Optional Day on your own September 2nd.
A weekend for Adults age 18 and up

After a long summer of entertaining kids, hectic travels, summer doldrums, heat exhaustion or simply in anticipation of the Fall, come join us in the grandeur of the glorious redwoods. Allow the crisp air and serene setting to refresh your spirit. Indulge yourself with adult conversations, solitude along the creek, or fellowship in the lodge. Your vitality will be restored with activities such as music, hiking, fireside chats, dancing, beading, round singing or other spontaneous fun with fellow campers. For more info and a registration flyer, contact: Bernadette Burns - drbearsong@aol.com

Games ~ Music ~ Dance ~ Hiking ~ Reading ~ Crafts
Hanging out with old friends and making new ones!
All this and a glorious setting too!

Who could ask for anything more?

UU Multi-generational weekend at Skylake Yosemite Camp, Sept 16-19

Next to Bass Lake, about 3 1/2 hours from Los Gatos. Delicious meals, no committee meetings or chores. Hike, swim, canoe, water ski, kayak, archery, read, snooze, play volleyball, basketball, tennis, ping pong, or tetherball, or do arts and crafts. One horseback ride is included with your registration (ages 5 and up). Water skiing and boat rides are available for an extra fee.

Email Jim Beebe (jebeebe1102@yahoo.com) for brochure with application.

Annual Pacific Central District Men's Retreat

Friday-Sunday, October 15-17, 2010

Come join UU men for a weekend of fun, kinship, workshops and more!

Location: Westminster Retreat Center, Alamo (near Walnut Creek).

Registration: www.pcd-uuu.org/ and click on link under "PCD Men's Retreat".

Contact: Gordon Smith pcdmensretreat@gmail.com or call 408-393-6182

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 August newsletter (only) are to be submitted (by the **20th** of the month) to **Paul Yeadon** at: paul_yeadon@yahoo.com . 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.



A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

This is too good! Our Honolulu congregation is organizing a very special fundraiser from September 22 to 29.

Church members will provide B&B-style accommodation in their homes, a full seven nights stay, for just \$840/couple (or only \$490/single).

Yup, that comes to \$120 a night for a couple, and \$70 a night for one. This is amazing.

Your hosts and new friends from the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu will also offer optional group activities to make your visit that much more special:

The annual Aloha Festival will be in progress, with its colorful parade, fascinating cultural events and more.!

Maybe you'll want to check out the 5 a.m. Honolulu Fish Auction, explore the Kapiolani College Farmers' Market, snorkel at Hanauma Bay, tour the historic sites of the Manoa Valley, hike to the Makapu'u Light House, tour the Bishop Museum with a feminist anthropologist, or visit an ancient Hawaiian temple site with its garden of native plants in Kailua.

Then, of course, there's the worship service on Sunday morning, followed by a spaghetti lunch prepared by the congregation's Youth Group!

There are several tempting options for accommodations. Choose from great views, close access to shops and nightlife, being near a beach or close to the zoo.

If all this leaves you hearing ukuleles and wanting to get your toes in the sand, take a look at their flyer for more information, and contact Carla Allison with any questions.

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As previously stated in this newsletter, please note:

Items for the August newsletter (only) are to be submitted (by the 20th of the month) to Paul Yeadon at: paul_yeadon@yahoo.com .

July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1		2
				Noon-1:30p RUUMs Lunch	7:00p-9:00p "First Friday" Piano Concert Series	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service		10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:00p-2:30p Membership Committee Meeting	7:15p-9:30p Dulzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	9:30a-Noon Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	7:30p-9:30p Wyrdr Wanderers	9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Noon-1:15p Social Action Team Meeting	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p-9:30p Great Books Discussion	6:00p-8:30p Rental: DHAT-West Room 7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Meeting-Lounge 7:15p-9:15p Thursday Night Chalice Circle-4 July	7:15p-9:30p Dulzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	Noon-1:30p RUUMs Lunch	Rental: Piano Recital Rehearsal	6:30p Dinners for Eight
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 1:00p-4:15p Rental: Piano Recital		10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	7:15p-9:30p Dulzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation		7:30p-9:30p Wyrdr Wanderers	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group		7:15p-9:30p Dulzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation			

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



Fellowship News

July 2010

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