

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

June 2009 No.6; 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

## June 2009

Sunday Services at 10:30

### June 7

#### *Idleness as a Spiritual Practice*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Summer approaches – longer days and warmer evenings, vacations and visits from family and friends. Perhaps our thoughts turn to those special moments when we can laze in the sun, lounge at the beach, or lob a tennis ball across the net. But, don't we have something we need to DO? In this service, we explore idleness as a spiritual discipline.

### June 14

#### *Juneteenth: Diversity in the UUA*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup>, is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. As we consider the continuing emergence of people of color in the US, we must also consider how to create an inclusive and welcoming Unitarian Universalism that reflects our commitment to diversity and mirrors the face of our larger community.

**Note:** Today we will dedicate Grayson Dadek, son of Joe and Jennifer Dadek.

### June 21

#### *Father's Day*

#### *Emerging From Silence*

*What silence has to teach us on our journeys through a noisy world*

Rev. Nina Kalmoutis

I am happy to be back in the pulpit at UUFLG and to offer this service as a bouquet of 'Thank Yous' to all the friends and mentors at the Fellowship who nurtured me through my high school years and to those, who forty years later, supported my intention to become a Unitarian Universalist minister.

### June 28 "Surprise Service"

### July 5

#### *Song of Peace*

Karen Melander-Magoon

This service is focused on songs and quotations as well as anecdotes from Martin Luther King, Kahlil Gibran, Jesus, Gandhi and others, woven together to describe the yearning and search to live in peace.

Dr. Karen Melander-Magoon found her way to Unitarian Universalism in 2004 through forum at First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Francisco. She felt a calling to its ministry both to be inspired and to hope to inspire others through openness and deep respect for all life, a responsibility to the amazing gifts of nature, as well as a spiritual awareness of our connectedness and a reverence for all around us. In her studies, writings and songs, she draws on all spiritual traditions---the multi-layered Sufi stories, the Christian, Hindu and Buddhist traditions, and the complexity of secular and spiritual values that allow us to reach out and connect with each other.

# Minister's Column

Remarkably, we recently passed the two year anniversary of your call of me as your minister. Our time together has been one of getting to know each other, as well as one of growing, experimenting, and learning to work together in service of the Fellowship. I continue to be honored to be your minister, warmed by your love and openness, and challenged (mostly in a GOOD way!) by the many opportunities we have as a faith community.

When I talk with you about what you love about UUFLG, I hear so much about the importance of your connections with one another. You've told me that you feel engaged in the life and work of this congregation when you feel that people care about you and when your need for connection and community are met by being embraced in the Fellowship. You also tell me you feel good about being here when you know you have something to contribute to the community.

As we launch into our third year together, I want to draw our Fellowship's focus to our larger mission as a faith community. To me, that means not only serving our internal congregational needs, but continuing to expand our engagement in the larger community and making sure we are a congregation that offers a supportive, embracing environment to those who want or need Unitarian Universalism to be their religious home, as well.

It may surprise you to know that new people do not come to UUFLG to join our committees! They come because they want to be a part of a community of practice that supports them spiritually. They want to find a place where they can feel like they belong, with other people of faith who share their values. Each new visitor, every new member who joins us causes changes in the shape and timbre of our congregation, as we expand to include them in our church family. And, that's a GOOD thing! Unitarian Universalists are all about being open, accepting, flexible, and adaptable.

Well, aren't we? Yes... but, sometimes it is tough to make changes. We like being comfortable. We take comfort in having things be as we expect them to be. We're happy spending time with the people we know. Unfortunately, the (supposed) security of sameness doesn't foster vibrancy, hopefulness, or welcoming, especially for new folks who are just checking us, and Unitarian Universalism, out for the first time.

You've worked as a congregation to make first time visitors feel welcome at the Fellowship. You do a good job, and that's something of which you can justifiably feel proud. There are many ways to grow a church. Numbers do matter. But, so do other things, like spiritual growth. Now, it's time for UUFLG to move to the next level as a faith community.

So here's my challenge to you. Try moving just a couple of baby-steps outside of your comfort zone. (Take big steps when you're ready!) Engage visitors and new folks by asking them what they are looking for in a faith community. Listen. Then, tell them about how being a part of UUFLG can help them on their spiritual journey by sharing with them how it supports yours. Introduce yourself to people you don't know. Talk more with people you don't know well. Invite them to be a part of this community by inviting them into your life, by sharing your love of this community and of Unitarian Universalism. Introduce them to others.

I look forward to continuing to grow, experiment, and learn as a community as we enter our third year together!

Love and Light,  
Victoria

**NOTE:** I will be away from UUFLG from June 19 through June 28, attending Minister's Days and General Assembly in Salt Lake City. I will have my cell phone, if you need to reach me. (408.375.2173) I'll return your call as quickly as possible.

I'll be back in the office on June 29 and 30. My summer vacation begins on July 1 and continues through July 28<sup>th</sup>. In case of emergencies, please use my cell phone number during this time.

## Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Worship service will include a blessing of animals – pets, animal companions, four-legged and flying friends. You are invited to bring your well-behaved animal friend to church that Sunday to participate with you. We ask that you keep your animal under control (by leash, crate, cage, or box.) Special snacks will be served for pet friends following the service.

# Los Gatos CARES!

This summer, Jews, Catholics, Ba'hai's, Mormons, Episcopalians, Unitarian Universalists, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Lutherans will work together to lend a hand to the community by assembling "Survival Sacks" through Sacred Heart Community Service, a non-profit serving the San Jose area since 1964.

Clergy from several local Los Gatos religious traditions (including Rev. Victoria) participate in the Los Gatos Interfaith Clergy association. We would like to expand our efforts to work together as an interfaith community in Los Gatos and find service projects that allow our congregations to join together in serving the needs of our neighbors with dignity, respect, and compassion, as our faith traditions call us to do.

During the month of June, to support this effort, UUFLG will collect donations of money and/or "survival essentials" to fill "Survival Sacks" for distribution to Sacred Heart customers who are currently homeless. Here's what we are collecting at UUFLG in June:

- New socks and underwear (larger adult sizes appreciated)
- Shampoo and conditioner (full-sized bottles)
- Soap (full-size bars) and washcloths
- Deodorant (full-size containers)
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Combs
- Toilet paper (individually wrapped rolls)

UUFLG volunteers will deliver donated supplies and assemble the sacks at Sacred Heart's location at 1381 S. First Street, San Jose during a 3 hour shift on Sunday, June 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Distribution of "Survival Sacks" to Sacred Heart customers happens on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and volunteers may participate on that day as well.

Sacred Heart Community Service serves San Jose on a mission "to ensure that every child and adult is free from poverty." Through a variety of programs, Sacred Heart currently serves over 10,000 families and individuals each month. Not surprisingly, demand for their services increased dramatically in the last few months as the economy of the Silicon Valley suffered.

Let's show that UUFLG cares by participating in this interfaith effort. Bring your donations to the basket in the foyer marked "Los Gatos Cares!"

# All Ages Potluck

Come to the Fellowship for dinner & conversation. A children's movie and art project will be provided.

Bring a dish to share, your own dinnerware and enjoy an evening out.

To RSVP, please contact Katie Stubstad at [katiep@pacbell.net](mailto:katiep@pacbell.net) or 377-1606.

Upcoming dates for the All Ages Potlucks are:

June 6th - *New Date*

July 25th

September 26th

October 24th



# LUNCH AND LAUGH

Or guffaw. Or chuckle. Or just smile:-)

The humor will be good for you, and so will the food.

Join us in the West Room at noon on Sunday, June 7th for lunch, then in the Sanctuary for a humor program with Carl Ingram as Master of Ceremonies. We will share jokes, accounts of amusing experiences we had or knew about from family or friends, comic strips or cartoons we have seen, funny bumper stickers, etc.

(For example, I read about a bumper sticker that says, "Jesus loves you, but I'm his favorite.")

No one is expected to be a stand-up comic. The humor can range from side-splitting to smile-causing. Just bring your funny bone and your appetite.

This is a fund-raising event for our Fellowship. Suggested lunch donation:

Adults \$5.00 - Children \$3.00.



## Religious Education

For those of you who have children or care for children, I have a question. Can you imagine any circumstance in which your child could do something so horrible, so unforgivable, that you would choose to cut them off, literally forever? Can you imagine ever inflicting upon them an eternal punishment?

I know I can't! It was in this context that we framed the concept of Universalism as we've discussed it with our Religious Education students this year. As we have explored stories from the Old and New Testaments ("parables," one six year old called them,) we have also taken the time to compare Unitarian Universalist beliefs with those taught in "mainstream" Christian Sunday Schools. Our children are reminded every week that every person sitting around our table might come with a different perspective and/or belief, but every one is welcomed, and every one is valued.

It has been surprising to me how many of our children had never heard of Jesus and were unfamiliar with biblical concepts (although just as many were well versed.) It has been a professional goal of mine to help our students develop their cultural literacy, and I am proud of what they are learning this year. I hope their conversations with all of you are a reflection of that.

Looking ahead towards summer, we are eagerly anticipating the return of some hands-on science experiments, as we explore how understanding and respecting science ties in with our seven principles.

With Love and In Fellowship,  
Tamara

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

## Committee On Ministry

The mission of the Committee on Ministry is to track the heart beat of the congregation. How do we take care of one another? How is our called minister serving the congregation? Everyone has an opinion and hopefully you let us know on the member survey that was done, thanks to the long range planning committee. I hope you all know that Victoria's door is always open. You can make an appointment or just stop by. Thinking about the questions she posed in the last newsletter as to when to call on her were so appropriate. When we need an oil change we go to the garage, the expert. When our soul is hurting, when we are observing a major milestone, such as a marriage or a memorial, when we have a question about taking communion at a mass with a friend and we are no longer sure we believe in God, we need each other and the guidance and ear of a minister.

The Fellowship is growing and changing. We are becoming more outward looking. The Social Action Committee is moving ahead with lots of activities! The Auction Committee helped bring in needed funds. The Caring Committee learned from Rev. Barbara Meyers about mental health issues. Many folks attended Adult RE classes. A group of members attended District Assembly. We gave generously to the Midwives and the Share the Plate Sundays. Victoria will attend General Assembly and be more involved in the Pacific Central District Chalice Lighters and Growth Committee.

For sure there are areas for growth. Involving more folks and youth in preparing and presenting worship. Growing the endowment. Providing rides for Sunday morning services. Taking care of our building and grounds. Teaching an RE class.

What are your passions? We encourage you to jump in!

Jo Cooley, Sabine Omvik, Julie Doyle

## Social Action

### National River Clean-up Day – Oak Meadow Park

On Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> we had eight volunteers from UUFLG participate in National River Clean-up Day. We worked hard, and we had a lot of fun! Thank you to our volunteers for making this event a success!



## E-Waste Disposal

California's Electronic Recycling Act enacted legislation that made it illegal to dispose of any device with a circuit board into the garbage. Items can be properly disposed of by calling (408) 299-7300

or visiting:

<http://hhw-appts.co.santaclara.ca.us/HHWEvent/EditContact.aspx> to make an E-waste disposal appointment.

E-waste drop-offs will also be held on the first Saturday of the month:

June 6, 2009 8:00am to 2:00pm 1555 Berger Dr., San Jose, CA 95112

July 11, 2009 8:00am to 2:00pm 68 N. Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95050



## Second Harvest Food Basket

Hunger is a year-round issue facing many people in our community. Second Harvest Food Bank is seeing increasing need as the poor economy is forcing more people, many for the first time, to seek food assistance (<http://www.secondharvestfood.org/contact/press.php>).

We will be collecting food on an ongoing basis. The donation basket will be brought to the front of the Sanctuary during the Offering. On Sundays please bring non-perishable food items to share with our neighbors in need.

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**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# UUFLG Finance Committee 2008-09 Annual Report

Fiscal 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) has been a challenging year for our Fellowship and many of its members. What was thought to be a conservative budgeted income for this year when it was passed last May, fell \$15,000 short by December, due to the pressures the declining economy was exerting on member incomes and hence their ability to maintain the level of support that was so reasonably forecast in May. It was this income shortfall which caused the Finance Committee to launch the Budget Builder Drive in January to fill that \$15,000 hole (our tightly controlled expenses played no role in this). The enthusiastic member response accomplished that job in short order. We were thus able to avoid any draconian program cuts that this shortfall could have caused. This success, coupled with record-breaking \$9000 profit from this year's wonderful May Auction, now enables us to project that we are likely to end fiscal 2009 within budget or possibly with a small surplus!

Having dealt with the shortfall in the 2009 budget, our committee turned its attention to the fiscal 2010 pledge drive. We were naturally concerned about running a drive immediately after the Budget Builder, but decided to push ahead, using the person to person stewardship approach we had chosen in November. Normally it takes several months to organize such a campaign and train teams of members to serve as Visiting Stewards – those who volunteer to make the personal calls. We had only a month to do this, and after 18 members had volunteered, Victoria ran the training sessions.

Visiting Stewards were limited to soliciting a maximum of four members and had but three weeks to conduct their personal calls. They were instructed to spend most of the call eliciting what members appreciated about the fellowship and what suggestions they had for any improvements. There was to be no pressure and the amount of any pledge was to be decided by the members themselves. Those not contacted this way were mailed a solicitation and a pledge card, then followed up by phone if necessary. The Visiting Steward approach seems to have been widely appreciated by our members, many of whom have commented favorably about it. The proof of the pudding was that over half our members increased their pledges from what they gave last year.



Despite that unusually high percentage of pledge increases in the fiscal 2010 drive, they were not sufficient to offset significant declines among some who could no longer continue making the very generous pledges they had been making previously. This resulted in a fiscal 2010 pledge total of \$117,000. With the goal in mind of preserving our core programs of ministry, music and Pre K through 8 RE the Finance Committee and Board were able to combine a careful prioritizing of expenses and use of available operating reserves to put together a budget to carry us through fiscal 2010.

This report would be incomplete without noting that we all owe Ann Campbell a very special thanks not only for her leadership as our President, but also for organizing the Visiting Stewards operation and for organizing and leading this year's Annual Auction.

Finally, I wish to thank Finance Committee members Irving Yabroff, Ann Campbell, Walt Main, Jim Stahl and Bill Meeker without whose judgment, support and advice I would not have been able to do my job. Earlier this year I informed Ann and the Nominating Committee that my time will not permit me to remain Treasurer this next year, and they have wisely chosen Irving to take my place. The job will be in good hands.

Merritt Benson, Treasurer

# JUNE 2009

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|   | 1   | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5  | 6   |
|   |   | 10:00a -12:00p<br>Tuesday Chalice Circle<br>1:30p -3:00p<br>Membership Committee | 7:00p -9:00p<br>Wednesday Chalice Circle<br>7:30p -9:30p<br>Meditation Class.<br>Duldzin Dragpa<br>Buddhist Center | 8:30a-10:30a LG<br>Clergy Meeting<br>12:00p -1:30p<br>RUMs on the deck<br>or west room  |  | 9:00a -12:00p<br>Worship Associates Meeting<br>5:00p-8:00p All Ages<br>Potluck  |
| 7   | 8   | 9  | 10   | 11  | 12   | 13  |
| 10:30a-11:30a<br>Sunday Service<br>Noon-2:00 Humor<br>Lunch   | 7:15p-9:00p<br>Women's Spirituality Group<br>7:30p -9:30p<br>Great Books discussion group | 5:30p -6:30p<br>Committee on Ministry<br>7:00p -8:30p Finance<br>Committee Mtg   | 7:30p -9:30p<br>Meditation Class.<br>Duldzin Dragpa<br>Buddhist Center   | 9:45a -12:00p<br>Thursday Morning Women's Group<br>4:00p-12:00p<br>Family Camp at Bass Lake with Palo Alto UU.<br>7:00p -8:30p<br>UUFLG Board Meeting | 7:15p-9:15p Trance<br>Work Study and Support Group<br>Noon-11:45p Camp at Bass Lake Palo Alto UU | 9:30a -10:00a<br>Building and Grounds Meeting<br>10:00a-Noon<br>Saturday work party<br>Building & Grounds<br>Noon-11:45p Family<br>Camp at Palo Alto UU |
| 14  | 15  | 16   | 17   | 18  | 19   | 20  |
| 10:30a-11:30a<br>Sunday Service<br>Noon-1:30p<br>Social Action Committee<br>Noon-12:00a<br>Family Camp at Bass Lake with Palo Alto UU |   |  | 7:30p -9:30p<br>Meditation Class.<br>Duldzin Dragpa<br>Buddhist Center   | 12:00p -1:00p<br>RECCY Meeting<br>12:00p -2:00p<br>Caring Committee   |  | 6:30p Dinners for 8<br>Newsletter Deadline  |
| 21  | 22  | 23   | 24   | 25  | 26   | 27  |
| 10:30a -11:30a<br>Sunday Service:   | 7:15p-9:00p<br>Women's Spirituality Group   |  | 7:30p -9:30p<br>Meditation Class.<br>Duldzin Dragpa<br>Buddhist Center   |   | 7:15p-9:15p Trance<br>Work Study and Support Group   | 9:00a -4:00p Small<br>Congregation Workshop (Stockton)<br>4:30p -7:30p All Ages<br>Potluck<br>8p Women In<br>Comedy for Moms<br>July 4                  |
| 28  | 29  | 30   | July 1   | July 2  | July 3   |   |
| 10:30a -11:30a<br>Sunday Service:   |   | 1:30p-2:30p Long<br>Range Planning Committee                                     | 7:00p -9:00p<br>Wednesday Chalice Circle<br>7:30p -9:30p<br>Meditation Class.<br>Duldzin Dragpa<br>Buddhist Center | 12:00p -1:30p<br>RUMs on the deck<br>or west room   |  | 9:00a -12:00p<br>Worship Associates Meeting   |

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**  
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person”*



**Fellowship News**

**June 2009**

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](http://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.