

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

June 2010 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 2010

Sunday Services at 10:30

June 6: *The Seven Deadly Sins*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

UUs don't talk about "sin" often. Yet, there are behavioral choices and immoral acts that many of us would agree are not a part of our values or what we'd describe as ideals for life. Traditionally, wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony are on the sin list. How do UUs stack up? And, is there anything else we might include on our list?

June 13: *Changes in Latitude*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

On my last Sunday with UUFLG, I want to talk about the ways in which good endings help create good beginnings. New opportunities await this congregation, and me, as we say "goodbye" and move into the future. I'd like to share with you what our time together has meant to me, some of what I've learned along the way, and how I've seen UUFLG grow as a community.

June 20: *Farewell to My Father*

Rev. Chris Schriener

Today Rev. Chris Schriener will share a Father's Day memoir about an "ordinarily extraordinary" human being, Dale Dudley Schriener. Chris will look back on his relationship with Dale, from estrangement to reconciliation, and then to the time of parting. Chris is Minister Emeritus of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont. He was also a family therapist for 20 years, and he is the author of five books, including *Bridging the Great God Gap: Finding Common Ground Among Believers, Atheists and Agnostics*.

June 27: *May Your Pillow Catch Fire!*

Rev. Scott W. Alexander,

adapted, delivered by Linda Krenicky

This Sunday marks the inaugural use of material from "Make Your Own Sunday," a program available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship. This inspiring sermon explores human goodness.

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!



Minister's Column

I've been thinking a lot about my three years at UUFLG lately. Times of transition not only ask us to look forward, they give us the opportunity to look back and consider the moments and memories we've shared with others.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos will be a part of my story for the rest of my life - the congregation that offered me my first settlement, the Fellowship that acknowledged my call and ordained me into ministry, the people who opened their hearts and lives and invited me in as your minister. I'm grateful for those memories in ways that I'm not even sure I could describe in words.

Each story you shared with me, each hurt or success, has a special place in my heart. Each time you shared a smile, each time you participated and showed up and spoke out. Each child's drawing or hug. Each kind word. Every opinion or point of view or piece of feedback. All of these are woven together in my mind and heart, creating a tapestry of memory that I take with my on the next phase of my journey.

I hope you will remember that you are loved and capable. That your commitment to UUFLG and your passion for your community make you strong and resilient. I hope you keep in mind your mission to serve your community - both the congregation and the larger neighborhood - and you maintain an open and welcoming presence for all. I wish you happiness, success, and grace with one another.

As Carl and I pack our household and head north (and east), we take with us so many memories of our time in Los Gatos, of the love and embrace we've enjoyed at UUFLG, and a great fondness for you all. I encourage you to welcome and work with your new minister in a spirit of mutual concern, exploration, and growth as a faith community. Let him or her see your shining beauty and compassion, experience your love for UUFLG, and then work together to make manifest your dreams.

Blessings,
Victoria

Religious Education

"You cannot teach a person anything; you can only help him find it within himself."

This quote from Galileo has been on my mind recently as I reflect on the discussions we've had in our elementary classes. When we teachers hear the children respond to what they've learned about Unitarian Universalism, its meanings, its origins, and how important it is that we take responsibility to think for ourselves, we are inspired by their wit and humor. These children already come to us already full, knowing so much. What a privilege it is to share time with them and guide them as they explore who they are and what they would like to become.

I had great fun recently visiting the Sunnyvale Fellowship to see the RE program there. I got to visit with Nina as well as their DRE, Patty, who shared some of her own curriculum ideas for summer. Children familiar with the Harry Potter books and movies will love what we have in store for the sunny months ahead, and how it ties in with everything we've been learning this year.

Tamara

CONSULTING MINISTER SURVEY

Upon being advised by Victoria of her decision to leave the UUFLG, the Board of Trustees began exploring employment of a part time Consulting Minister, either just for Sunday Services or for broader duties, but still part time. To focus on the best fit for the congregation the Board held several open discussion groups and conducted a short survey of Members and Friends. There were 48 responses to the survey request and 34 participants in the discussion groups.

The first three of the six survey questions related to frequency of Sunday Service Ministers and speakers. The consensus is that we would prefer a Minister to speak two or three times a month, one Sunday which could be a guest Minister. And we would prefer the other Sunday Services to have either a guest speaker or be presented by a UUFLG Member.

The fourth survey question asked for a rating of importance of 15 Sunday Service elements. The Sermon and Coffee hour were rated of relatively high importance with hymns and music and sharing of joys and concerns close behind. Responsive readings was rated of lesser importance than other Sunday Service elements.

The fifth question assumed that we would have a Consulting minister that performs at least some additional tasks beyond Sunday Services and asked for an opinion of the importance of eight possible task areas. Pastoral care clearly got the most support with Service to the Board second. Support of the Annual Canvass and Office Hours tied for third. Supervision of Staff, Association Involvement, Community Activities and Services to Committees were rated of lesser importance.

The sixth, and last, survey question addressed preference between a Sunday Only Consulting Minister and a Part Time Consulting Minister. The clear preference is for a Part Time Consulting Minister rather than a Sunday Only Consulting Minister. The Sunday Only Consulting Minister choice was rated unacceptable by about one-sixth of the responders.

There were three open discussion sessions. Common themes between the sessions indicated that we want a Minister to:

- Present good Sunday Services
- Provide Pastoral care
- Be a leader, provide coordination and guidance
- Provide Adult RE
- Participate in Children's programs

A full report has been distributed via the Announcements email list and hard copies are available by request to Jim Stahl, Board Secretary. The report includes all written comments submitted in the survey responses and notes recorded during the discussion sessions.

UU Adult Labor Day Camp 2010

at Camp 2 of the Mendocino Woodlands

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. Bernadette Burns, from our Fellowship, is the Dean again this year. She will personally make sure you have a great time!!!!

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?

Social Action

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for places to volunteer your time and talents? Several of our Share-the-Plate recipients are looking for volunteers as well as financial support.

St. Luke's Pantry is always looking for volunteers to serve on Tuesday mornings when the pantry is open to clients. Contact Pantry coordinator Jo Greiner through St Luke's Episcopal Church at 408-354-2195.

ACT for Mental Health currently needs volunteers for back-office functions including bookkeeping, grant researching and writing, clerical duties and marketing activities. Contact them at 408-287-2640 if you would like to help.

Village Harvest has a volunteer newsletter to help you keep abreast of the latest opportunities to help. You can subscribe at <http://www.villageharvest.org/newsletterform.htm>
See a list of volunteer positions at <http://www.villageharvest.org/volunteers.htm>

StandUp For Kids offers descriptions of their volunteer opportunities as well as their volunteer applications at <http://www.standupforkids.org/local/getin.html>
You can also contact them at SiliconValley@stanupforkids.org to discuss ways to help.

Integrative Touch for Kids lists a variety of volunteer opportunities at <http://www.integrativetouch.org/Volunteer.html>. To find a volunteer opportunity that fits your needs or for more information contact their volunteer coordinator at <http://www.integrativetouch.org/ContactUs.php>

Sacred Heart Community Service depends on volunteers to prepare and distribute grocery boxes, sort and hang clothing, and offer customer service with dignity, compassion and respect to more than 2,000 customers a day. For more information see <http://sacredheartcs.org/volunteers/index.html>

Second Harvest involves hundreds of volunteers each week in all aspects of their operation including food sorting/warehouse activities, food distribution, and clerical. For more information see <http://shfb.org/volunteer> or contact Colleen Murphy at 408-266-8866 x 247.

If you have a favorite volunteer opportunity that you want others to be aware of let the Social Action team know. We value your suggestions.

Share the Plate

In May we collected \$322 for Standup For Kids. Thank you for your generosity!

Our Share-the-Plate recipient for June is the Low Income Self-Help Center. Located in San Jose since 1999 the center is a grassroots, multicultural nonprofit organization which "believes that everyone deserves dignity, respect, and a decent quality of life." They provide resources for self-help advocacy, informational workshops, and a drop-in center offering use of a computer with internet access, a fax, a phone, help with resumes and forms, and a supportive 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.

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

Santa Clara Valley ACLU to honor Innocence Project Founders Annual Don Edwards Civil Liberties Award Celebration 6/12/10

On June 12, 2010, the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California will present the Don Edwards Civil Liberties Award to Linda Starr and Kathleen "Cookie" Ridolfi, Founders of the Northern California Innocence Project. Centered at Santa Clara University's School of Law, NCIP's mission is to create a more just and humane world through working to exonerate innocent prisoners and pursue legal reforms that address the causes and consequences of wrongful convictions.

The winner of the Chapter's high school essay contest on Internet Privacy will also be honored at the event. Speakers will include Quedellis Ricardo "Rick" Walker who was exonerated of murder charges after 12 years in prison and Allen Hopper, Director of the ACLU's Drug Law Reform Project and future ACLU of Northern California's Police Practices Director.

The Don Edwards Award Celebration is free and will be held at West Valley Branch of the San Jose Library, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, San Jose. Doors open at 2:30 pm, and the award event will begin at 3 pm, followed by an informal reception.

The American Civil Liberties Union is a national organization that works to preserve and defend the individual rights and liberties of Americans which are laid out in the United States Constitution. The organization also works to extend rights to segments of our population whose rights have traditionally been denied, including women, communities of color, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people, prisoners, and people with disabilities.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the ACLU was founded in 1962 and represents those who live and work in the Santa Clara County communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale. The Santa Clara Valley chapter operates under the auspices of the ACLU of Northern California. More information about the ACLU-SCV can be found on its website - <http://www.acluscv.org/>

June 2 - another exciting, film screening will be hosted by the Mid-Pen Chapter of the ACLU - of "American Violet" at the Unitarian Universalist Center (505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto) - this film details the horrid facts of a Texas drug enforcement case gone wrong. Both films are award winning and definitely worth seeing! We have additional film and discussion events planned for August and September - on the death penalty and racial profiling.

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.

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



Fellowship News

June 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.