

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

May 2010 No.5; 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

### **May 2010**

**Sunday Services at 10:30**

#### **May 2: LEAP**

Russ Jones

Russ Jones of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) will speak on “The Failed War on Drugs and how it Relates to California”. The UUA supports this initiative. Russ will only speak at one UU church and we were fortunate enough to secure him.

Russ Jones is a veteran Army combat helicopter pilot, where he earned a Purple Heart and 17 air medals. He is an expert on forensics involving drug use and abuse and has lectured and taught criminal justice for many years. In addition to his work in the San Jose undercover narcotics unit, he worked extensively in Central America as part of an international drug task force.

#### **May 9: Flower Communion**

Join us for Flower Communion as we bring our individual flowers and blend them together to create a lovely bouquet! During this Intergenerational service, we will also celebrate the various natures of motherhood.

#### **May 16: *Mindfulness in Daily Life***

Tenzin Lhadron

Lhadron is an ordained Buddhist Nun who works with the Angeles Arrien Foundation in Sausalito. This Sunday, she shares her insights and experience of living life fully and mindfully.

#### **May 23:**

#### ***Happy Birthday, Margaret Fuller!***

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Transcendentalist writer and newspaper editor Margaret Fuller celebrates a milestone birthday this year, her 200<sup>th</sup>. A woman advanced for her time, she was an original advocate for radical change in the power dynamics between men and women, and a free spirit who chose to live life on her own terms.

**NOTE:** This is also Appreciation Sunday, when we honor those whose effort and support make our community vibrant, engaging, and full of activity. Let's celebrate our volunteers in RE, on the Board, involved in Committees, and throughout UUFLG!

#### **May 30: *Theology for \$1000, Alex***

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Theology is, specifically, the study of gods and more generally, of religious practice and belief. Since not all UUs profess belief in G(g)od(s), does that mean we don't have a theology? And if we do, what questions does our theology attempt to answer and what does it tell us about what is most important in life?

#### **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?

# Minister's Column

From the Rev. Rob Hardies, All Soul's UU in Washington, D.C.:

“As Unitarian Universalists, our religious calling is to model the human family, whole and reconciled. The fulfillment of this mission is our greatest joy.”

Mid-April, I had the opportunity to be with my ministerial colleagues at St. Francis Retreat Center for a week of renewal and learning together. We talked a lot about the core mission of our faith and how it can be challenging, at times, to explain Unitarian Universalism to those who are not part of our tradition.

I'm inspired and moved by the Rev. Hardies' words above. For me, they describe our purpose well and give me a picture of the goals I have for how I think the world should be. Being the model of a whole and reconciled world is a joyful ambition, even if we, as a faith tradition, aren't quite there yet.

The only way to get there is to follow a path of inclusive love and restorative justice, putting our minds, hearts, and souls into the work.

Inclusive love means that we embrace people from all walks of life into our congregations. The whole world is filled with people who are like us, but also many people who are not. Yet, our message of love and justice appeals to many. UU congregations should be places where people feel safe and welcome, accepted and encouraged.

Restorative justice means that we seek to make the world just and equitable for all, and that we see that we have a role in addressing situations where fairness isn't the rule. From protesting individual acts of intolerance to grand schemes of violence, we have an obligation to speak up for what is right, moral, and true.

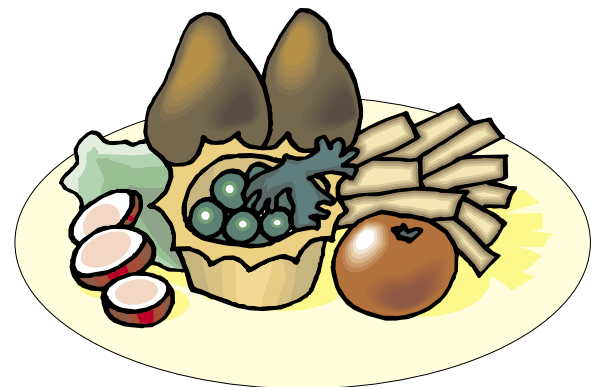
I'm sure we get it on an intellectual level. UUs speak of our desire to live in accordance with our Seven Principles. We may even feel the call to action in our hearts, when we see the results of injustice and violence in the world. Action comes when we get it at a gut level, when we truly realize an injustice to one is an affront to our own freedom, dignity, and worth.

Unitarian Universalism is a faith of deeds, not creeds. We don't demand a belief in words, but we do expect a commitment to action. How we live our lives is an indication of what we believe, a testament to our faith in the possibility of a world made whole and reconciled. Live your faith out loud, so everyone knows what you believe.

Love and Light,  
Victoria

**NOTE:** I will be out of the office from May 4 through 18. I'll have my cell phone and computer with me, in case you need to reach me while I'm gone.

**NO VESPERS in MAY:** Because Victoria will be out of town, there will be no Vespers service this month. Vespers will return on June 10<sup>th</sup>.



## News from the Committee on Ministry

Please save the date of June 13 for lunch on the deck with Victoria and Carl. This will be Victoria's last Sunday with us so be thinking of a yummy dish to share as we thank them for their three years with us and wish them the best the next phase of their journey.

## Sunday Services Flow On

One thing I'm grateful for, as Co-Chair of the Sunday Programs Team, is that Victoria has helped the team stretch and grow during her three years with us. We've tried new worship formats and music, learned some smooth body moves, and increased the length of our silent meditation time. Because of that, and much more, UUFLG will continue to enjoy wonderful Sunday services during the interim period while the Board searches for a minister to work with us at least part-time.

The members of the Sunday Programs Team, also known as the Worship Associates, have renewed their commitment to creating worship services that will uplift and energize you, cause you to ponder and consider life's questions (and answers). Please speak to anyone on the team if you have ideas for keeping our Sundays flowing. We are: Karen Boulanger, Jo Cooley (Board Liaison), Veronica Davis, Linda Krenicky, JJ Martin, Bert Olsen (co-chair), Katie Rall, and Paul Yeadon. We look forward to your input.

Blessings to all,  
Linda Krenicky  
Sunday Programs Team Co-Chair

Saturday, May 15, we will be having **our first PARKING LOT Rental** from Noon-5:00p. NO MEMBERS should plan on parking in the lot during those hours.

## Religious Education

As more new families become involved in religious education at UUFLG, we are working behind the scenes to offer more classes for a wider variety of age groups.

Many of you know what a cozy and busy place our preschool is. We have a lot of children in attendance under five, and plan to offer a new class soon, for our "pre-elementary" children. This would designate a special place for our children three and under, while those not yet quite ready for the elementary class will have a class of their own, with UU curriculum, music and crafts, and lots of kinetic, large motor activity. Sound exciting? We're looking forward to it!

This new endeavor brings other changes to RE as well. We are restructuring religious education as a cooperative experience for the fellowship, which means families of children involved in the program will be needed to take an active roll on a rotating basis. We are very fortunate to have Melinda, Rebecca and Joe, who do so much for the children, as well as a number of outstanding volunteers who frequently assist with preschool and other classes. Now we are looking forward to sharing this journey with even more people as we move forward!

Tamara



# Social Action

## Social Action Is Paying Attention

The Social Action Team has been discussing the meaning of social action, and the things that our Fellowship's Friends and Members are doing in their own lives. The story below, related by one of our team's members, illustrates not being afraid to take action when something seems amiss.

I did something the other day, and I feel terrible enough about it to share with the rest of you. Odd opening, right? So what did I do, and why am I using the newsletter as a confessional? I was stopped at a red light behind a minivan. I noticed someone had traced a hard-to-read message in the dust on the back window. Never one to leave a puzzle unsolved, I stared at the message until I could make out the words.

“Help we've been kidnapped”

It was a kid's stupid joke. It had to be. It was at the very bottom of the window, where someone who couldn't reach very high might put it. I had just decided to let it go and forget about it when something else occurred to me – the very bottom of the window is where you would put something if you didn't want the driver to see it in the rear-view mirror. I got the license number and paid attention to where the van turned off. When I got to a place where I could safely phone, I reported it to the sheriff's non-emergency dispatch. They never called me back, so obviously nothing serious came of it.

So here's the “feeling terrible” part – I very likely just wasted some officer's time and ruined a family's afternoon over nothing. I knew this as I was making the report and even apologized to the dispatcher. Law enforcement has better things to deal with than childish jokes and paranoid busybodies. I did it anyway because I remembered back to all the news coverage of different missing or abused children cases where people saw something out of place and never thought to report it. I remembered the time as a kid that a creepy guy tried to get me to help him find his way and I ran, and my parents told me he really was just lost. Three years later and a few blocks from that spot, a guy matching that description and driving the same kind of car grabbed a friend of a friend and drove off. She was never seen

again. To this day I wonder if things would have turned out differently if I had been more insistent that something wasn't right.

So here's why I'm depressing all of you with this story: part of social action is paying attention to what goes on in your community and getting involved when you notice something wrong. This doesn't mean sticking your nose in everyone's business, but it does mean speaking up when you think there's even a slight chance that someone might really be in danger. It means being willing to ruin someone's day instead of allowing one more case like Jaycee Dugard's or Steven Stayner's. It means listening to your children when they tell you something's wrong, and it also means teaching them that there's more than one way to cry wolf and that some things are never, ever, funny.

Because these things can happen in your neighborhood. They probably won't, but they can. And as important as it is to pack survival bags for the homeless or clean up the local waterways, sometimes social action can't wait for an organized volunteer effort. You don't need permission to make a difference.

Are there social action activities that you do on your own, either regularly or spontaneously? How is social action present in your daily life? We'd love to hear about it!

## Share-the-Plate

In April we raised \$244.75 for Friends Outside.

The Share-the-Plate recipient for May is StandUpForKids Silicon Valley, a small but passionate group of volunteers, who became active in February 2009, working to make a positive and critical difference in the lives of the estimated 2,500 homeless and at-risk youth in our area. They have already recruited and trained 22 volunteer leaders and outreach counselors, raised nearly \$20,000, stocked their storeroom with nonperishable food, clothing and hygiene products for the kids, and coordinated their work with existing resources in the community. You can learn more about them at:

<http://www.standupforkids.org/local/California/SanJose/index.html>.

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

**Presenting itinerant concert pianist William Kenville in the kickoff of his “First Friday” concert series at Los Gatos Unitarian.**

Solo Piano Program #1:  
featuring Mozart, Chopin and Liszt.  
7 p.m. on Friday May 7

Free Will Donation “suggested”

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The Fellowship remembers William Kenville from his March 28 offertory music and brief performance during the Coffee Hour.

Kenville promises a new concert program on the first Friday of every month - with liberal fudge factor for repeating audience favorites and a growing respect for his own natural human limitations.

“To me, the continuing solo piano recital series is both a starkly accurate reflection of my own life, and the unifying organizational force that allows me to sculpt that reality into the life I want to be living.

The proximity of the concert series tends to exert its own control over the life of the solo performer - a strange yet compelling creative force that both empowers and demands a work output unattainable without such an ongoing professional need.



I began to sample this life force back in the 1970s during my weekly recital series at the “Grand Piano” Coffee House on San Francisco’s Haight Street; once more in the 80s as I helped create nonprofit concert producer Bay Concert Arts by performing in seven out of our first twelve concerts and later still in support of my monthly “Highway 49 Concert Series” up in Oakhurst. I’ve recently approached a similar practice room pace with my current ongoing Senior Residence Facility “tour”.

So, my ambitious new First Friday concert series at the Los Gatos Unitarian Fellowship is a very natural next step in my life as a concert pianist.

I appreciate this generous opportunity and I’m really looking forward to what I build here with music.”

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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 Paul Yeadon ([paul\\_yeadon@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

# May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Noon-1:00p CA Fair Elections Talk		10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:00p-2:30p Membership Committee Mtg.	7:15p-9:30p Dulzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	7:15p-9:15p Thursday Night Chalice Circle	7:00p-9:00p "First Friday" Piano Concert Series	9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds Meeting 10:00a-11:30a What Moves Us: UU Theology 2:30p-6:30p Rental: Piano Recital
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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	7:00p-8:30p Finance Committee Meeting	7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	9:30a-Noon Thursday Morning Women's Group 5:15p-5:45p Vespers 7:00p-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	7:30p-9:30p Wyrd Wanders	Noon-5:00p Rental: Parking Lot Rented 6:30p Dinners for Eight
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 2:00p-6:00p Rental: Piano Recital	7:00p-8:45p Rental: Addiam Video	10:00a-11:45a Tuesday Chalice Circle	7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center	Noon-1:30p RUUMs Brown Bag Lunch <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>		5:00p-8:00p All Ages Potluck
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Noon-2:00p Annual Business Meeting	7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group		7:15p-9:30p Meditation Class Buddhist Center		7:30p-9:30p Wyrd Wanderers	
30	31					
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service						

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



**Fellowship News**

**May 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](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.