



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

May 2011 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 2011

Sunday Services at 10:30

May 1 - Rev. Chris Schriener “Forty Years of Hidden Progress: A Slightly Rose-Colored Retrospective”

Unitarian Universalists tend to be aware of social issues, including many important political and economic problems. This is commendable, but sometimes we focus so much on what’s wrong with society that we fall into despair. Today we will talk about what’s right with the world.

May 8 – Rev. Chris Schriener Breakout Sunday, with Special Mother’s Day Program

Today we will begin the service as usual. Then after a few minutes we will divide into groups, meeting in different locations. *See page 2 for a description of the entire service.*

May 15 – Rev. Suzanne Semmes “The Way of Buddhism”

The life of the Buddha and his work of teaching spanned eighty years, over 2500 years ago; Buddhists all over the world celebrate his birth and Enlightenment at the full moon in May. We’ll consider who the Buddha was, and examine his philosophy, called the Four Noble Truths.

May 22 – Rev. Suzanne Semmes “What Makes for Peace?”

In a tribute to Charlie Walton, a member of this congregation, Rev. Suzanne Semmes will seek to deepen our understanding of peace-making in all its manifestations. The Collins Foundation will offer a tribute to Charlie for his past work with the San Jose Peace and Justice Center.

May 29 – Rev. Chris Schriener “A Gospel of Ignorance”

Thomas Edison famously declared, “We don’t know one millionth of one percent about anything.” Many Unitarian Universalists would agree, bringing a skeptical attitude to the supposed certainties of religion, psychology, politics, etc. UUs typically love to learn and sometimes it seems as if the more we know, the more that we realize that we don’t know. Facing the limitations of our knowledge can feel uncomfortable. Is it possible that admitting ignorance could actually be a gospel, in the sense of being “good news,” grounds for celebration? (This will be the first of a two-part sermon series.)

June 5 - Rev. Chris Schriener “Fiction-Proofing Your Own Mind”

On May 29 in “A Gospel of Ignorance,” Chris suggested that admitting ignorance can be positive and empowering. Today he will explore this theme further, focusing on why people often think they know much more than they do. Although investigators generate enormous amounts of data, it sometimes seems as if confusion is expanding more rapidly than understanding. People can “prove” that ESP is or is not real; that we do or do not survive death, and that all sorts of herbs and medicines help us or harm us. How can we sort it all out and develop a worldview that works?

May 2011 Sunday Services

Rev. Suzanne Semmes is ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister and as a Theravada Buddhist teacher and counselor. She is also a Board Certified Chaplain.

Rev. Chris Schriener holds a Doctor of Religion degree from Claremont Theological School, with a concentration in social ethics. His doctoral dissertation was on nuclear weapons policy.



May 8 Service Description

Breakout Sunday, with Special Mother's Day Program

Rev. Chris Schriener will lead a Mother's Day program for those who remain in the sanctuary, with music, readings, meditations, and sharing about what Mother and motherhood mean to us.

Social Action will offer two sessions. Outside they will lead a demonstration on gardening with native and drought tolerant plants. In the West Room they will show an educational film "Nourish: What's the Story of your Food?"

RE will hold a regular class outside since the West Room is in use. They will explore the UUFLG grounds, have a nature scavenger hunt, and discuss the sustainable plants.

At the end of the sessions, we will gather in the sanctuary for the conclusion of the service.

A few of my favorite things...

As I get ready to say goodbye and pass the title of Director of Religious Education on, I have so many memories of the past several years that stand out in my mind...

The children giving baby Buddha his birthday party,

Joe winning the Junella Hanson award for excellence in religious education in the Pacific Central District,

The elementary class naming themselves The Universalist Talents,

And our intergenerational service on January 23, probably my favorite memory of them all...

But there are many more that mean so much to me, and I think the big picture will only come into focus in hindsight.

I can tell you what the next DRE will learn: this is so much more than just a part time job. The hours on the calendar never match the space this position takes up in my mind and heart. Thank you for the opportunity to spend this time with you. I have learned more than anyone, and it's been one of the best experiences of my life.

With Love Always,
Tamara, DRE

2011 UUFLG Business Meeting

The 2011 UUFLG Business Meeting will be held on May 22, 2011, at which time the Members of the UUFLG will elect candidates to fill open positions on the UUFLG Board of Trustee and five members for the UUFLG nominating committee,

The Board positions to be filled are: President, Vice-President, trustee of Building and Grounds, trustee of Sunday Programs, trustee of Community Visibility, and trustee for Membership Committee.

Anyone wishing to be considered for the board or nominating committee positions should contact the current nominating committee who are: Lynn O'Keefe, Lou Yabroff, Edna Windes, Jim Beebe and Jennifer Dadek.



UUFLG Board Meeting Notes

The following are items of general interest from the UUFLG Board of Trustees' meeting held on April 14, 2011

- Our income and expenses have been consistent with our February projection of a net remainder available for partial pay-down of Fellowship loans.
- The Sunday schedules are set with Rev. Schriener and Rev. Semmes but more worship associates are needed.
- Any members who plan on attending UUA General Assembly and who want to be a UUFLG representative may see Kathryn Wood for ballots.
- A proposed budget for FY 2012 was presented by the finance committee. The proposed budget was accepted by the Board to be presented for Member approval at the May 22, 2011 Fellowship Business Meeting.
- Yvonne Liu presented and explained a UUFLG finance committee proposed Policy-Procedure for UUFLG Finance and Bookkeeping, including an audit process.
- News releases were sent newspapers about the Jim Scott concert and the Drum Circle.
- Share the Plate in March collected \$754 for Japanese earthquake relief. The collection in April will be for Village Harvest.
- Additional deck area electrical service is being added along with the deck flooring re-build. The extra electrical service should also allow reconnection of the driveway entrance and exit lights.

Conversations on Compassion Report

by Connie Springer

On four Wednesday evenings in March Ann Campbell, Pam Robinson and I facilitated a series of discussions on the subject of compassion. This series was inspired by Karen Armstrong's new book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* and used materials developed by the Fetzer Institute but Ann, Pam and I spent a month tailoring it for the UUFLG community. That planning process, while a lot of work, was fun and rewarding for us as we worked together to deepen our understanding of the material and to design a curriculum to share with you.

We explored the topic of compassion through discussion, brainstorming, videos, meditation and even an art project with 6 to 8 participants in each session. The new flat-screen tv in the west room allowed us to enrich the course with audio and video files as well as a PowerPoint presentation.

Participants and facilitators alike benefited from the variety of viewpoints and ideas offered about the meaning of compassion, the value of self-compassion, how to cultivate compassion in our lives and how to put compassion into action. There is so much to talk about on this topic that we felt like we could go much deeper if we had more time. Participants were enthusiastic enough that they requested an additional meeting to discuss how we might continue the conversations. We explored a number of ideas including the possibility of another course in the fall based loosely on the reader's guide to Karen Armstrong's book. If you think you might be interested in attending or helping to facilitate such a course please let one of us or Moira Sullivan know.

And if you have an idea for an Adult RE class why not find one or two other people to work with you and make it happen. Contact Moira to get on the calendar.

UUFLG COMMUNITY BIRTHDAYS

May 4 ----Glen Marchant

4----Thyra Tegner

17----Barbara Feldman

18----Marilyn Buelteman

20----Jim Stahl

20----Tamara McCellan

20----Claire Steeley

25----Brent Kupras

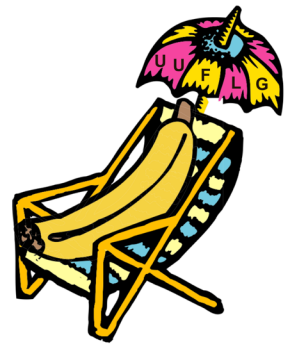
25----Audrey Freeman

26----Colleen Hamilton

26----Beulah Pease

28----Jim Beebe

31----Kristyn Greenwood



UU Beach Party Goes Bananas

Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 5:30 PM

We are getting our thongs out in preparation for a great beach party auction. For me, thongs means beach shoes. But if you want to wear your cute bikini or speedo, that's ok, too. Just be ready to have fun!

If you have not yet sent in your auction contribution, don't worry. We have a team of beachcombers – Sharon Graham, Lou Yabroff, Coralee Linton and myself -- whose job it is to give you a call to help you think up what you would like to contribute. We have already received some great donations, so be sure your calendar is marked.

To donate, email jjmartin23@gmail.com or call JJ at 408-666-6862 with the item, description and value. Then we can get it in the catalog in advance.

Suntan lotion will be provided. See you at the beach!

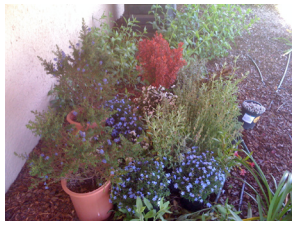


INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO? The Board minutes are listed under “Administration” on the right hand side of the home page of our website www.UUFLG.org.

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.

Social Action



Sustainable Grounds

Our Sustainable Grounds Project continues to grow and flourish! On April 23rd we held a Sustainable Grounds planting party from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We planted more than 20 new native and drought tolerant plants!

Would you like to learn more about water wise gardening with beautiful native and drought tolerant plants? On May the 8th the Social Action Team will lead an educational session on gardening with these attractive and hearty plants (one of the four breakout activity sessions that will be held as a part of our Sunday morning service).



StandUp for Kids Food Drive

In April our congregation, led by the Social Action Team, collected food and monetary donations for StandUp For Kids Silicon Valley, an all-volunteer program committed to reaching out to the estimated 2,500 homeless youth in our area. This small but passionate group of volunteers work to make a positive and critical difference in the lives of these homeless and at-risk youth providing basic needs: food, clothing, and hygiene products as well as a wide array of services.

Our drive collected two large boxes of food, and \$316.50 in cash donations. StandUp for Kids has already been able to put your generous donations to work by distributing the food we collected to local needy teens. Thank you so much for your support!

Share-the-Plate

Our May Share-the-Plate will benefit Village Harvest (<http://www.villageharvest.org/>)

Village Harvest is a nonprofit volunteer organization in the greater San Francisco Bay Area which harvests fruit from backyards and small orchards, then passes it along to local food agencies to feed the hungry. They also provide education on fruit tree care, harvesting, and food preservation.

Since their founding in 2001, Village Harvest has grown to be one of the oldest and largest organizations of this kind in the country, harvesting a total of 2.7 Million servings of nutritious fresh fruit benefiting hundreds of thousands of people in our community. You can make a huge difference for the community through your donation!



Dinners for 8 – May

Our May Dinners for 8 will be Saturday, the 21st! Newcomers are always welcome, so if you have not signed up, please be sure to! This is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow UUs. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer. For those who have already signed up, you need not sign up again. Please remember that signing up is not an assumed “yes” to attend. All those signed up will receive an invitation and an email will be sent out under Announcements to the rest of the Fellowship reminding you of this fun event. Please be sure to respond yes or no to me by Monday, May 9th as time is needed to coordinate the guests and hosts.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks and have a great time – reports are that April continued the tradition of a good time being had by all. We appreciate those who host and the participants who complete the evening!

Bonnie George – Bonnie.E.George@comcast.net – 221-6606

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

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime	2 10:00a-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir. 1:00-2:00p, Membership Mtg.	3 10:00a-11:45a, Tues. Chalice Cir. 1:00-2:00p, Membership Mtg.	4	5 12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch 1-4p Offc Hrs 7:30p -9:00p Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	6 1-4p Offc Hrs	7
8 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime MOTHER'S DAY	9 7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Grp 7:30p -9:30p Great Books Discussion grp	10 7-8:30p, Finance Comm. Mtg. 7:00p -9:00p Sunday Programs Committee	11	12 9:30a-12:00p Thursday Morn Women's Group 7-8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting 7:30p -9:00p Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	13	14 9:30-10:00a, Bldg. & Grnds mtg/ 2-3:30p, Drum Circle 5:00p -8:00p <u>All Ages Potluck</u>
15 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 12:00p -1:15p Social Action Meeting 1:00p - 3rd Sunday Hike, Contact: <u>Jim Beebe, 408-315-5066</u>	16	17 10:00a-11:45a, Tuesday Chalice Circle	18 7:15p -9:15p <u>Evening Chalice Circle</u>	19 12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 7:30p -9:00p Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	20	21
22 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 12:00p -2:00p UUFLG Annual Membership Meeting	23 7:15p-9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	24	25	26 1-4p Admin Offc Hrs 7:30p -9:00p Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	27 1-4p Offc Hrs	28
29 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31	JUNE 1	2 12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 1-4p Admin Offc Hrs 7:30p -9:00p Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Meditation	3 6:00p -10:00p UUFLG Auction Set up	4 5:30-9:00 p.m. UUFLG AUCTION (7:30a-5:30 setup; 9-11 cleanup)

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



Fellowship News

May 2011

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.