

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

November 2007 No.11; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

November 2007 Sunday Services at 10:30

November 4

A Principled Life: UU Principle #2

Victoria Ingram, Minister

The second in a series of sermons focused on our UU Seven Principles. UUs covenant to affirm “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,” in a world filled with injustice, lacking in compassion, and grossly unequal in many respects. We’ll explore how we keep energy for the journey when the end seems far from sight.

NOTE: Following the service, there will be a **Forum** to offer feedback to the UUA Commission on Appraisal’s review of the Seven Principles and Six Sources. The Forum will be facilitated by Victoria Ingram. Please meet in the Sanctuary from 11:45 to 12:30 p.m.

November 11

Supporting Our Troops?

Victoria Ingram, Minister

Wars, armed conflicts, and police actions are part of what military presence is about. Armed forces also respond to natural disasters, emergencies, and other life tragedies. Those with liberal religious values are often challenged by a desire to support the important work of the military while abhorring violence, war, and attack. How do we choose to support our troops?

November 18

“Embracing Our Whole Story”

Special Music Service

Andrew McKnight

Linda Krenicky, Worship Associate

We are indeed the sum of many parts; not all of them are so attractive to us. Yet as Andrew often jests self-deprecatingly in concert, “if we don’t have a laugh at ourselves every now and then we’re missing a mighty big source of humor!”. During this program Andrew weaves humorous and poignant moments together in a beautiful tapestry, helping to appreciate our perceived faults as gifts as well as our talents.

This is a Share-the-Plate Sunday.

Our recipient this month is Hospice of the Valley.

November 25

The Gratitude Imperative

Victoria Ingram, Minister

Thanksgiving is upon us, along with the traditional start of the “holiday season.” But what have we got to be so thankful for? Does it matter if we “give thanks” or not?

This sermon explores the importance of including gratitude in our repertoire of spiritual practices.

December 2

Life on the Inside

Victoria Ingram, Minister

Over 600 men sit in San Quentin’s East Block, suspended between life and death as they wait for a California court decision on the constitutionality of the death penalty. UUs value the worth and dignity of every person, but it can be a struggle to find compassion for murderers and violent criminals. This Sunday, we’ll explore the conditions under which condemned men serve time and a UU response to prison reform.

MINISTER'S COLUMN

Let It Be a Dance

One of my favorite pieces of Unitarian Universalist worship music is #311 in *Singing the Living Tradition*, "Let It Be a Dance" by Ric Masten. Carl and I both like it so much that we included it in our marriage ceremony eleven years ago, asking our friends and family to join in singing the meaning-filled verses.

Mr. Masten is a UU minister-at-large who has shared his music and poems with Unitarian Universalists and others since the 1970s. He used to travel the circuit, giving concerts and leading worship in congregations across the country, sharing his unique gift of words and song with appreciative audiences.

This music's lyrics touch me because I think they so aptly describe my experience of living life – a dance of intricate and ever-changing steps, some familiar and some new - that requires we listen carefully to the music and fully inhabit our bodies, and our lives, in order to follow the tune. "Everybody turn and spin, let your body learn to bend" – how often does life ask us to turn on a dime, spin our certainties into new realities, and bend ourselves to the unpredictable or the unplanned?

Masten masterfully captures the image of life as dance. The words of this song are a reminder to me of the practice it takes to get the dance of life coordinated and moving well. Sometimes, I feel graceful at life, as though I were ballroom dancer. I'm engaged in taking steps that seem to come with ease and polish. I hear the music clearly and am able to find my own rhythm and response.

Then, there are those moments when I step on someone's toes or trip over my own feet, and I'm reminded once again that I still have a long way to go before I've mastered all of life's intricate and syncopated movements. Encountering some new or unusual "music," I strain to catch the beat and find a way to get into the groove. I need to keep trying, to stay present, and be attentive to make this new rhythm my own.

"Learn to follow, learn to lead, feel the rhythm, fill a need, to reap a harvest, plant the seed." Prophetic and wise words on how to make a "success" of life

by striving to make ourselves adaptable and capable in a variety of situations, attentive to what's going on around us, and willing to make the effort that it takes to accomplish our goals and achieve our vision.

Life in community requires this kind of dance, as well - the same attentiveness, adaptability, and practice. Let it be a dance we do!

Love and light – Victoria

Poetry As Spiritual Practice: Adult Religious Education

Using poetry, this monthly workshop will help you deepen your appreciation and use of the written word for spiritual reflection. Facilitated by Minister Victoria Ingram, we'll use reading, writing, and discussion to explore the imagery and metaphors of poetry and how these help us understand our own spiritual path. Workshops are scheduled on Thursdays, November 15, and December 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please call the office to register (358.1212) Childcare will be provided, if needed.

Did you know...

You can access Victoria's sermons at the UUFLG.ORG website?

By going to the drop down menu for "Ministry," then clicking on the "Sermons" link.

You can order CD copies of services?

By notifying our office administrator, Adrienne (admin@uufg.org or 358.1212), you can get a CD of past services. Cost is \$1.00 per CD. The CD is available one week following your order, in the CD box in the foyer.

Message from the President

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends,

I'm writing this the day after the fantastic concert on Oct 19 that featured Mari-Ester and Jon Kaplan, Susanne Mulcahy and Dave Coldren and was organized by Linda Krenicky. Thank you all for an evening full of belly laughs, tears, fun and talent!

After our busy year of hard work with Carolyn last year, I was expecting us to relax a bit this year and just go with the flow and all take a deep breath, but that doesn't seem to be happening. We've started off this Fellowship year with lots of energy and a lot of good stuff going on - not only have we welcomed Victoria as our settled minister, Tamara McClellan has joined us as our part time DRE and Dave Coldren as our regular Sunday musician! We have a new web site thanks primarily to Sarah Mozelle and Adrienne Gormley, but also with the help of many others, including Connie Springer and Victoria with editing and John Omvik who supplied the lively picture for the banner. We have a new ADA compliant ramp to the deck (bravo Jim Stahl, Jim Beebe and John Omvik!). We have a full slate of Adult Religious Education offerings this fall for the first time in a long time thanks to Victoria and Carl Ingram and you won't want to miss seeing Don Juan de Marco on Nov. 7 to learn about the Jungian archetypes lurking within this fantastic movie.

Our district, the Pacific Central District, is holding a leadership development day on November 10 at the UU Church of Palo Alto with a choice of six workshops to choose from. One of them will focus on the review of the seven principles of the UUA that's currently under way by the Commission on Appraisal, bringing the national discussion to our own backyard. Look at pcd-uaa.org/events/LDD2007/index.htm to see the whole program.

Now that we've called Victoria as our minister, the Board of Trustees will be seeking approval from the congregation for her ordination and installation as our settled minister. The vote for ordination and installation will be held by mail ballot that will be sent out in early December, to be returned within 2 weeks. This vote will be publicized via announcements and on our bulletin board in the next several weeks.

In fellowship,
Ann Campbell

Follow-up from the Start –Up Weekend

On Friday, September 28, Cilla Raughley, the PCD Executive Director, facilitated a session to provide input for the future of this Fellowship. Following a soup dinner, about 30 people shared their insights, opinions, and suggestions with the Minister.

Participants shared information on the key qualities of effective ministry, outlined the challenges and strengths of this congregation, talked about their hopes for UUFLG, and provided Victoria with information on “sacred cows, pitfalls, and obstacles” she should be aware of as she begins her ministry here.

Some of the strengths of the Fellowship were identified as: our welcoming of new people, community-building activities, being a vibrant community that ministers to one another, and our optimism and hope for the future. Challenges include accomplishing all we want to do in a small congregation, expanding our leadership development, and staying open to different religious (and other) viewpoints. Opportunities for UUFLG with a new Minister include: new energy and vibrancy, expanding religious education for children and adults, and managing growth.

The next day, Victoria and members of the Board met to discuss the feedback from Friday, as well as roles and responsibilities, expectations, and future plans and hopes. They will meet again on Friday, November 2nd to create a plan of action for activities and priorities in the next year. That plan will be shared with the congregation in the near future.

Los Gatos Community Thanksgiving Service

All are invited to join this public interfaith celebration of Thanksgiving at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos. UUFLG Chorus members will perform as part of the interfaith choir and our Minister, Victoria Ingram, will preach the sermon message during the service. Clergy and lay leaders of various Los Gatos area churches, synagogues, and faiths will participate in this worship, providing special readings, liturgies, and music to the event.

The service is Tuesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Rd.

Fundraising Team News



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our performers and the enthusiastic participation of members and friends, our first Comedy/Music concert held October 19 realized a net profit of \$850!! Mari-Esther Kaplan, Dave Coldren, and Susanne Mulcahy packed the house that Friday evening, and lifted the rafters in joyous laughter and song. Our deep appreciation is extended to these wonderful performers for sharing their talents in our ongoing effort to raise funds for the children's RE program.

And speaking of ongoing fundraisers, the booksale in October had a net profit of \$267.74. So in just one month, we raised over \$1000 for the religious education of our children. A finer investment in our future could not be made. Thanks again to everyone who helped us accomplish this fabulous goal.

And coming up, sooner than we think:

November 18: Andrew McKnight, UU traveling musician from the hills of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, will provide a music worship service and an afternoon concert. Take a look at his website: <http://www.andrewmcknight.net>. These tickets will be \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Andrew has quite a following in the Bay Area, so be sure to get your tickets early!

December 9 and 16: Annual Holiday Boutique

February 9, 2008: UUFLG Auction Returns!

Ongoing: eScrip and scrip sales—see any member of the fundraising team for more information.

Thank you for your generosity of both time and money, and for making our community strong.

In good financial health,
Linda Krenicky for the Fundraising Team
(Chris Magee, Dick and Shelley Powers, Irving Yabroff)

RECYCLE YOUR USED INK CARTRIDGES

The Tuesday morning Chalice Circle has taken over the project of recycling inkjet and laser print cartridges and cell phones. Used cartridges bring up to \$4.50 each. Help Chalice and the environment by collecting cartridges and cell phones and dropping them off in the

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container in the lounge, to the right of the door.

Please bring only cartridges and phones that we can recycle. They must have a label with the brand and number. Remanufactured cartridges are not recyclable, and Epson cartridges are no longer eligible. To see if yours can be recycled, go to www.fundingfactory.com and click on the red "Qualifying Lists" at the upper right, or www.ecyclegroup.com and click on "Pricelist." (Not all cartridges are taken by both companies.) If you don't have internet, or have other questions, call Anne Winter at 866-6216.



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

The Fellowship's evolving choir is off to a good start, with one new, and three returning, members. We would still love to have more voices (including some men!), so see Ruth Webb, Fidele Galey, or Linda Krenicky if you are interested.

The choir has been invited to sing in the inter-faith choir at a special Thanksgiving service on November 20, 7:30 pm at the Los Gatos Presbyterian church on Shannon Road. All are welcome. Victoria is preaching, as she is the "new kid in town", so it will be a great opportunity to support her and represent our wonderful community.

The fundraising comedy/music concert on October 19 was a fabulous financial and community success. The sanctuary was filled with folks having a great time. There were many people from outside the Fellowship present, some of whom expressed interest in getting to know us better.

Please plan to join us on November 19th for an afternoon concert by Andrew McKnight, environmental engineer turned performing folk songwriter, guitarist and poet (and UU). Andrew will also be providing the worship service that day. To hear a sample of his music, go to his website, <http://www.andrewmcknight.net/>.

There will be a fundraising lunch between the service and the performance, so you'll be able to enjoy the music with a nice full belly!



Bless you all for the music in our lives!
Linda

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				12:00 - RUMs on the deck 1:30p - Building and Grounds Committee 7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group 5:00 - Board Planning Session	9:00 - Worship Associates Meeting
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 - Sunday Service: A Principled Life: UU Principle #2	1:00 - League of Women Voters Symposium on Immigration	2:00 - Membership Committee Meeting	7:30 - Meditation Class	7:00 - UUFLG Board meeting 7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group 6:30 Inspirational Films: Don Juan deMarco	9:30 - Leadership Development Day at UU Church of Palo Alto
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 - Sunday Service : Supporting Our Troops? 12:15 - Social Action Advocates	1:00 - League of Women Voters Symposium on Immigration 7:15 - Women's Spirituality Group		7:30 - Meditation Class	7:00 - Poetry as Spiritual Practice 7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service: Andrew McKnight 11:45 - Fundraiser Lunch 1:30 - Singer /Songwriter Andrew McKnight in concert	7:30 - Great Books	Newsletter Deadline	7:30 - Meditation Class	7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group	
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service: The Gratitude Imperative	7:15 - Women's Spirituality Group	1:00a -2:00p Long Range Planning Meeting	12:15 - Stitch & Bitch 7:30 - Meditation Class	7:00 - Choir Practice	2:00 - Recorder Group	

NEWS FROM THE DECK



WOW!! What a night it was!! If you missed our own congregational talent on Friday night Oct. 19th, you missed a wonderful treat!! There were lots of laughs, applauding, singing, story telling, and people who gathered for the event. Such fun was had by all. Mari-Esther Kaplan did a comedy act, Susanne Mulcahy played the guitar and sang, followed by Dave Coldren at the piano playing and singing. Jon Kaplan also kept us in stitches being the Master of Ceremony for the evening. Thanks to Linda Krenicky and her “fund raising committee” for a delightful evening. WOW!!!

Another success story for the Fund Raising Committee has been the 2 Book Sales. Credit for lots of work setting up the books for sale goes to Connie Springer and Walt Main. What a great job, and we thank you for making this such a successful project. Others who helped were Lida Kluzek, Gratia Trevey, JJ Martin, Coralee Linton, Denise Gomes, Shelley and Dick Powers. Linda Krenicky is the chairman of this committee and in my opinion they all did a wonderful job in making these 2 big events profitable for our Fellowship. Thank you all very much.!!!

Another big project that is “up and running” is the finishing of our Web Site for the community to read and learn about our Fellowship. This committee was led by our administrator, Adrienne Gormley. Other team members were Sarah Mozelle, Harry Campbell, Ann Campbell, Connie Springer, Irving Yabroff, Victoria Ingram, and our Interim Minister Carolyn Colbert.

It is good to have Tamara McClellan with us in our children’s department.

For those of you who missed the first round of the Adult Education classes, there will be 2 more film nights on Nov 9th and Dec. 7th. The “Poetry as Spiritual Practice” classes will be on Nov. 15th, and Dec. 6th. Try them, you’ll like them!

The Building and Grounds committee has installed a different ramp, which meets disability standards, from the sidewalk on the East side of the deck up to the deck. Thank you for this improvement.

See me on the deck, for your news for this column. Thanks, and hugs, Lou

ROLE PLAYING PLANNED FOR WOMEN’S GROUP

November 8th the dozen or so regulars of the Thursday Morning Women’s Group will gather at 9:45 AM in the West Room to enjoy coffee and refreshments before beginning their meeting led by Gratia Trevey. The activity of the day will be role playing based on ideas of friendly engagement we have been practicing with newcomers to the Fellowship suggested by Lou Yabroff, our UUFLG membership chair.

At the October meeting the group’s projects were set with decorating the Sanctuary for the holidays on December 8th and again supplying and packing boxes of food and gifts for a family we will choose with the help of Friends Outside.

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 Harry Campbell (harryrcampbell@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. 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.

Save the Dates for Holiday Boutique:

December 9 and 16

WHO: You! Have that special knack for creation

WHAT: For creating that special gift that will light up someone's eyes

WHEN: December 9 and 16 directly after services

WHERE: at our own fellowship

WHY: Because we love to share in your creativity and love to donate to help build a fiscally strong fellowship

Time to create, bake, make, and take those special gifts that we have been waiting for all year.

Don't think you are creative enough? Then make sure to come and enjoy and perhaps buy some of these great gifts. Items that have been donated in the past: jams, jewelry, holiday items, knitted wear, photography, as well as holiday specialty items. Many of these items are created by your own fellowshippers.

~ All proceeds go to UUFLG

~ Hosted by the Sunday Chalice Circle

Questions? Susan Parks 408-267-4561

Caring Network Wants to Hear from You!

Julie Doyle and other members of our Caring Network welcome calls from all Fellowship members and friends who have a need or want to fill a need. The other members who meet at noon on the third Thursday of the month and stay in touch other times are Nan Bixler, 356-5697; Audrey Freeman, 356-6721; Barbara Kalmoutis, 378-0813; Lida Kluzek, 294-4770; and Coralee Linton, 377-7298.

There are Caring Network brochures available in the foyer with suggestions of services for you to ask for or volunteer to supply. Help us keep in touch with people who are sick or would benefit from attention. If you have ideas to give us call Julie at 353-2828 or one of the above members. This in no way replaces our minister's desire to hear from members or friends who need her attention. Victoria has been joining us for our meetings and we have benefited from the exchange of ideas and information.

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

Inspirational Film: Adult Religious Education

Friday, November 9

This Month's Feature Film: *Don Juan DeMarco*
starring Johnny Depp, Marlon Brando, Faye Dunaway

The story of a young man who presents himself as Don Juan, the world's greatest lover. Marlon Brando plays a psychiatrist assigned to talk the young "Don Juan" out of his delusions. But as the days pass, the psychiatrist comes to see that perhaps just because each person has his/her own reality doesn't really mean they're crazy.

In the Sanctuary.

6:30 p.m. Presentation on the film's themes

7:00 p.m. Feature presentation

Following the film: a facilitated discussion

You are invited to come to all/any portions of the evening's program, as you are interested. If you require childcare, please call the church office (358.1212)

Coming attractions:

December 7 *It's a Wonderful Life*

Guest At Your Table

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), an independent human rights organization founded in UU Principles, sponsors the annual Guest At Your Table program to support their work all over the world. Current UUSC projects include work on issues of worker justice, water rights, defending civil liberties, and challenging human rights abuses. Founded in 1939 to rescue victims of Nazi persecution, UUSC has continued to support activism and social action in Africa, Asia, South America, and in the United States. You can learn more about their work by visiting their website: www.uusc.org

Guest At Your Table invites you to place the box where you have your meals, inserting coins or bills as often as you can. You can use specially prepared Stories of Hope to learn more about the work of the UUSC and how your donation will be used. GAYT box distribution begins on Sunday, November 18. Pick up your box and Stories of Hope materials on the table in the foyer outside the Sanctuary. Boxes are to be returned by December 30th.

Environmental Practices Guidelines

The Social Action Team is putting together a set of guidelines to assist us, as a congregation, in making environmentally responsible choices in our day-to-day operations and in the events and programs we offer. The first step is to gather your input.

When is it reasonable for us to use paper plates and when should we use washable ones? If we do use disposable items should we make sure they are biodegradable? Are there things we use that involve excess packaging? What recycled products should we be purchasing and using? When is it okay to use toxic or environmentally unfriendly chemicals in our building and grounds and when should we avoid them?

With our UU principles in mind let's ask ourselves these and other questions about what we as a congregation might do to live in closer harmony with the earth. Please tell us what green and sustainable practices you think the fellowship should consider adopting. Drop your input in the Social Action mail slot in the office or email it to cfspringer@earthlink.net or sueanon@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

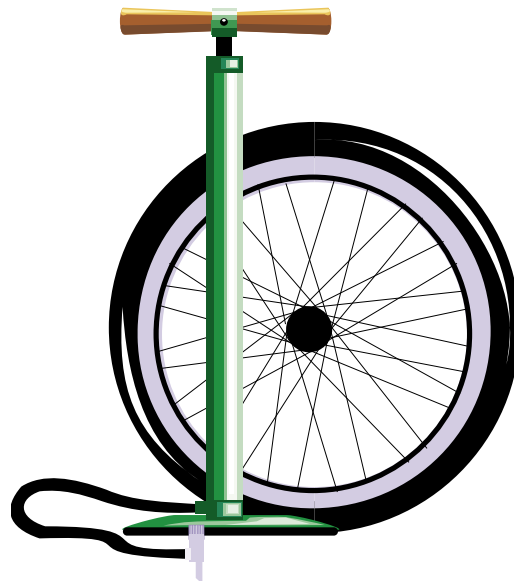
If you would like to take part in the discussions on this and other social action topics please join us for our

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, November 11, 12:15 – 1:30.

Social Action Web Page

Check out the new Social Action web page on our new, improved website, uufg.org. You'll find it under the Community menu at the top of the screen. There you will see information about our current programs including detailed facts and tips on all the Global Warming Challenges. We hope that this web page will be an effective way to keep you better informed about social action activities. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome. Let us know what you think.



Global Warming Challenge #3

TIRE PRESSURE

ACTION: Check the tire pressure on all your cars. Fill to recommended pressure if it is low (if there is a recommended range, fill to the higher value)

FOLLOW-UP ACTION:

- If your tire pressure was good (did not need to fill), check and fill tires every 3 months.
- If your tire pressure was low, check and fill in 1 month. If pressure is then good, you can check every three months after that. But if pressure is low again, you may have a leak. Check and fill every month.

HELPFUL CHART

- We will be giving out little charts that you can mount in your car to help track when you last checked your tire pressure and when to check again.

WAYS TO CHECK PRESSURE

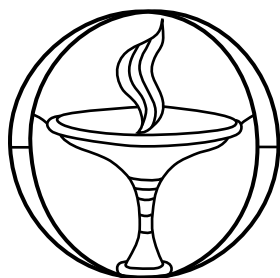
- Go to a full service gas station.
- Use a tire pressure gauge. Manual ones can be hard to read. Digital ones are easier but may be more expensive.
- Buy mini tire pressure gauges that fit on valve stem (they replace the little caps). They are easy to read at any time (no need to unscrew caps) and are fairly inexpensive (\$9 for set of 4)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

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



Fellowship News

November 2007

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.