

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

September 2011 No.9; 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

September 2011
Sunday Services at 10:30

September 4 – Rev. Chris Schriener **“Labor in Sunset: Toward Darkness, or a New Dawn?”**

The membership and influence of labor unions has been declining for decades. This is one symptom of a broad shift in the power dynamics of American society. Dr. Schriener will reflect upon these changes in the context of core Unitarian Universalist values.

September 11 – Rev. Lisa Wiggins **“Ingathering / Water Communion”**

Come join in welcoming our new minister as she leads us in our Water Communion. Bring water (actual or virtual) from a place you have visited in the past year. Meet our new minister face to face.

September 18 – Rev. Barbara Morgan

Barbara Morgan is a UU minister from Denton Texas. She is a graduate of Los Gatos High School and will be attending a reunion this weekend. We look forward to an interesting message from a Californian transplanted to Texas.

September 25 – Rev. Lisa Wiggins **“Insurmountable Complexities and Inexhaustible Abilities”** **(Part 1 of Questions for the Modern Age)**

At the Vernal Equinox, when light is balanced with darkness, what enlightened human abilities do we possess that will balance the increasingly dark challenges of today's world?

October 2– Rev. Lisa Wiggins **“Little Room for the Universal Hero”** **(Part 2 of Questions for the Modern Age)**

Gone are the Buddha, Jesus, and the Einstein. Without the great individuals that were able to move the past forward, where do we find insight, the “Aha,” within the modern age? Also, on this ‘Association Sunday’ come help decorate and eat the 50th anniversary cake to honor our denominational merger of the Unitarians with the Universalists in 1951.

a greeting from your new minister:

From One Minister Among Many,

First let me extend my heart-felt gratitude to Bert Olson and many of you who have helped to not only select me as your next professional minister but also worked hard to make me feel at home in this unique congregation of Unitarian Universalists. Your hospitality, positive energy and commitment to your congregation have established us a strong base. And your ability to laugh smooths the otherwise rough edges. Our time together promises to be engaging and enriching as we work toward building a welcoming, vibrant liberal religious voice in the greater Los Gatos area. In this regard, it will take all of us working together, sharing our best wisdom and resources with each other to address the creative challenges that lie ahead. For we each individually and collectively are responsible for and thereby minister to a struggling future which is starved for our values of openness, diversity, optimism and care that is at the core of our religious tradition.

The Sunday Services folks and I are designing a wonderful set of services which will enhance community, be moving (intellectually, spiritually as well as physically) and be experiences which you would be proud of inviting your progressive friends to participate in the tradition of open minds, loving hearts and serving hands. We will begin by enjoying the Pancake Breakfast before our opening ritual of the In-gathering Water Ceremony. So bring hungry stomachs and a little water from your refreshing summer escapades to welcome back family and friends to our congregational family into our new church year.

And plan to participate in the next 2-part Sunday series on addressing the larger picture of a modern life beset by ever-increasing complexities. How in this world can we welcome this difficult world with a sense of balance and with insight for some breakthroughs that religious communities in the past have been known for? And yes, hope there is!

See you in SOON!
Rev. Lisa



UUFLG Board Meeting Notes

The following are items of general interest from the UUFLG Board of Trustees' meeting held on August 11, 2011.

- A proposal for payment of half of the UUA/PCD Fair Share contribution this fiscal year was discussed. The contribution was not included in the approved budget however a reserve carryover from last year would permit the contribution to be added.
- A final contract has been executed with Lisa Wiggins, our new minister.
- The Holidays boutique is in need of a new sponsor group.
- Share the Plate in July collected \$224 for Saint Luke's Pantry. Share the plate in August will be for ACT For Mental Health.
- The Pack-a-Back drive for Sacred Heart exceeded our goal of 15 packs with delivery of 31 packs.
- Planned facility audio-visual improvements include addition of a laptop PC to work with the TV in the west room and in the longer term, installation of a large screen video display in the Sanctuary.

Social Action

Sustainability tip of the month

In this second education article to help us implementing the Sustainable Practices Resolution we passed in May we consider water. In California the local climate, periodic droughts and the ever-growing population of the state all contribute to make this a place where water is getting scarcer and scarcer. Safe drinking water, healthy and intact natural ecosystems, and a stable food supply are a few of the things at stake.

We know that to ensure availability for future generations, the withdrawal of fresh water from the ecosystem should not exceed its natural replacement rate. We know that water pumping, delivery, and waste water treatment facilities consume a significant amount of energy. We know that minimizing human water use helps to preserve fresh water habitats for local wildlife and migrating waterfowl. How can the Fellowship be a good steward of this precious resource?

* No drips A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day. A leaking toilet can waste 90,000 gallons of water in a month. Keeping our existing equipment well maintained is the easiest and cheapest way for us to save water.

* Cultivate good water habits Turn off the water while washing hands. Use our energy and water efficient dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand. Always wash dishes with full loads.

* Install new fixtures Aerators on faucets can significantly reduce water volume leading to water savings. Toilets are the largest water user indoors. New, low-volume or dual flush toilets can save a great deal of water and money.

* Stay off the bottle Bottled water is expensive, wasteful and no healthier than tap water. It takes three times as much water to make the bottle as it does to fill it. By not serving bottled water at the Fellowship we can avoid this waste. And we can set a good example by ensuring that speakers in Sunday service, teachers in our Sunday school, or anyone representing UUFLG are seen using our available reusable glasses or cups instead of bottled water.

* Keep it clean: Use biodegradable cleaning products that won't pollute the water and avoid pouring any hazardous liquids down the drain.

* Use less power: US power plants use 136 billion gallons of water each day.

* Use less paper & Recycle the paper we do use: Recycling a pound of paper saves about 3.5 gallons of water. Buying recycled paper products saves water too, as making recycled water uses less water than making paper from trees

* Grow Smart: Maintain a 3 inch mulch layer to retain moisture. Use drought tolerant plants, particularly CA natives. Water at the most efficient time, between 4 & 7 am. Don't irrigate during the rainy season. Less frequent deeper watering is more efficient than frequent shallow watering.

* TAKING IT HOME: All the above tips can be applied at home but there are other things you can do at home as well. Landscaping accounts for about half the water Californians use at home. Reducing or eliminating your lawn, planting drought tolerant series and mulching will result in significant water savings. Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave. Shower, don't bathe: the average bath requires 70 gallons of water while a shower uses 10 to 25 gallons. Install a low-flow shower head and take shorter showers. Nearly 22% of indoor home water use comes from doing laundry. Save water by making sure to adjust the settings on your machine to the proper load size. When it's time to replace your washer consider an energy and water efficient front-loading machine. Eat less meat and dairy: they take much more water to produce than vegetarian alternatives. A gallon of gasoline takes nearly 13 gallons of water to produce so combining your errands, car pooling, or taking public transportation will reduce both your energy and water use.

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

Pack-A-Back Drive A Huge Success

Thank you to everyone for coming together and making our Pack-a-Back backpack drive such a huge success! The Sacred Heart Community Service annual Pack-a-Back program helps provide underprivileged children in our community with a great start to the school year by giving them backpacks filled with school supplies appropriate to their grade level. Social Action's goal was to collect supplies and monetary donations to fill 15 backpacks for needy students. Thanks to your generosity, we more than doubled our goal by filling 31 backpacks!!! We also donated three bags of shoes, socks and left over school supplies!



To learn more about this great program please watch this short video about the Pack-A-Back program:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FP5JvVsAiE>

StandUp for Kids Food Drive

From September 4th through September 18th the Social Action team will be holding a food drive benefiting 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.

They need non-perishable food: pop-top canned pasta, stews and other ready-to-eat meals, canned fruit, peanut butter, crackers and granola bars. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please make your check out to UUFLG and write "StandUp for Kids" on the memo line.

Lists of the needed food are listed on the food drive collection boxes, as well as printed copies in the Fellowship foyer. We will be collecting donations from September 4th – 18, 2011. If you have any questions, please see Connie Springer or Ryan Spaulding for more information.

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 Bert Olson (br2olson@earthlink.net) 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.



Share-the-Plate

In August Share-the-Plate collected \$371.00 for UUSC Somalia Famine Relief. The UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) will respond to the dire humanitarian crisis in Somalia and East Africa by providing immediate relief for Somalis affected by famine, assisting communities in Ethiopia and Kenya that are hosting Somali refugees, and supporting existing partners in East Africa in danger of food insecurity.

You can learn more at: http://www.uusc.org/content/uusc_situation_report_drought_and_famine_in_eastern_africa

or make a donation at:

https://secure2.convio.net/uusc/site/Donation2?2200.donation=form1&df_id=2200

Our September Share-the-Plate will benefit StandUp for Kids 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>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

September 2	Robin Wernick
3	Katie Stubstad
6	Gabriel Foster
9	Jo Cooley
11	Wanda Alexander
14	Sue Fera
15	Nick & Chris Matthiessen
16	Cheryl Kupras
17	Walt Main
18	Ruth Webb
19	Len Stonehill
22	Anna Stubstad

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

28	Cheryl & Brent Kupras
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Building & Grounds Work Party

Saturday, September 17th is the next scheduled workparty. Please help out with an hour or two of your time, starting at 10 a.m. Equipment is provided and any amount of effort is much appreciated.

Coralee Linton.



Dinner for 8 Returns!

Summer is drawing to a close, the kids are back in school and we are beginning a new year at UUFLG. Dinner for 8 will resume on Saturday, September 17 at members/friends homes. This casual evening is open to singles and couples alike! If you would like to host or participate, please contact Bonnie George, Bonnie.E.George@comcast.net or 408 221-6606 to join the fun and be able to enjoy great food and wonderful folks! Deadline for the September dinner is Tuesday, September 6th. Don't miss out – contact me now!

The annual UU Men's Retreat

for men in the Pacific Central District is being held the weekend of Oct 14-16 in its usual location at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo, CA. As always, it will be a time for UU men to share our experiences with one another, to learn, to play and to form new bonds with our fellow men. For many of us who come year after year, it's a time of both reflection and of reaching out. I hope you'll be kind to yourself and attend this year's Men's Retreat.

We have made the event more affordable this year: \$175 if you register by Sept 1 and \$200 thereafter. If you're under 30, it's only \$150. Now's the time to register!

To register, just go to this link:
<http://tinyurl.com/3zhhtkt>

Questions? Contact Gordon Smith at 408 393 6182
or pcdmensretreat@gmail.com



If you'd like to save paper and save UUFLG money, you can "OPT IN" and get your newsletter online. Just send an email to the administrator (admin@uufg.org) with "OPT IN" in the subject line.....

Thanks!
Sharon Potts, Administrator

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday August 28	29	30	31	1 SEPTEMBER	2	3
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime. 12:00-1:30p, Photos for UUFLG Dircty				12-1:30p RUUM's Lunch 1-4p Admin. Offc Hrs. 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime.	LABOR DAY	10:00-11: 45a. Tues. Chalice Cir.	11a-12:30p, Membership Mtg	9:45a -12:00p Thurs. Morning Women's Grp. 1-4p Admin. Offc Hrs 7:00p -8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation – Open to all	6:00p - 8:00p UUFLG Pot Luck to wel- come Rev. Lisa Wiggins	1:00p -4:00p International Angel Day Workshop
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30a -9:45a Pancake Breakfast to welcome Rev. Lisa Wiggins 10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service with new minister, Rev. Lisa Wiggins 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime. 1:00p – Hike, Contact: Jim Beebe, 408-315-5066	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:30p Great Books Discussion grp. "Major Barbara" by George Bernard Shaw	7:00 -9: 00p Sunday Programs Committee 7:30-9:00p, Finance Comm. Mtg.		12-1:30p Retired UU Men's Lunch 1-4:00p Admin. Offc Hrs 7:30p -9:00p Buddhist Meditation		10:00a. Bldg. & Gnds Workparty 6:30p. Dinners for Eight
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime 12:00-1:15p, Social Action Team Mtg.		10-11:45a. Tuesday Chalice Circle		1-4p Admin Offc Hrs 7:30 -9:00p Buddhist Meditation		
25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct. 1
10:30 -11:30a Sunday Service 10:15a -11:30p Children's Religious Education Classes & Playtime	7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group			1-4p Admin Offc Hrs 7:30 -9:00p Buddhist Meditation		

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



Fellowship News

September 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.