

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

August 2007 No 8; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, editor; Adrienne Gormley, associate editor

August 2007 **Sunday Services at 10:30**

August 5 ***Celebrating Ministers And Mentors***

Speaker: Nina Kalmoutis
Worship Associate: Linda Krenicky
Musician: Nina Kalmoutis

Nina Kalmoutis who attended the Fellowship with her parents as a teenager, shares her reflections on some of the Unitarian Universalist ministers and mentors who have influenced her over the years.

August 12 ***Seven Issues To Consider Before Attempting Church Growth***

Speaker: Eric Nelson
Worship Associate: Linda Krenicky
Musician: Larry Chinn

STOP! Don't try to grow your church until you dialogue on seven important issues. Failure to resolve each of them can spell disaster! Eric Nelson returns to the pulpit on August 12, to deliver a sermon entitled "Seven Issues To Consider Before Attempting Church Growth". Please plan to stay a few minutes after the service to discuss these timely, important issues with Eric and church members.

August 19 ***Young Wanderers***

Worship Associate: Katie Rall
Musician: Dave Coldren

Young Wanderers Bejan Fanibanda, Nick Matthieson and Syambra Moitozo join us to share their experiences with recent world travel. These fine young people are the children of Sharon Graham, Katie Rall, and JJ Martin, and grew up in the Fellowship. We are delighted to have their return.

Peninsula Banjo Band Concert
4:00 p.m. at the Fellowship
Come and enjoy!

August 26 ***Let My People Go***

Victoria Ingram, Minister
Musicians: Larry Chinn, Rich Osborne

While we don't tend to study the Bible much, it does contain stories of human nature that Unitarian Universalists can relate to modern life. This sermon focuses on people experiencing change - those who followed Moses in their escape from Egypt. What does this ancient story have to tell us about experiencing new adventures in our lives?



Anticipating the Harvest **Victoria Ingram, Minister**

The moving company delivered our household to Los Gatos in early July, and our place is taking shape as a home. Between unpacking boxes, Carl and I explore our new neighborhood. Last weekend, we discovered the Farmer's Market.

Oh, joy! Suddenly, it seems, the juice and sweetness of summer's harvest appear before us like magic! Heaped tables laden with green leaves, tender shoots, and full bunches - a symphony of color for the eyes, heralding an abundance of good things for the table.

As a former farm girl, I know what appears miraculous involves a lot of planning, preparation, and hard work. The ground was tilled, the soil fertilized, and seeds sown. Weeks and months of careful tending allowed fledgling starts to take hold, eventually setting fruit and ripening into maturity. There's a lot that goes into creating a succulent strawberry or nourishing eggplant.

As I join this Fellowship as settled minister and we start our time together, I see a parallel story. The seeds of our harvests, too, were planted a while ago. We've carefully tended and nurtured our dreams and plans. Along the way, it took work and sweat and fussing and focusing to make this partnership a possibility. There's a lot that goes into creating a succulent worship service and nourishing community.

The anticipated fruit of your search and mine is ripe and ready for harvest. I'm excited to be with you as we experience the sweetness and juice of this new relationship, to explore what it means to grow and worship together in our community of faith at UUFLG. It's time to begin.

With light and love –
Victoria

Victoria Ingram begins at UUFLG on August 15. You can reach her by calling the church (408.358.1212) and leaving a message, if no one is available to take your call.

(Note: Her church cell phone number will be available August 1st.)

She is available via cell phone from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (at all hours for emergencies.) You can also contact Victoria via email at VIngram@uuma.org

Victoria's Fellowship office hours are:
Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and
Thursday, Noon to 6 p.m.
Other times available by appointment.

Monday will be Victoria's study/writing day (she is available by phone.)
Friday will be her Sabbath (day off.) She is available only for emergencies on Fridays.

A Letter from Our Departing Interim Minister

Dear Ones,

I wanted you all to know what a lovely farewell you gave me. It was great fun! From the beautifully decorated tables to the sumptuous feast, featuring the best dishes of your many great cooks, to the wonderful, intergenerational concert and cabaret, replete with original skits and music, to the sweet gifts and cards, you verified what I suspected all along... you are a joyous, talented, welcoming, and energetic religious community.

I am very proud of the work we accomplished this year. Together we partnered to prepare for your first called minister in a very long time. You had concerns and longings. I hoped our brief time together would turn the concerns into clearer understandings and the longings into excitement for your future.

I believe in that future. I believe in you! You are well on your way to embracing a new partnership and a new era.

As of August 1st I will be settling into my little rented house in Livermore and trying to figure out which box I packed the spatula in. And on August 15 I'll officially begin my Interim Ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, just as you officially welcome Victoria Ingram to your congregation. I want you to know that my love is with you both.

Joy, love, peace in our hearts, until we meet again –

Carolyn

Some Short Notes from the July Board Meeting

At the Fellowship Board of Trustee's July meeting Bill Robertson reported the results of the mail ballot for members of the Religious Education search committee. There was a good ballot response and the fellowship members recommended by the Nominating Committee were unanimously approved.

The search committee members are; Leslie Jones, Esther Kaplan, Sabine Omvik, Joe Rafferty, Kristina Strand and Victoria Ingram, Minister

Board meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.. The board has decided to reschedule the August board meeting for the third Thursday, August 16 to officially welcome Victoria Ingram. Victoria begins her ministry with us on August 15.

Written evaluations of the past Interim Year were also discussed at the July board meeting – one prepared by our Interim Minister, Carolyn Colbert and one prepared by a trio of active Fellowship members selected by the board. Both evaluations were very positive and reflect the progress we have made as well as optimism for the future. The member's evaluation was very complimentary and appreciative of Carolyn's work with us this last year. The two independent evaluations were in remarkable agreement. Both have been sent to the UUA's Department of Ministry and to the Pacific Central District.

It was also noted that the Fellowship's preliminary 2006-2007 year-end financial results showed a surplus of \$4,463. The surplus will be transferred to the Fellowship financial reserves. On another financial note, the potential 2007-2008 budget shortfall originally estimated at \$14,391 has been further reduced to \$6,576.

Jim Stahl (Vice President)



Religious Education

As we don't have RE classes for the children this summer, the kids have a choice to either stay in the sanctuary with the adults or go to the preschool room. They can play the games we have available or bring their own favorite games. The preschool room staff might even have something in store for you. Have fun this summer!

August's Family Friendly Events



BEACH DAY!

August 4

Bring your own food, kites, baseball mits, frisbees to Seacliff Beach! We'll meet in the

afternoon and play into the evening. RSVP: Leslie Jones 927-9966

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!

August 18, 6-9p.m.

Drop your kids at the Fellowship for a few hours of complimentary childcare. RSVP needed by August 12 to Sarah Mozelle 813-3455

BANJO CONCERT!

Peninsula Banjo Band presents an hour-long sing-along concert on Sunday, August 19 at 4:00 PM at the Fellowship. Sponsored by the Fundraising Team (listed on page 6), and first in a series designed to financially support our children's program. Admission donation is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Children under 12 are free. Make your donation online now, by going to the UUFLG homepage and clicking on the Special Announcement link. Doing so will allow you to pay using your credit card. Tickets will be sold after each service beginning August 2. This concert will be advertised to the public, so please help spread the word. If you'd like to take some tickets to sell, just see any member of the Fundraising Team.

Report to the Fellowship on General Assembly in Portland

Ruth Webb

Katie Rall and I spent four very busy days at UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon in June. Imagine spending four days and nights with about 6000 other UUs – the cream of the UU crop, all as smart, dedicated, and earnest as you think they would be. I came away feeling very proud of being a Unitarian Universalist. Proud of belonging to such a talented, worthy group of people.

The convention center in Portland is very large, and it took us a while to figure out where everything was and how to get there. Lots of stairs and escalators. But the workshops and other sessions were very well organized and things became easy by the last day.

We were both delegates from our Fellowship which meant we got to vote on the decisions made in the “plenary sessions”. Those are sessions at which the business of the convention is done. The biggest decision we got to decide on was the Statement of Conscience which is made by the denomination to the general public. It was on “Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society”, and in about 15 paragraphs proclaimed our moral positions, contravening the religious right’s insinuations they are the only religion with moral principles. It was impressive and inspiring to see how the substance and wording was arrived at. Democracy in action!

There were lots of workshops on a wide variety of subjects from “Congregational Singing” to “Near Death Experiences & UU Spirituality”. We got to hear marvelous speakers: Thom Hartmann, the talk show host, Robert Fulghum, UU minister and writer, David Korten, author of “The Great Turning”, and Professor Rashid Khalidi, an expert on middle eastern history.

It rained only the last day, and not very much.

Katie got to carry our Fellowship Banner in the parade of banners at the opening session, one of several hundred banners from the societies attending.

We saw many old friends – Norm & Joanne Crane, Julie Springer. Of course Carolyn was there, and Victoria, and Erika, and Parisa (who I didn’t get to

see), but Katie did. Bill Scarvie put on his workshop which was so popular none of us could get in.

We’re not isolated here in Los Gatos. We’re part of a much bigger entity, one we can be proud to belong to.

Next year the convention is in Florida. If you’re going...you’ll LOVE IT!

Call for Gardeners (and Irrigation Monitors)

The Building and Grounds committee needs volunteers to help with the Fellowship landscaping. For many years, Ruth Webb and others have taken great care of our grounds, including monitoring and maintenance of the automated drip watering system. Ruth has done an outstanding job but is no longer able to carry the burden for the rest of us.

The Fellowship employs a part-time gardener but the grounds need volunteers to identify, organize and coordinate special tasks. Monitors for the watering system are also needed. Monitoring the water system requires a periodic check of proper operation to insure we don’t lose plants to a malfunction. Those willing to help should contact Jim Stahl or Ann Campbell.

Sanctuary Beautification

We’ll be giving some TLC and much-needed paint to our sacred space in the early Fall. Dates for a planning meeting and painting party will be announced soon.



If you'd like to be part of the idea and execution process, please start thinking of specific, affordable, easy-to-do remedies and be prepared to share them at the planning meeting. You might consider bringing specific paint chips, pricing and website addresses for other items such as plants, fabric billows, banners, etc to purchase.

We'll be working with the current seating, lighting, and carpet. A longer-term vision and fundraising for that vision is a possibility for the future, but for now, what can we do for a few hundred bucks and in one work party? Stay tuned to email announcements and September newsletter for more information.

Social Justice Advocates

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our next Habitat for Humanity workday is set for **Saturday, September 29**. Members and Friends of UUFLG will spend a satisfying day working hands-on to help a local family build a home of their own. No special skills required. Mark your calendars NOW. And it is not too early to sign-up ... contact our HfH coordinator, Kristina Strand at kers@mindspring.com to reserve your space at this very rewarding social action event.

HEALTHCARE REFORM

Thanks to all of you who stopped by the Social Justice table to write get well cards to your state Senators asking for healthcare reform in California this year. We sent over 30 cards to Sacramento and added our voice to this important debate.

GLOBAL WARMING CHALLENGE PROJECT

The 'official' kickoff of the Social Justice Associate's challenge project will be Sunday Aug 5. We'll have detailed handouts with everything you need to start meeting the challenge! Most of us recognize the seriousness of global warming and the need to take actions to reverse the trend. But breaking habits is hard. The goal of the global warming challenge project is to encourage people to DO things that help. A secondary goal is to get people to THINK about the impact of what they do on global warming; the more it is on our minds in our daily lives the better. Hopefully most of you will tackle most of the challenges this year. It is a little work ... but worth it!

We announced our 1st challenge (air drying laundry) in the July newsletter but decided it would be best not to add a 2nd challenge before the kickoff. That gives you all a little more time to get and install your clothes lines (or do so for a friend or relative if you already have yours). See overview of Challenge #1 in the July newsletter. More detailed information will be available at the Aug 5 kickoff and on the deck and a couple of times a month from then on. Once our webpage is available, it too will have detailed information on the global warming challenges including links to resources.

After that, we plan to introduce a new challenge every month. Each challenge will have an 'immediate' action that is feasible and concrete (something to DO, not just a promise). When you've complete the action you sign your name to our list of "challenge meeters".

Most challenges will also have a "follow-up action" that involves an ongoing action over a prolonged period with the goal of firmly establishing good new habits. For example, for challenge #1 it is to air-dry at least 4 loads of laundry a

month (or equivalent) for 3 consecutive months. When you've completed the follow-up action, you sign your name again for doing that.

All challenges will continue until July 2008 and you may complete any challenge at any time. We will continue to have information on all challenges to date on the deck and on our website (once it is up). So there will be lots of opportunities to make a difference!

A FEW QUESTIONS ON GLOBAL WARMING CHALLENGES

Q: Can I sign the chart if I already implemented the action before the start of the challenge?

A: Congratulations on being ahead but the answer is "NO". The goal of the challenge is to improve upon the existing situation and thus you must do something new

Q: Isn't that unfair?

A: Not really. There will always be at least one alternative action you can substitute. Often it will involve having a friend or relative do the action. So you have lots of opportunity to meet the challenge.

Q: It seems like it might be difficult to do follow-up actions all the time over an extended period. Can I skip once in a while and still get credit for doing the follow-up action?

A: The follow-up actions will be worded to allow some flexibility. For example, for challenge #1, you need to air dry 4 loads of laundry a month...you can miss a week or two and still meet the challenge by catching up later in the month.

Q: What if I'm not around to sign the chart?

A: You can contact Sue Fera (sueanon@sbcglobal.net or phone) and she will sign for you.

Join us at our next meeting, August 12 12:15 - 1:30 in the Lounge. All are welcome.

Directory Updates:

Members and Friends are encouraged to review their contact information in the directory from last fall and email our Admin, Adrienne, at admin@uufg.org or call 358-1212 with updates. This will help ensure that your information is current and correct in our upcoming directory. Thanks for your help with this bit of "housekeeping".



Fundraising Team News

Do you make a Starbuck's or Peet's run every morning? Do you buy their pre-paid cards? If so, the fundraising team is ready to help you convert what you're already doing into nearly-effortless cash for the Fellowship's RE program. We are able to take your order for pre-paid cards for a variety of retail stores and restaurants, ranging from Peet's and Starbuck's to Long's Drugs and Macy's. You won't pay any more for these cards than if you bought them in the stores, AND UUFLG will receive a percentage of the value of the card! See any of the fundraising team for order forms. We will have a table out on the deck after Sunday services in the month of August, where you can:

- Sign up for eScrip**
- Place an order for pre-paid cards
- Buy Peninsula Banjo Band tickets for \$10 (Concert is August 19 at 4:00 pm, and the public is invited)
- Purchase raffle tickets for Edna Windes' watercolor-on-tissue, *Sunflower*, to be raffled at the Pancake Breakfast on September 2

And don't forget these exciting future events:

October 19: Dave Coldren, Esther Kaplan, and Susanne Mulcahy present an evening of comedy and music

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>.

December (date to be determined): Annual Holiday Boutique

February, 2008: UUFLG Auction Returns!

As you can see, there is lots of fun in the months ahead. We will definitely need all the talents in our community to make these events successful, so please be thinking about how you can help. From contacting local newspapers to hanging flyers around town, to making goodies to sell at the events, there's sure to be something you can do!

For more information, or to contribute your fund-raising ideas, please contact any member of the Fundraising Team: Linda Krenicky (370-1516), Chris

Magee (395-6869), Dick and Shelley Powers (265-4791), and Irving Yabroff (741-7586).

**See full instructions for sign-up below. If you need help, see us at the Fundraising Table, Sundays after the service.

eSCRIP-A Way to Fund the RE Program

One of the ways we can meet the funding goal of supporting a comprehensive Religious Education Program at UUFLG is with a program called eScrip. eScrip merchants donate a percentage of purchases by people who register with eScrip and use their registered credit cards or gift cards at their stores.

Thanks to Irving Yabroff, the UUFLG has been established as a participating group in the eScrip program. Members, friends and supporters of the Fellowship can help by signing up and designating the Fellowship as their selected group. Information regarding the enrollment process will be posted in the entryway and West Room. To register your cards, go to www.escrip.com and follow the step-by-step directions. **The Fellowship's Group ID is: 500015642.** If you don't have access to a computer, or need help registering your cards, please see Linda Krenicky, Dick Powers, or Irving Yabroff.

If you are already participating in eScrip, no worries; you can add the Fellowship, as more than one group can be designated, and donations will be split among them.

Administrivia

From the keyboard of Adrienne Gormley

I will be on call for Jury Duty for the week of August 6, 2007 (August 6 through August 10). I will continue to work my office hours as I am able, checking the Superior Court website on a regular basis to see if my number comes up to report.

If I do have to report to court, I will send out a note on the general Announcements mailing list.

From the Deck

We have a "brand new" baby girl in our community!! She is tiny, and beautiful and the daughter of Dorice and Mike Sharp. Her name is Genevieve and will probably be called "Jenna" by her big brother Alexander, who is 4 years old. Congratulations to Dorice and Mike, and welcome to Jenna to our Community.

Julie and Jerry Doyle are happy grandparents to "Hope", Tasha's new baby . All are doing well in Montana, and I am sure when Julie returns from Montana we will see pictures of her new baby and family. Congratulations!

We look forward to the Sunday afternoon concert given to us by ***The Peninsula Banjo Band*** coming on August 19. It will be a Sing-Along with song sheets. Sounds like great fun and it is open to the community. Be sure to **get your tickets early as there are a limited number of seats available.**

Thanks to the Sunday Services music people: Dave Peyton, The Nightingales, Suzanne Mulcahy, The Recorders, Larry Chinn and Dave Coldren.

Tickets for the raffle of the lovely *Sunflower* picture are still available. This is the lovely picture donated from artist and member of this congregation, Edna Windes. You do not have to be present to win this floral piece. The drawing will be at our annual Pancake Breakfast in September.

A **big** thanks to Connie Springer and Linda Krenicky and helpers, for a successful ***First Time Used Book Sale***.

Looking ahead, Christmas is coming! Just a reminder for you "crafty folks" to think about what you will do for the Christmas boutique. Sometimes it takes longer than you had planned, so start early!!

Have you heard about eScrip? The Fund Raising Committee is urging all to participate. Sounds good to me!



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

Jo Cooley's Gourd Bird Show is from August 1 to August 31 at the Saratoga Gallery at 14435A Big Basin Way, Saratoga. This is a creative show the whole family will enjoy.

WOW!! Doesn't the foyer look wonderful!! Thank you, Sarah Mozelle and your painting crew.

Lou Yabroff

Notes From The Music Chair



The Happiest Music There Is: Mark your calendars and be ready to have some fun on Sunday afternoon, August 19. The Peninsula Banjo Band brings us "the happiest music there is" in a family fundraising event at the Fellowship, 4:00 p.m.. Donation is \$10 in advance, or \$12 at the door. Children under 12 are free. You can order tickets on-line from the UUFLG homepage (www.uuflg.org) or buy them out on the deck after Sunday service on August 5, 12 and 19. The Peninsula Banjo Band is an internationally-known band composed entirely of volunteer musicians. They will bring song sheets along so we can join in with the lively music.

This is the **FIRST** of a series of fundraising concerts. Following in October will be a comedy and music evening hosted by our own Esther Kaplan, Dave Coldren and Susanne Mulcahy. In November, we'll welcome UU traveling musician Andrew McKnight. Both these events will be advertised to the public, and tickets will be sold on-line.

The Nightingales will resume practice sessions (after a brief summer hiatus) on Tuesday, September 11. New voices are welcome as we begin planning the music for the coming church year. If you are interested in singing, please contact Linda Krenicky or Ruth Webb.

Blessings to all!

Linda Krenicky
Music-Lover/Music Chair
lindakrenicky@comcast.net
408-370-1516



August 2007

29	30	July 31	August 1	2	3	4
			7:30 - Meditation Class		12:30- Music Committee	All day - Family Fun Beach Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30- Sunday Service <i>Celebrating Ministers and Mentors</i>		2:00 - Membership Committee	7:30 - Meditation Class	9:45 -Thursday Morning Women's Group		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30- Sunday Service <i>Seven Issues to Consider Before Attempting Church Growth</i> 12:15- Social Justice Advocates	7:15- Women's Spirituality Group 7:30- Great Books	1:00 - Admin & Communication s Committee Mtg	Victoria starts 7:30 - Meditation Class	7:00 - UUFLG Board Meeting		6:00 - Parents Night Out
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:45a -Hymn Sing! 10:30- Sunday Service <i>Young Wanderers</i> 2:30- Peninsula Banjo Band fundraiser	Newsletter Deadline		12:15- Stitch & Bitch 7:30 - Meditation Class			
26	27	28	29	30	August 31	September 1
10:30- Sunday Service <i>Let My People Go</i>	7:15- Women's Spirituality Group		7:30 - Meditation Class			

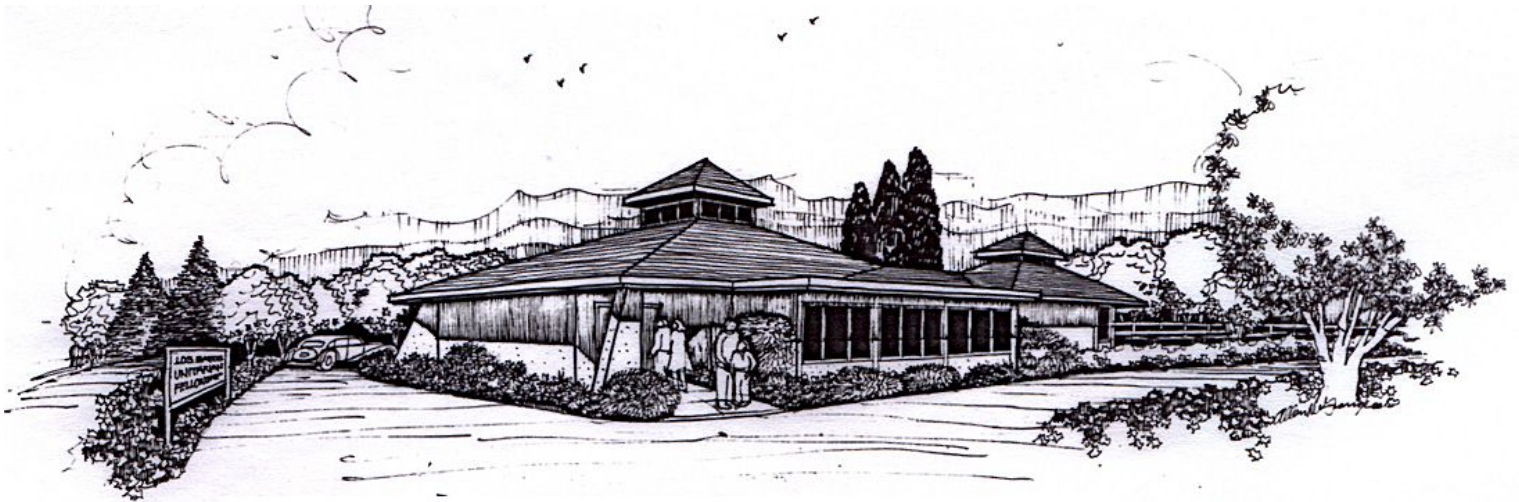
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

15980 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 358-1212

Return Service Requested



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



Fellowship News

August 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 <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.