

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

March 2009 No.3; 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

March 2009

Sunday Services at 10:30

March 1:

Beyond Categories: Are We There Yet?

Rev. Victoria Ingram

There's been much in the media of America being in a "post racial" period, following the election of Pres. Barack Obama. But are we truly ready to think, act, and embrace each other beyond our categories – constructs like race, gender, sexual orientation, or class? Our service this week explores life beyond categories and our responsibility as UUs for creating such a world.

March 8: *World Religions and Their Influence on UU*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Transcendentalists, who influenced UU in the 1800s, were deeply familiar with Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Our UU Sources acknowledge the value of wisdom drawn from the world's religions and modern UU congregations include spiritual practices, music, and advice for the well-lived life. We'll look at how these traditions influence our thinking and practice as modern UUs.

March 15: *Rooted in Shared History.*

Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr.

On this Sunday we will explore the historical background of both Transylvanian and U.S. American Unitarianism and Universalism, and try to find shared thoughts not merely in

theology and ethical teachings, but also in what provides the indescribable grounding of our day to day lives: Unitarian (and Universalist) Spirituality. The goal is to understand that once history is shared, our present is also a shared one.

The Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr. is the 2008-2009 Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. Endre is minister at the Gyergyószentmiklós fellowship and the Csíkszereda church in the Székelyudvarhely District of Transylvania. His passion is church music, and he hopes to return at the end of his scholarship year with new ways of implementing music in worship and church life.

March 22: *Practices That Grow the Soul*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Think of it like the popular self-help series, a sort of "Care of the Soul for Dummies!" This Sunday we'll take an experiential journey, trying out a variety of practices that nurture that part of us that yearns for renewal, inspiration, and peace. Come, bring your spirit of adventure, and give 'em a try!

March 29: *UU Justice Sunday – UUs on the World Stage*

Rev. Victoria Ingram

What are Unitarian Universalists doing in the world outside of the United States? (Did you even know that there are UUs outside of the United States?)

April 5:

UUFLG Social Action Committee Sunday Service

Minister's Column

Your generous response to the "Budget Builder" puts UUFLG on track to continue our programs for this fiscal year. I know that times are uncertain, and it's tough to think about making an additional commitment in these conditions. Thank you for contributing so open-heartedly to the call!

Now, it's time to turn our focus to the Fellowship's ongoing financial needs. In March, we're conducting our Annual Budget Drive, formerly called a yearly canvass or pledge campaign. You'll notice that it's being done a bit differently this year. A group of dedicated UUFLG members will be paying visits to some of the members of this congregation as Visiting Stewards. If they call you and invite you to meet with them, I hope you'll say "YES!" enthusiastically. This year's approach is a hybrid of visits and letters; if you aren't called for a visit, you'll still have an opportunity to participate!

Any of us could choose to practice our theology or pursue our spiritual growth in isolation. Instead, we choose to come together at UUFLG to share the rich journey of our lives with like-minded and like-hearted people. One of the joys of being in a liberal religious community is the opportunity to get to know people, including ourselves, at a deeper and much more meaningful level than we might at a gym, social club, or neighborhood group.

Spending time with a Visiting Steward is about getting to share your story of being a part of the UUFLG community and learning about someone else's story, too. If you're new to the Fellowship, it's a chance to get to know someone you may not have had the chance to talk with before in depth. If you're a long-time member, you'll appreciate the chance to talk with someone one-on-one and enjoy their company once again.

Another purpose of being in a religious community is pursuing a mission, not only to fulfill our own needs, but to find a way to be of service to the world. Talking with a Visiting Steward about how UUFLG serves its mission, sharing ideas for continuing to be a voice for liberal faith in Silicon Valley, is another good reason to say "yes" to the chance to participate.

Yes, the Visiting Steward will ask you to consider your financial support for UUFLG. They'll be happy to take your pledge of financial support for our Fellowship. While that's important, it's a small part of

the conversation. I encourage you to take advantage of the greater opportunity to share your story and deepen your relationships within this faith community and meet with a Visiting Steward.

On Sunday, March 22nd, plan on being at UUFLG for our Annual Budget Drive wrap-up festivities! You'll find more information in this Newsletter. I'm looking forward to celebrating our community's generosity and mission with you that day!

Love and Light,
Victoria

Getting to Know UU

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Curious about what it means to be a member of UUFLG? Want to meet interesting people and share what draws us to this faith tradition? Join Rev. Victoria and the Membership Committee for two Tuesday evenings – March 3 and 10 – to explore the history and traditions of UU and UUFLG. Workshop starts each evening at 7:00 p.m., ends by 9:00 p.m. Register in the Foyer. Call the church office (358.1212) and let us know if you need childcare.

Principled Parenting

Nurturing our children, preparing them to be happy, healthy, and ready for the future, is the goal of all of us with children in our lives. In this workshop you'll explore how to use our UU Seven Principles as a framework for rearing children to be resilient, resourceful, and confident.

Register for this workshop in the Foyer or by calling the church office. Childcare is available. Please call the church office (358.1212) if you need care for your children so you can attend the workshop.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

UUFLG has received acknowledgement as a “Creating Justice Banner Society” for the level of participation by our congregation in supporting UUSC’s work through our donations. The banner is now hanging in the foyer. They thanked us for the donations made toward the Guest at Your Table program, along with those of you who have chosen to become supporting members of the work of the UUSC.

You can learn more about the current projects which are the focus of the UUSC’s international efforts at their website, www.uusc.org.

Religious Education

I am delighted to see our Second Harvest basket filling up with delicious food items, and on behalf of the students of RE as well as the Social Action Committee, I want to thank everyone for their donations. This is the perfect opportunity to show our children what social action is, and that, unfortunately, needy families are hungry all year round. Thanks also to Connie Springer for helping RE make this possible.

Katie and I are pleased to announce the next potluck for all ages will be coming up on March 28th, which is the 4th Saturday of the month. She has also picked these Saturdays for potlucks for the rest of the year:

May 30th
July 25th
September 26th
October 24th

We hope to see you there! We’re hoping some of the kids will have a surprise for you at one of these events. In the meantime, we’re starting to cook up plans for a carwash and bake sale, hopefully in April. We’re ready to raise some money and put UUFLG on the map! We believe a public fundraiser will raise our visibility in the community, and we’ll be sharing more details about that soon.

In Fellowship,
Tamara

Building Security Reminder

UUFLG is visited annually by the Fire Marshall, to insure that we are doing all we can to practice fire safe procedures. Overall, we did well in this year’s review. Here are a couple of reminders!

Please make sure that all exterior and interior doors are closed when locking up the building after an event. Obviously, closing exterior doors is important for building security. Making sure interior doors are closed serves the purpose of inhibiting the spread of fire in the event one were to start in the building.

Make sure all lights, heaters, ovens, and burners are turned off before exiting the building at the end of an event. Not only does it save electricity, it also helps reduce the risk of fire. Check on the candles, too, and make sure they are extinguished.

Thanks for your help in keeping our building safe and secure.

A Building & Grounds workparty is scheduled for Saturday, March 14th. Help is always needed and much appreciated. If you can spare an hour or two, please contact Coralee Linton at (408) 377-7298 or gcnontil@yahoo.com. We meet from 10 to noon.

Each year **the Nominating Committee** is tasked with finding and recruiting a slate of Board members. In a typical year, either four or five Board members’ two year terms will be ending. Per our By-Laws, we are publicizing the positions that are open. We will also be looking for two people to serve on the Nominating Committee for a two-year term. The open Board positions as of July 1st are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Sunday Programs- Trustee
- Building & Administration- Trustee

Our By Laws require that the qualification for the Board be at least 12 months as a Fellowship member as of July 1, 2009.

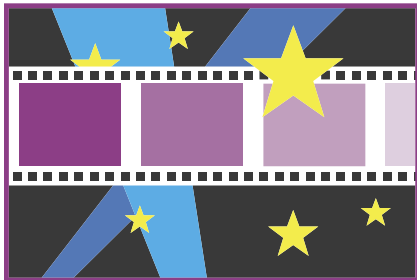
If you are interested in serving on the Board or Nominating Committee, please contact Tim Connelly at 408-221-7357 (email: trconnelly@sbcglobal.net).

Inspirational Film
Waking Ned Devine
March 13, Friday
6:30 PM

A spectacularly funny tale at the shock of winning the Irish lottery and the resulting sweepstakes greed. Can the outrageous scheme of the villagers out-smart lottery authorities? This movie is your winning comedy ticket for all ages.

Join "Movie Professor" Carl Ingram for film background and discussion with this laugh-out-loud funny, entertaining, and quirky film. This is the last in our Inspirational Film series for this church year! 1998, PG, 1 hour 31 min.

Childcare is available by calling the church office: 408-358-1212.



Mark your calendars and get your car pools together!

It's time to celebrate women! On Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 8PM at UUFLG, your very own Mari-Esther Kaplan will be transforming the fellowship into a comedy club! She will be hosting an all women comedy benefit for MOMS (Midwives on Missions of Service). Tickets are \$20 to be purchased at the door.

The show will feature 6 female comics at different stages of life from ages 7 to 78! You don't have to be female to enjoy the show, you just have to be ready to laugh your head off!

**** Please be advised that this will be a show for adults aged 18 and over. The comics will be exploring adult themes. There will be sexual content.****

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

**The Fellowship Auction:
Celebrating Green Energy**

Mark your calendars also for the most fun event of the year - The Annual Fellowship Auction will take place May 9, 2009. Riding high on the success of last year's auction, there will be merriment, food, and beverages.

Celebrating Green Energy is the theme for the 2009 Fellowship Auction. Spring is green. Money is green. Sustainability is green. Green Energy is sustainable energy. Energy enlivens out Fellowship. Green energy in our Fellowship is a sustainable social action project. We will be celebrating all these aspects of Green Energy as well as your initiative or brainchild.

The excitement begins at 5:30 PM and will include a silent auction and a very entertaining live auction. This is an opportunity to gather as a community, share a fun evening together, buy terrific items and enjoy one another. Start planning what items or activities you can donate to our auction this year.

All are welcome at the auction, including children! Plan now to join the festivities.

Ann Campbell
Auction Committee Chair

P.S. All volunteers to help out contact me! Soon!

Celebrate Stebbins!

Stebbins at Asilomar is a summer gathering of UUs that offers the opportunity to learn, rest, renew, and connect. After decades of conferences, Stebbins is celebrating their final season this year from July 26-31.

This year's program includes workshops on dream interpretation, poetry, improve, science, the meaning of life, beading, and other topics. There are many social activities, excursions and adventures available to participants, as well. All at the beautiful Asilomar conference center in Pacific Grove.

You can learn more about this wonderful UU conference opportunity at www.serve.com/stebbins.

2009 UUFLG MEMBER SURVEY

A UUFLG member survey was sent to all 110 UUFLG members in mid December 2008. The purpose of the survey was to gauge how we are doing as a group and where we need to improve. We plan to repeat the survey annually to be able to judge progress. Forty members completed and returned their surveys and there were many written comments in response to the eleven question areas, in addition to numeric ratings. A survey report has been prepared and will be available on the UUFLG web site, or a printed copy may be obtained from the Long Range Planning committee (see Harry Campbell, Katy Rall, Kathryn Wood or Jim Stahl.)

The full report is too large to repeat here but the following table shows a summary result. The eleven question areas are listed along with the average and median scores. The rating scale was from “0” (Total Dissatisfaction) to 10 (Totally Satisfied.) A score of “5” would indicate a neutral feeling.

	Average	Median
1. Our Fellowship – Overall Satisfaction	7.8	8.0
2. Sunday Services	7.2	8.0
3. Our Minister	7.8	8.5
4. Religious Education for Children	7.6	8.0
5. Religious Education for Adults	7.2	8.0
6. Board of Trustees and governance	7.9	8.0
7. Fellowship building, facilities and maintenance	7.7	8.0
8. Fellowship finances and fundraising	6.7	7.0
9. Fellowship Social Action activities	7.9	8.0
10. Programs and activities	7.6	8.0
11. Fellowship feeling of community	8.1	9.0
Average all ratings	7.6	

A Talk at the UU Church of Palo Alto

COMMON GROUND: Zoroaster and the Persian Religion

- by Courtney Roberts, M.A.

Sunday, March 29 at 7-9pm
Fireside Room, UU Church of Palo Alto

The three great monotheisms (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) have a lot more in common than we realize, for many of their core beliefs originally derive from the Persian religion and the prophet Zoroaster. We know how religion divides people, but can it also bring them together? Courtney Roberts is a writer, teacher, and consultant whose work reflects a unique perspective: a real passion for the ‘big picture,’ combining cosmology, religious studies, and history with a lifetime of observing the dynamic interaction of spirit and cosmos. Courtney is a graduate of the Masters program in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology at Bath Spa University in England, where she developed her specialization in the role of astrology in religion, particularly Persian Zoroastrianism and western monotheism. Her most recent book, *The Star of the Magi* (NewPage 2007) presents the most comprehensive, up-to-date research on the Star of Bethlehem and the messianic astrology practised by the Persian Magi.

Please pre-register (eventsignup@uucpa.org or call the church office, (650-494-0541).

Childcare can usually be provided with two weeks notice

(childcare@uucpa.org or call the church office).

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 Ann Campbell (annbcampbell@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.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Food Basket Year-round

Food's on the table... Most of us take those words for granted but in these difficult economic times an increasing number of our neighbors need help putting food on their family's table. In a joint project of UUFLG Kids & Youth and Social Action to help fight hunger all year round we now have a food basket permanently stationed in the foyer to collect food for Second Harvest. Next time you go to the grocery store why not pick up an item or two for the food basket while you're there.

Items most needed are:

- Meals in a can (stew, chili, soup)
- Tuna/Canned meat
- Peanut butter
- Canned foods with pop-top lids
- Low sugar cereals
- 100% fruit juices in single serving boxes
- Canned fruit packed in its own juice
- Low salt canned vegetables

Please do not donate items packaged in glass or bulk quantities of rice, flour, or sugar.

Post this list or one of the quarter-sheet flyers, available by the food basket, on your refrigerator to help you remember to do a little something to help feed our neighbors who can't take for granted that food will be on the table at mealtime.

Goodbye to Disposable Flatware

Thanks to the generous donations of used forks, knives, and spoons by Kathryn Wood and Barbara Kalmoutis we now have enough flatware in the UUFLG kitchen that we should never need to use plastic eating utensils at our food events again. We also have ample supplies of mugs, plates, and soup bowls as well as a dishwasher to clean them. Let's remember the Earth each time we serve food at the Fellowship by choosing these reusable dishes and utensils over disposables whenever possible.



Social Action Library

Read any good books on social action topics lately? Do you have some you would like to share? We are assembling a small Social Action Library on the bookcases in the Quiet Room (at the back of the sanctuary) where you can check out social action related books and we are asking you to check your selves for books you would like to share. You can either donate the book or loan it to us for an indefinite period. Call Kate Taylor if you have books to contribute.

And be sure to take a look at the books we already have including: one on making your own non-toxic cleaners, The Hot Topic; What We Can Do About Global Warming, the Union of Concerned Scientists' Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices, and more. We have a wealth of resource material between us. Thanks to Kate for helping us set up a way to share it with each other.

Up Coming

Here's a peek at what the Social Action Team is working on: the April 5 Sunday Service presented by the Social Action Team, our May 16 participation in National River Clean Up Day (sign-up sheets coming soon), and possibly a film & discussion of the mounting water crisis from both local and global perspectives. As always you are invited to join us on the second Sunday of each month from 12:00 to 1:30 to discuss and plan for ways to put our UU principles into action.

MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service:	2	3	4	5	6	7 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting
8 12:00p -1:30p Social Action Committee 12:00p -1:00p Nominating Committee	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 12:30p Enjoy the Outdoors - Walk, Hike, Bike	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service:	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service:	30	31	1	2	3	4

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
15980 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, 95032
(408) 358-1212



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



Fellowship News

March 2009

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.