

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

October 2008 No.10; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

October 2008
Sunday Services at 10:30

October 5

Mark Brodsky,

Former Mayor of Monte Sereno

A bunch of Israeli Jews, an Egyptian Muslim, and a Palestinian Arab walked into a room with a Presbyterian minister, a former Catholic priest, some valley entrepreneurs and a lawyer. No it's not the start of some ethnic joke, but the beginning of a new era in cross border Mid East communications that began in LA on June 16 of this year.

This was the result of a vision and bold first step toward resolving the mid east conflict that Los Gatos Morning Rotary Club member Mark Brodsky, created and communicated about applying Silicon Valley technology to the age-old challenge of creating constructive communication between traditional adversaries. The result, the "Online Four-Way Database for Peace."

October 12

Association Sunday: The Larger Mission

Rev. Victoria Ingram

On Association Sunday, our focus is on the word of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and what is happening within our denomination on the national and international stage. We have a mission beyond our sanctuary walls. How does our relatively small movement create a bigger impact and how do we speak truth to power in the larger world context?

October 19

UUFLG: The Little Church that Can!

Rev. Victoria Ingram

In May, this congregation adopted a vision for the next five years that includes exciting and challenging goals for growth, programming, and community outreach. Making our dreams into reality takes the love, commitment, and involvement. In this service, we'll explore what the future can hold and how all of us contribute to creating our beloved community.

October 26

Dia De Los Muertos

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Unitarian Universalists draw inspiration and wisdom from our Six Sources, many of which do not have their roots in the northern European home of our religious heritage. The issue of potential cultural misappropriation - adopting or misusing customs and rituals outside of their traditional context - is an important consideration in our worship life. In this season of Halloween and All Saints Day, we'll consider if others' traditions can be adopted, adapted, and incorporated with respect and honor.

November 2

Earl Koteen

A lifelong UU, a retired Federal Government employee and a recent graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry will be our speaker.

Minister's Column

I've been reminded lately of that supposed "curse" – may you live in interesting times. Well, we certainly do. And, there are moments when it can seem like a "curse," especially if the swirl of events around us contributes to feelings of uncertainty, confusion, or despair. Interesting times, indeed.

As I listen to the current political discourse, as I scan the Web or listen to news programs and commentary on TV, I'm coming to see the sharp contrast between those who seem to focus on fear and those who keep their eyes on hope. It seems that the lines are being drawn more distinctly between the two, and we are losing the place in the middle where we acknowledge that life is both hopeful and fearful, each in its own time. A recent research study done at the University of Nebraska suggests that our biology may strongly influence how we see the world. We may be programmed at birth with a particular propensity to see the world as a fearful or friendly place.

But, biology isn't destiny. We have choices. Recently, a friend sent me an email containing a story I'd heard many years ago, but hadn't thought about in a long time. It goes like this: one evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people. He said, 'My son, we all have two wolves inside us – and there is a battle between these two wolves. One is Evil. It is anger, fear, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, lies inferiority, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.' The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, 'Which wolf wins?' The old Cherokee simply replied, 'The one you feed.'

So, what do you choose? Love, or fear? This isn't to encourage us to live a Pollyanna existence where only the sun shines and the birds sing. It is to remind myself, and each of you, of the possibility of acknowledging that the world can be full of the disheartening and still choosing to focus on the hopeful, to believe in the power of love. It's about choosing carefully which wolf to feed in service of creating the world in which I wish to live, the community of which I want to be a part, and the person I strive to be.

Love and light,
Victoria

October Adult Religious Education Opportunities

Rejuvenating Our Relating: A Workshop for Couples

Saturday, October 25

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Keeping the communication and love alive in marriage and long term relationships is challenging (whether you've been married a year or 50!) Whatever life's pressures or demands, finding ways to focus on each other and build your partnership through joy, pleasure, and intimacy is key to successfully being together for a long time. This Saturday is devoted to connecting and communicating for committed couples who want to deepen and strengthen their bond.

Rev. Victoria and Carl Ingram

Bible Study for Religious Liberals: New Testament 7 – 9 p.m.

Tuesdays: October 7 and 21, November 11 and 25, December 2

The four Gospels, along with the letters of Paul and the other books of the New Testament describe the ministry of Jesus and how the Christian faithful should establish and live in community. We'll review the NT through the lens of liberal religious values, rationally and critically analyzing the stories and parables found there.

Rev. Victoria



Drop-In Lunch

Join Rev. Victoria on Wednesday, October 15 (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) for a drop in lunch and chat. This month's program will be on legal documentation and financial planning for elders, particularly related to living wills, trusts, and powers of attorney that support one's health care and life choices. (Note: This is an informational presentation, not a sales pitch.) Bring a bag lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided.

Inspirational Films

October Sky

October 10, Friday, 6:30

Inspirational Themes:

- * Process of developing a wild dream to fruition (of becoming a NASA scientist)

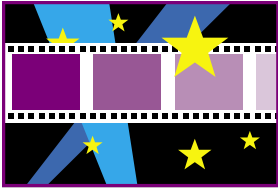
- * A true male coming-of-age saga

- * The human spirit blasts off through cultural and familial opposition

Sputnik challenged the US to surpass the Russians and captured the imagination of a coal miner's teenage son in October 1957. Rocket building has never been this moving and so much fun. 1999, PG, 1 hour 48 minutes

First a presentation on film themes by the "Movie Professor," and then the film followed by a facilitated discussion

Child care available by calling church office 408-358-1212



Marriage Equity Film Event

The Year of Paper

October 24, Friday 7:00

How is a "gay marriage" from a heterosexual one? This documentary follows three couples – one lesbian, one gay, and one heterosexual – during their first year of marriage (paper). The film explores why they got married and how the legal marriage has changed their relationship. www.theyearofpaper.com

This film is followed by a panel addressing the issue of same-sex marriage and the "No on 8" campaign. The panel consists of the President of the local PFLAG (Parents and Family of Lesbians and Gays), a community organizer from UULM (Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry), UUFLG minister, and a representative of local government.

Child care available by calling church office 408-358-1212

Introducing our monthly

Saturday Night Family Potluck,

which is open to everyone. Bring the kids, a dish to share, beverage for your family, and games. Come in costume if you'd like. We will provide plates, silverware and a non-scary movie. This wonderful opportunity to be together is on Saturday, October 25 from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Fellowship.



UUFLG CARING COMMITTEE

Join us at noon on October 16 for a pot luck lunch to get our Caring Committee off to a good start. We've had some new volunteers and encourage all UUFLG members and friends to fill out our Caring Committee brochure. This just lets us know that occasionally you could give someone else a call, a ride or maybe take a dish to someone recovering from surgery or a hospitalization.

We are planning to make some Trick or Treat bags for our "at home" folks at the Oct. meeting. Bring some candy corn or an apple to share for those who won't be "dressing up."

Some ideas we have are: Helping our new parents organize a co-op, presenting info on safe areas during disasters, a presentation by Rev. Barbara Meyers on Mental Health issues, and encouraging folks to share on the discussion line if they have extra fruit or veggies from their garden.

Hope to see you in October.

Barbara Kalmoutis, Edy Young, Julie Doyle, Kate Taylor, Audrey Freeman, Robin Connelly, Nan Bixler, Coralee Linton

Religious Education

Fall classes are underway in religious education for children and youth, and our deepest hope is to see more members of the fellowship involved in our programs. As always, we need volunteers to look in on preschool, as Michelle and Melinda see their numbers continue to grow. It's a happening place, as they've begun a formal program of the seven principles for preschoolers.

Over in the west room, Joe and I continue to be delighted with our elementary children. They too are deepening their knowledge of UU principles and sources. Ask them about it when you see them; you will be impressed with their knowledge and insights. I know I am.

Our juniors are a special focus of attention this year, and another one needing input from our fellowship. Luckily, Leslie is helping with their program, with assistance from former DRE Nina Kalmoutis. We are encouraging juniors to be the architects of their own program as well, so we hope to have exciting updates next month. We have great ideas regarding movie nights and social justice programs.

Wishing you a beautiful fall,
Tamara, DRE

Wanted: UU Pen pals for UU Prisoners

Looking for a social justice project that UUs can do alone or in groups, in their own homes, whenever it's convenient? Over 400 prisoners have joined the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) seeking liberal spiritual support by mail. About half of them are writing to a (non-incarcerated) UU 'pen pal' through CLF's "Letter Writing Ministry", but dozens more CLF prisoner-members are still on the wait list.

All letters are sent through the mail (so UUs without email can still participate), and all letters from prisoners are forwarded through CLF's prison ministry (prisoners are told only their pen pal's first name). The CLF's prison ministry staff makes the 'matches' and remains available for advice/support. Individual UUs are welcome to apply, or a group of UUs from the same congregation

can apply and ask to be 'matched' all at the same time (if they want to form an ongoing study/support group).

Please visit CLF's website www.clfuu.org/prisonministry to review the Guidelines for the Letter Writing Ministry and request an info-application packet, or write to the CLF Prison Ministry, 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108 (PrisMin@clfuu.org).

Waging Peace in the Midst of the Occupation

Daoud Nassar, a Palestinian Christian Farmer that I visited on my Interfaith Peace Delegation to Palestine/Israel, will be visiting the Bay Area in late October. We are hoping that he will speak at the Fellowship on Wednesday evening, October 29th. Please save the date and more details will follow.

Thanks, Julie Doyle

UUFLG Photo Directory

The Fellowship's Membership Committee (MC) is again getting ready to prepare our annual (2008-09) Membership Photo Directory.

If you and your family are not in our current photo directory or if you want a new/updated photo in the coming directory please attend one of the photo sessions scheduled in October. The planned photo sessions are:

1 - Sunday October 12th following our Sunday service at the Fellowship

2 - Sunday October 19th following our Sunday service at the Fellowship

The MC will also be updating and validating the information for each member and friend (email address, phone number(s), street address, etc.) prior to publication of the directory in early November.

For more information check the UUFLG calendar on our website, or you can call Harry Campbell at (408) 374-8844 or send him email at harryrcampbell@gmail.com

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

News From The Deck

Have you noticed all the good things happening to our UU building? Thanks to the Building and Grounds who have been working in the yard, painting the East Room and the Lounge walls, new bright floor covering in the East Room for our little ones, rearranging the furniture in the Lounge to be more inviting for committee and small meetings, as well as better spacing for Victoria's office, the kitchen cabinets are well organized, etc, !. Thanks to all who contributed time and effort to make our building all attractive to visitors as well as our selves.

Have you seen the BRIGHT ORANGE SHEETS OF INFORMATION FOR FALL CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES? There are lots of good things happening this Fall. Some are day events and some are early evening events. You may join all of just a few. All are welcome. Are you aware that if you have a friend or neighbor who would be interested, feel free to invite them and bring them along! You need not be a UU member to participate in these classes.

Welcome home to Julie and Gerry Doyle who have had a 3 months vacation in Montana. Also Welcome home to Edy Young who was in her summer home in Utah for 3 months.

Get well wishes and healing prayers to Irby Windes and Margaret Howard. We are thinking of you.

Belated congratulations to Sue Fera on the birth of a baby boy named Alden David Ritter! Sue just came back from Michigan where she welcomed the new baby who "is a beautiful doll", and he has a 3 yr. old big sister that kept grandma busy.

"DINNERS FOR EIGHT" continue to be a success in getting our community better acquainted with each other. To sign up, please contact Maggi Benson at (408)559-5229 and she will include you in the next dinner. Try it, you'll like it!

Jo Cooley will be having a "Gourd Sculptures and Vessels" show at the Gallery Saratoga from Oct. 7th to Nov. 2nd. The hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the reception that Jo will be there is Oct. 18th from 4 to 7 p.m. This is a very interesting, creative, and fantastic show that Jo has made out of the simple gourds. They make nice gifts for yourself for that person who "has everything". Have questions, give Jo a call.

This is the time of year that committees are getting started and are in the need of some "new blood and ideas" for the coming year. Think about where you would like to make a contribution to this community thru committee work, or have other ideas that you think would be an asset to the community. Talk to Victoria, one of the board or committee members and volunteer. The more you give, the more you receive!

See you on the deck. hugs, Lou Yabroff

Saturday, October 11th,

The Building & Grounds Committee will come together for a Work Party. There will be short meeting at 9:30 to discuss tasks and we will begin at 10 and work 'til noon. Snacks will be provided. Most of the work will take place outside, affording an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful California autumn morning with friends. Please join us!

Coralee Linton

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

Plastics Challenge

In some ways plastic really is a modern day miracle. It actually saves lives in medical applications. It helps us keep food fresh, and is an excellent packaging material. However, plastics pervasiveness and our disposable culture have also caused numerous problems.

It is estimated that the United States goes through 100 billion plastic bags a year, which take an estimated 12 million barrels of oil to produce and last almost forever (<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/30/nyregion/30towns.html>)

An estimated 8 billion pounds of plastic bags, wraps and sacks enter the waste stream every year in the U.S. alone. (www.newdream.org)

The UN Environment Program estimates that there are 46,000 pieces of plastic litter floating in every square mile of ocean on Earth. (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7508321.stm)

This August, Christine Jeavans, a writer for BBC News took on the challenge of a month without plastic. She kept any plastic items she owned (Tupperware, etc), but rejected anything new (plastic packaging, bags, etc). She saved and counted all the plastic items she used the month before, and then compared to her usage in August. She was able to achieve an 80% reduction! Not an easy feat for anyone, and certainly not for a busy mother of a toddler. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7508321.stm She blogged sharing the challenges and lessons from her month without plastic <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/monthwithoutplastic/> She felt that many of the changes were not sustainable, but that many were. This experience made her think seriously about all disposable items.

UUFLG Plastic Reduction

Plastic serves many useful functions in our lives, but excessive packaging and disposables are wasteful. The intent is not to demonize plastic, but rather to be conscious about the amounts we use and to reduce waste. Seeing all of the plastic litter at the Creek Clean-up, was very motivating to do something about this issue!

Week one: save all the new plastic items you use (bags, wrappers, etc). If it is not possible to save the item log it in a notebook (saving the items will provide the most eye opening experience).

Week two: employ the tips below to reduce plastic usage. Continue to save plastic items, or record them in a notebook. Note the reduction.

- Stop using bottled water – <http://water.newdream.org/> Get a reusable bottle such as Kleen Kanteen or Sigg (available at REI, Whole Foods or online: <http://www.newdream.org/marketplace/water.php>)
- BOYB – reusable bags are available at many stores, such as Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods. Put bags back in your car after each use so you will always have them at hand!
- Stop using single serve sizes – larger packages and bulk save money and the environment!
- Kid’s “brown bag” lunches create an average 67 pounds of trash per year! Pack your lunch and your children’s lunches using tips from www.wastefreelunches.org/

California Costal Cleanup Day

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the California Costal Cleanup Day! It was a lot of fun, and we had an excellent turnout.

UUFLG Tee Shirts

UUFLG tee shirts are still available, and we have added a long sleeve style! Please see Ryan and Jessica Spaulding or Connie Springer to order. If you prefer to order directly, go to our Café Press store: www.cafepress.com/uuflg Please help us spread the word about our fabulous Fellowship!

Marriage Equality Films

Mark your calendars for our special film series to encourage conversation about marriage equality. These are two good, entertaining and thought provoking films that you won’t want to miss. On Friday, September 26 at 7:00 pm see the comedy BIG DREAMS IN LITTLE HOPE followed by a brief reception. On Friday, October 24 at 7:00 pm see the documentary THE YEAR OF PAPER followed by a panel discussion. Panelists, now being finalized, will include representatives of PFLAG, local government, ministry and community organizing. Both events are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 12:00p -1:00p Forum	29 7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p: Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center. <i>UUs</i> <i>welcome.</i>	30 7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p: Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center. <i>UUs</i> <i>welcome.</i>	1 12:00p -1:00p RUMs on the deck 7:00p -8:00p Admin working group	2 12:00p -1:00p RUMs on the deck 7:00p -8:00p Admin working group	3 7:15p -9:00p Rune Study	4 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting
5 12:15p -1:45p Social Action Committee	6 10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:00p -2:30p Membership Committee 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study for Religious Liberals: New Testament	7 10:00a -12:00p Tuesday Chalice Circle 1:00p -2:30p Membership Committee 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study for Religious Liberals: New Testament	8 11:30a -1:00p Drop-in Lunch and Learn 7:30p -9:30p: Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center. <i>UUs</i> <i>welcome.</i>	9 9:45a -12:00p Thursday Morning Women's Group 7:00p -8:30p UUFLG Board Meeting	10 6:30p -9:30p Inspirational Films	11 9:30a -10:00a Building and Grounds meeting 10:00a -12:00p Second Saturday work party
12 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	13 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:30p -9:00p Planning and Democracy	14 5:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry 7:00p -8:30p Finance Committee Mtg	15 7:00p -9:00p Wednesday Chalice Circle 7:30p -9:30p Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center <i>UUs</i> <i>welcome.</i>	16 11:00a -12:00p RECCY Meeting 12:00p -2:00p Caring Committee 12:00p -1:15p RUMs on the Deck	17 7:15p -9:00p Rune Study	18 6:30p Dinners for 8
19 12:00p -1:00p Forum	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 7:00p -9:00p Bible Study for Religious Liberals: New Testament	22 7:30p -9:30p: Meditation Class - Sanctuary. Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center. <i>UUs welcome.</i>	23	24 7:00p LGBT Film Series: The Year of Paper	25 9:00a -1:00p Positive Discipline workshop 10:00a -3:00p Rejuvenating Our Relating
26	27 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group	28 1:00p -2:00p Long Range Planning Committee Meeting	29 7:30p -9:30p: Meditation Class - Duldzin Dragpa Buddhist Center. <i>UUs</i> <i>welcome.</i>	30	31 7:15p -9:00p Rune Study	1 9:00a -12:00p Worship Associates Meeting

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

October 2008

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.