



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 11, Number 9

October 2006

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We are a
Welcoming Congregation

in conversation

As everyone knows, last month was the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It was difficult milestone to mark. So much has happened since then – little, for many of us at least, for the better.

Soon after I was invited to participate in an interfaith service of remembrance for the attacks, I began drafting my remarks for the event. These were rather heated at first. I began by writing how we can never afford to be so arrogant as to presume that we were the perfect innocents prior to that clear Tuesday morning five years ago.

When an evil is so obviously done to you, it is easy to see yourself as blameless. “We do not get to cast Eden in our own image,” I wrote. “Eden, if ever possible to attain, would look like the varied faces from all over the globe working and playing well together. Not a suburban strip mall.”

It was obvious I had some re-writing to do. What was needed at the commemoration was to show that Christian and Hindu, Jew and Muslim could stand together and lift up what is common in our hearts – the cry for peace. And that, to our credit, is what we did. On the Monday night in question last month, across the nation politicians and clergy spoke, people lit candles, prayed and sang hymns for hope and peace renewed.

And then we all went home.

I cannot help but wonder what was changed. What was improved? There is so much to do to help heal this hurting world; it can feel daunting to know where to begin. In the language of my old philosophy instructor, the words said and the songs we sung were necessary, but not sufficient.

In my introductory remarks during that night's service, I said that we remain standing in the need of prayer, and that's what I still believe. Prayer, and the willingness to take risks to come together for the betterment of all. People of differing faiths have to find ways to work together so we can come to know each other more fully. Such efforts are seldom easy, and as I write this I must admit I do not know the best place to begin. In all likelihood, there is no “best place”. There is only where we find ourselves at any moment when our needs are clear.

I'll have more to say on this topic during my October 1st sermon. I hope to see you there.

in peace,
Eric

Sunday Services

October 1 Forgiveness and Mercy

During this season, which the Jewish High Holy Days and the Islamic observance of Ramadan share, let's take the opportunity to reflect on these two mainstays of traditional religion. Truth be told, we certainly haven't outgrown our need for them, have we?

Rev. Eric speaking.

October 8 SRP seeks BC

SRP seeks BC: *Solitary Religious Progressive seeks Beloved Community*. How often have you heard someone say, "Oh, you are a Unitarian Universalist... if I went to church, I would probably go to one like that..."? Martin Luther King popularized the idea of a beloved community where we live out our principles and dreams for a better world. What helps us be that group to which someone could commit?

Intern Minister, Sonya Sukalski.

October 15 Becoming Native to This Place

In as transient a society as ours, it can be hard to feel we belong in the place where we find ourselves living. How can we more fully live as

if place matters, and what would doing so mean to our sense of ourselves?

Rev. Eric speaking.

October 22 One Nation, Under God?

Kevin Phillips' latest book, *American Theocracy*, deserves a wide readership, not because it presents a perfect argument, but because the stakes it outlines are so high. While our nation's values may be clear, who decides how we go about fulfilling them?

Rev. Eric speaking

Sunday, October 29 Not Time, But Love

Each year, on the last Sunday of October, we pause to remember those who have died in the past year by lighting candles in their memory.

Rev. Eric presides.

During today's service we will have a special offering to support the work of Axis Community Health. Please also remember that Daylight Savings Time ends today.

November 5 Lovin' the USA,

Rev. Eric speaking.

Sensing the Spirit with Sonya

I do church work because it feeds my spirit. There is nothing quite like the sense of connection, contribution, and challenge of working alongside people who care about this community and this planet. Flexing spiritual muscles is a great way to keep the mind and body balanced and fit. Exercising the ability to organize, teaching religious education, or shaping up our physical plant brings new blood not only to the physical muscles, but also strengthens the ability to articulate and demonstrate what is important. Historically Unitarians, Universalists, and UUs have been very active in abolition, environmentalism, and civil rights – we have a lot of examples to draw from for inspiration!

Our spiritual flexibility is challenged by our first principle; respect for the worth and dignity of every person sometimes requires flexibility to negotiate with different perspectives. This community has challenged its spirit recently with building the new Religious Education buildings, and the Memorial Garden – upcoming taskforces exploring long term rental and name changes will no doubt be suitable challenges for some.

Rest and good nutrition are also important parts of well-being. Perhaps your spirit gets a rest during worship when we sit in silence together, or you got to attend the recent meditation workshop. Maybe singing together, and hearing a harmony as the song develops feeds your spirit. Maybe your spirit is fed by learning what our children think about life in this part of California. I hope so.

I also hope you have a way to feed and relax your spirit more often than on Sundays. I journal, walk in meditation by the Lake near my house, do yoga, and sometimes play the piano. I hope you will share with me how it is with your spirit and what keeps it strong, challenged, flexible, nourished and rested, so

that when life becomes trying you have fit spiritual muscles!

. . . continued on page 3

*Sensing the Spirit
continued from page 2*

Preaching to you for the first time was a very affirming and heart warming experience – that fed my spirit in a surprising way. Thank you all!

Join me for an informal gathering to get to know each other better if you can:

October 10th from 12-2 pm – bring your own sack lunch

October 19th from 7-9 pm – dessert potluck

October 23rd from 10-12 am – morning coffee and tea

And if you have an e-mail distribution list for something you do at the church, I would love to get your messages: sonya.sukalski@comcast.net.

Sonya Sukalski,
Intern Minister 2006-2007.

News from Religious Education

Greetings UUCIL Families!

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to work in the classrooms with our children and youth. We have a great year ahead of us.

We had 17 youth at our annual *back-to-church* sleepover this month. Our numbers in the other classes were a bit lower than usual, due to Livermore soccer pictures being done that morning.

Most of you know that my family and I will be gone this month on an exciting trip to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. We will be gone for 3 Sundays. During the time that I am away, Julie O'Brien and Ellen Hedges will be your contacts for any Religious Education questions and concerns. Kim Rowe and Yvonne Konneker will run our annual Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods.

This year, in order to give our youth mentors time away, we are asking all the parents of children in this group to help lead one Fun Sunday throughout the year. The youth brainstormed a list of ideas for their days away, and I will be working with parents to get chaperones so that we can keep the tradition up.

The 7th-9th Grade *Our Whole Lives* class will be

underway by the time you get this. We have 15 youth participating in class, with Stephanie and Craig Fish as mentors for the program.



Okay, here's the important stuff! Mark your calendar!

Religious Education Committee Meets:

Wednesday, October 4, 7-9 pm

Our Whole Lives Meets:

Saturday, October 7, 6-9 pm

Sunday, October 22, 12-2pm

Youth Group Fun Sunday:

Sunday, October 8

Family Game Night:

Friday, October 6:30-9 pm

Come at 6:30 for pizza, 7 for games! All are welcome.

Social Action Sunday – *Trick or Treat for Canned Goods:*

October 29

For all ages. 5 & under must be accompanied by parent. Come in your costume!

As always, I welcome your input and feedback. Please contact me with questions or concerns. Without all of you, there wouldn't be an us!

Warmly,
Leslie Lemieux, DRE (*not re*)

Trick or Treat for Canned Goods, and Sight Night®

All of the congregation can help the Religious Education children & youth in support of their October Social Action projects. We are doing our traditional trick-or-treat for canned goods, but this year we are also collecting used prescription glasses and sunglasses for the Lions. Starting October 1st, there will be a purple bin in the back of the sanctuary for any canned goods you care to donate, and a basket on the back table for your old prescription glasses. We look forward to your support of these projects.

RE Committee

September was a busy month for the UUCiL Board. We had our annual retreat in the Tot Green Room on Labor Day, Sept. 4th, followed by a BBQ at the Rowes' home. Thanks to Arlen & Kim Rowe for hosting this! Jane Staehle ably led the morning session as we did some team building and reviewed our fiscal year 06 goals and the board structure. We identified several worthy goals for FY 07 as we discussed the canvass questionnaire results. Three areas of action were decided upon: Social Justice, expanded Adult Religious Education and expansion of the Caring and Concerns committee. A prioritized list of buildings and grounds improvements was introduced and discussed as we walked the grounds and reviewed the master plan. This will be a continuing topic of discussion in the next few months.

September 12 was our regular board meeting. We again discussed the possibilities that abound for buildings and grounds improvements and will be prioritizing these with the input of our able volunteers! Oh, what fun! As part of our church safety policy, we approved an "Unwelcome Guests on Church Property" amendment and will be posting a list of emergency contacts in all buildings. We hope

to purchase some more large tables and a chair dolly soon as these are sorely needed. Four member building loans will be paid off very soon as we decrease our debt from the new RE buildings.

I am anticipating lots of exciting and interesting happenings in the next few months. Enjoy them and participate as much as you can. We need your help to make everything successful! Listed below are some of them and contact information.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Program Council, Oct. 1	Elona Pertica
What's This Thing Called UUism?	
Oct 1 & 8	Lois Dueltgen
PCD Moral Beacon Day in Sacramento,	
Oct. 14	Any board member
50 th Anniversary Task Force	Leslie Lemieux
Trick or Treat for canned goods,	
Oct. 29	Julie O'Brien or Ellen Hedges
Shakespeare—	
Nov.17 and 18	Joan Dickinson
December Holiday Boutiques	Joan Dickinson

And on and on and on.....We are so busy! I love it!

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns

Janice Paquette

Membership Committee

Upcoming Events For Newcomers And Interested Members

October 22 - Regular Fourth Sunday Orientation follows the service in the Tot Green Room.

November 5 and 19 – *What Is This Thing Called Unitarian Universalism?* This class will meet from 12:00 – 2:00 pm and all are invited. Lunch will be provided. See the full description of the class elsewhere in this newsletter.

Note: this is a different date from what was previously published

November 26 - Regular Fourth Sunday Orientation follows the service in the Tot Green Room.

December 3 – People interested in joining UUCiL are invited to a continental breakfast before the service so we can celebrate your commitment to this religious community as you sign the Membership Book. Please call the office for exact time and place for this event, and to let us know you will be attending.

If you are interested in exploring ways to become more involved in the life of this religious community, send e-mail to lois@dueltgen.net.

Goings on at UUCiL in October and the Months beyond . . .

Minds on Fire

Minds on Fire will meet on Tuesday, **October 3** from 7:00 to 8:30 at the home of Helen Meier. Our Fall meeting dates are: **October 3, November 7** and **December 5**.

We welcome new members. Please join us for interesting discussions on a variety of topics. For more information, please call Shelley Covey or send her an email at shelcovey@comcast.net

Party Planners Unite!

In anticipation of our 50th anniversary, we will hold a preliminary party-planning meeting on Thursday, **October 5** at 7 pm in the Tot Green Conference Room. All interested folks are welcome. Please join us as we make our Golden Anniversary a gala affair to be remembered! Contact Leslie Lemieux with any questions. Hope to see you there!

An Inconvenient Truth

Have you seen film this powerful film yet? If not, join us at UUCiL on Friday, **October 6**, at 7:30 pm. The California Interfaith Power and Light is providing churches with the DVD and discussion materials during the first week in October. If you have seen it and want to see it again, or if you want to talk about it with other Unitarian Universalists, please plan to join us. All are welcome, so bring a friend. Mark your calendars now. Contact Lois or Ron Dueltgen with any questions about this event.

UUCiL Book Group

October 12, 7:30 pm Tot Green Room
The Memory Keepers Daughter by Kim Edwards

Reviewer: Alyce Rossow

This first novel by Kim Edwards is about a doctor who delivers his wife's twins in 1964 and sends away their Down-syndrome-afflicted daughter at birth. Over the next 25 years the family suffers the consequences of the doctor's secret while his daughter is reared far away by the nurse who attended the birth. It has had very good reviews. It is available in paperback and, probably, at the library. -Alyce Rossow

Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, **October 10** from 10 – 11:30 am and Wednesday, **October 18** from 7 to 8:30 pm. Bring your needlework and join us in making shawls. We have patterns to use or you can bring your own. For more information about the shawl ministry visit their website: www.shawlministry.com and for more information about our meetings at UUCiL call Kim Rowe at 606-9531.

To Rent or Not to Rent

That is the question. Following the decision of the congregation at our May annual meeting, we have formed a taskforce for considering whether we will provide space for a long-term rental. We have had three meetings. As many will remember, at two different times early this year, we entertained proposals for renting out the Founders Building – once to a before and after school child care agency and the other to our own tenant, Little Rascals Learning Center. Each agency ultimately withdrew its interest.

As a first step in getting more congregational input, we will be holding three discussion groups to the explore possibilities of renting more of our space and to note people's concerns. The meetings will be held in the Tot Green room on the following days:

Thursday, **October 12** at 7:30 pm
Sunday, **October 22** at 12:15 pm
Saturday, **October 28** at 10 am

Please attend one of these meetings to share your thoughts on renting our facilities. In addition, if you have an idea for a prospective renter, please offer it at the meeting.

Thank you, *-The Long Term Rental Taskforce*

Notes from the choir

On **October 15**, our choir will be traveling to the Mission Peak U.U. Church in Fremont. We will join with their choir to sing for the worship service. On **December 5**, they will be coming to Livermore to join us for the service. This is our first choir exchange with Mission Peak. It should be an interesting and enjoyable experience not only for the singers, but also for those in both congregations who will hear the combined voices

-Dee Wood

UUCiL's Adult Singles Group

UUCiL's Adult Singles Group invites the church to share a trip to the Titanic Exhibit in San Francisco, Sunday **October 15** after the Potluck. Meet at the Dublin BART for the 1:58pm or 2:38pm train and 'trainpool' with us to the Powell Street BART. It's a 1-block walk to the Metreon from there. You tell me which time works best and we'll take a majority. The exhibit is \$16.75 for Adults & Seniors; Children (ages 5-15) are \$11.25. They require 15 pre-paid participants to secure this group rate. There is also a 90 minute audio tour available for \$5. I have heard it's wonderful addition to the artifacts, which include a 30,000 pound piece of the hull and a complete reproduction of the grand staircase. Please contact Polly Sellers for details @ 462-3942 or psellers01@sbcglobal.net

Buildings and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee has scheduled their fall Work Party for Saturday, **October 21**, 2006 for the hours starting at 8:30 am, and finishing by about 3:00 pm (at the latest). By Sunday, October 8th, we will have posted a list of the building and grounds work party tasks on the coffee area wall, as well as announcing the coming work party date to the Sunday service attendees on the 8th and the 15th. We will also be contacting by phone those of you who have helped us in the past.

-Chilli Barlow (Buildings) & Bob Stearns (Grounds)

Name Calling Committee Meets

At the last Annual Meeting, May 2006, a proposal was made to consider changing the name of our community, Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. The word "church" has connotations that lead to a Christian association, in the minds of some.

The response at the Annual Meeting was clearly an unwillingness to act in haste regarding any name change. A call went out for a committee to review the pros and cons, with Chuck Hartwig acting as the Board liaison.

The committee on *what to call ourselves* met Sunday, September 24, with Chuck, Brian Mayall, Jeanette Perlman, and Hildy Pehrson.

Others who could not attend this meeting are Bill

and Mary O'Neal, Gerald Nordley, and Nancy Rodrigue. We will meet next on Sunday, **November 5**, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm.

We ask for input from anyone who has an attitude, emotion, or rationale for keeping or changing our name. We will communicate through email, primarily. Feel free to contact any of all of us this next month.

What Is This Thing Called Unitarian Universalism?

Want to find out more about UUism and more about your own belief system? If you are considering membership at UUCiL or if you have been a member for many years, this class is for you. In addition to learning about this congregation, you will learn that UUism really is a religion even though it seems so different from other faith traditions.

Bring your questions and join Eric Meter, Sonja Sukalski, Karen Crosley, Lois Dueltgen, and other special guests in the Tot Green Room from 12:00 - 2:00 on Sunday afternoons, **November 5 and 19**. Please call the office at 925-447-8747 for further information and to register. Donations to defray the cost of materials and lunch will be accepted.

Shakespeare At UUCiL

Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors will be at UUCiL on **November 17 & 18**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. A reception featuring desserts, refreshments, and conversation with the actors will follow each performance. There will be babysitting on Saturday evening. Tickets will be \$20 and go on sale in this month.

UUCiL Ski Trip February 16-19, 2007

I have reserved two cabins at Bear Valley for the President's Day weekend **Feb. 16 – Feb. 19, 2007**. Bear Valley offers downhill skiing, snowboarding and cross country skiing. Terry and I will help people learn cross-country skiing. It looks like we can get these cabins for ten families at a cost of about \$350 per family.

Sign up will be first come-first served. After consulting your calendar, if you are seriously interested in going on the trip, please let me know. I will need a deposit of \$100 from each family by the end of October. *-Alyce Rossow*

Take a look back as we move forward.....

Share your memories of the early days of our congregation in this new monthly feature in our newsletter. As we move closer to celebrating our 50th anniversary, Rev. Eric, the Board of Trustees, and I invite you to jot down a few words of a favorite memory of our growth and changes over the years. A funny story, a moving moment, amusing anecdotes celebrating departed members, would all be welcome in this space. As part of our celebration this spring, we will be putting together a memory book, but we need your memories! You will be able to contribute to the book throughout the coming year, but we thought it would be nice to help get those memories started through a monthly newsletter column.

Please submit your memories to Julie O'Brien, our newsletter editor. You may contact me directly with any questions.

Here's to 50 more!

Warmly, Leslie Lemieux

Young Adult Group & Kontempli

The Young Adult Group is continuing to meet every Monday night at 9:00 in the Tot Green Room. We've been having a lot of fun crafting, writing, gaming, and worshiping, and we welcome newcomers! All those 18-35 are encouraged to join us.

Kontempli nights are happening as well! Kontempli is our interfaith conversation group for young adults 18-35, and we meet Monday evenings in the Tot Green Room at 8:00. If any person age 18 or over would like to present a topic at Kontempli, let me know; Kontempli needs presenters! If you have any questions or comments, give me a call at (925) 443-0774.

You can look at the Kontempli website:
http://www.UUCiL.net/kontempli/kontempli_home.html

And the YAG website: <http://UUCiL.net/yag1>

The Registrar of Voters Needs You!

I became a poll worker for the first time for the June 2006 primary. It was very easy. I saw an ad in the Independent newspaper, called the Alameda County Registrar of Voters (510 272-6971), spoke to a helpful person who sent me very clear instructions. Since my regular polling place did not need any workers, I was assigned to the next closest one. A few weeks before the election, I went to a two-hour class locally where I was given excellent training materials. I took a day off from work. On Election Day, I arrived at the polling place at the appointed time (6 am) and worked with three very experienced poll workers. We carefully followed all of the election procedures. After a long day, we closed the polls at 8 pm. For my labors, I was given an official pin and, weeks later, I received a check for \$110 (which include the \$15 for attending the training.) But I got a lot more out of the experience than that.

Alameda County needs poll workers. If you are interested in seeing democracy in action, call the Registrar of voters at 510 272-6971. You can request to be placed in your polling place, if there is a slot available, and the training is local.

If you have any questions about what it is like to serve as a poll worker clerk, contact Maureen Hamm at hammwoof@earthlink.net

excerpted from Tri-Valley NOW October newsletter

Holiday Wanderers Boutique seeking arts & crafts

Do you love to do art and crafts? First Unitarian Church of San Jose will be having an art and craft sale. The 5th annual Holiday Wanderers Boutique is Sunday, **November 5** after the church service The registration is due **October 2**. For further information please contact Jo Balzer at scar@ix.netcom.com or call 408 274 6288.

October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Rev Eric: Forgiveness & Mercy Program Council 9am Green Rm What is UUism? 12-2 Green Rm</p>	<p>2 Kontempli 8 pm YAG 9:00 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>3 Minds on Fire 7-8:30pm at H. Meier's</p>	<p>4 Vol. Simplicity 10-11:30 RE Committee 7 pm TriValley NOW Feminist Film 7 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm,</p>	<p>5 50th Anniversary Planning Mtg. 7 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>6 Film Night: An Inconvenient Truth 7:30 pm Green Room</p>	<p>7 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am OWL 6-9 pm Green Rm</p>
<p>8 Choir Intern Sonya: SRP seeks BC What is UUism? 12-,2 Green Rm</p>	<p>9 Kontempli 8 pm YAG 9:00 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>10 Shawl Ministry 10-11:30 am Meet the Intern: 12-2- bring lunch! Board Mtg. 6 pm</p>	<p>11 Voluntary Simplicity 10-11:30</p>	<p>12 Long Term Rental Mtg. noon Long Term Rental Disc. Group 7:30 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>13 UFO: Pops at the Zoo</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Rev Eric: Becoming Native to This Place Potluck follows Choirs sings in Fremont UU Singles & Friends outing to the Titanic</p>	<p>16 Kontempli 8 pm YAG 9:00 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Voluntary Simplicity 10-11:30 Shawl Ministry 7-8:30 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm Round Table Rm</p>	<p>19 Meet the Intern: 7-9 pm</p>	<p>20 Newsletter Submissions due Stargazers 7-10 pm</p>	<p>21 Fall Work Party 8:30-3:00 Suzuki Concert 4-9</p>
<p>22 Rev Eric: One Nation, Under God? New Member Orientation 11:45 Green Rm Rental Discussion Group 12:15 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>23 Meet the Intern: 10-12, for coffee & tea Kontempli 8 pm YAG 9:00 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Voluntary Simplicity 10-11:30</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Rental Disc. Group 10 am Green Rm</p>
<p>29 Daylight Savings Time ends Rev Eric: Not Time, But Love RE: Trick or Treat for Eyeglasses & Canned Goods OWL 12-2 Green Rm</p>	<p>30 Kontempli 8 pm YAG 9:00 pm Green Rm</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>November 1: RE Committee 7 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm November 17-18: Oregon Shakespeare Festival Actors</p>			<p>November 4 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am</p>