



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Vol. 11, No. 8

September 2006

<i>In Conversation</i>	1
President's Message	2
Welcome Intern Minister	2
Sunday Services	3
Religious Education	4
Membership	5
Minds On Fire	5
<i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>	6
<i>Notes From The Choir</i>	6
Book Group	6
Buildings & Grounds	6
Ceiling Fans	6
Circle Dinner	7
Gardeners	7
<i>UUCiL 50th Celebration</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8
Youth Group	9
YAG & <i>Kontempli</i>	9

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in conversation

A friend who lives in Davis told me of visiting another friend's church as they celebrated their 100th Anniversary. There was music and food, even face painting for the children. And also, get this, a car show. What a wonderful idea. As mainline denominations across the country worry about declining participation by men, this congregation celebrates a hobby that, while not exclusively male by any means, highlights a beloved pastime for fathers and sons across the nation.

Now UUCiL is not turning one hundred this year, only fifty. And no one to my knowledge has suggested that we include a car show as part of our anniversary celebrations. (Though if we wait for our centennial, it is almost certain that we'll have missed our opportunity, given the state of global oil reserves.)

What we will be doing instead is taking a look back at our first fifty years and then looking ahead to the next. Specific plans are still being worked out, but that's the arc our commemoration will take.

Fifty years . . . The people who created the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship first sat together in living rooms in 1956. The church was officially organized the following year.

A lot has taken place during those fifty years, both in our humble community and in the world at large. In July 1956 the phrase *In God We Trust* became the official U.S. motto. In October the same year Soviet troops were sent to end the Hungarian Revolution. In January 1957 the Frisbee was introduced. In March Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa was arrested by the FBI, and that May Walter O'Malley, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, decided to move the team to Los Angeles.

Since then our own community has grown in scope and numbers. We outgrew living rooms, several rented spaces, and a little hacienda before purchasing our current property nearly thirty years ago. Over the years we've had our struggles and our successes, difficult times and many moments of delight.

In the coming months we'll take a look back at our past, and celebrate what this community has become. If you have a favorite moment from your time at UUCiL, please consider writing it down. I'm hoping to collect many such moments to share as we commemorate the first fifty years of our religious community.

What better way to lay the foundation for the fifty years to come?

in peace,
Eric

President's Message

Plans are moving forward for our 50th anniversary celebration. At this point, we're looking at celebrating during the month of May 2007 in several different ways: formal, informal and community open houses. I'm very excited about all these possibilities as we look both backward and forward to the next 50 years! Leslie Lemieux is organizing our festivities and would love to have your participation. Please talk to Leslie if you are interested in helping out!

We are very excited about the imminent arrival of our intern minister, Sonya Sukalski. Although many of you have met her already, the first Sunday of Sonya's tenure with us will be September 3. She will present her first sermon on September 17 and we would like to celebrate her arrival with an extra special potluck. Please plan on coming that Sunday and welcoming Sonya!

Barbara Eniti has been keeping the Board informed as to the care and upkeep of our beautiful church landscaping. There are many ways for all of us to contribute and to that end Barbara has proposed a *Fellowship of Gardeners*, described elsewhere in this newsletter, as an opportunity for the congregation to participate in beautifying our grounds. You may also talk to Jes Pedersen, our building and grounds board liaison if you'd like to help.

Program Council will meet at 9:00 am before church on October 1. A light breakfast will be served. Please plan on attending if you are a committee chair or just want to know what's happening at church in the next few months and how you can help. Talk to Elona Pertica if you want more information.

At our August 15 Board meeting, Rev. Eric described an exciting project he has been involved with for the past couple of years. People from 14 UU churches in the San Francisco Bay Area have been meeting to plan a marketing campaign to spread the *good word* about Unitarian Universalism. This working group, called Bay Area Roundtable, is Co-Chaired by Rev Eric. The concept originated with Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA and great deal of thought has gone into these plans. Similar campaigns have been very successful in both Kansas City and Houston. The UUCiL Board approves and supports this campaign. Watch for more news in our own newsletter and in your mailbox from the UUA.

It's been a great first month for me as UUCiL President. The Board is having its annual retreat on Monday, Sept. 4, as we look both backward over the last few years and forward to the next years.

Let me know if you have any concerns or questions!

-Janice Paquette
373-6894

janicepaquette@comcast.net

Welcome to Our New Intern Minister

We are pleased and excited to be welcoming our first intern minister, Sonya Sukalski. Sonya will be sharing her first Sunday Sermon with us on September 17th. Please join us as we welcome her to our church family. We will have a special potluck after the service so everyone has a chance to meet her and her family.

Sonya will be with us from September until June and we are looking forward to this opportunity to become a teaching congregation.

John Lemieux, Chair
Intern Committee

*Sensing the Spirit
with Sonya*

Drifting off to sleep as the crackle of the campfire mixed with quiet conversations of people of all ages spilled occasionally into my consciousness, was one of the many blessings I have had since beginning to make the acquaintance of the people at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. You have welcomed my family and me in so many ways for which my gratitude overflows – being copied on e-mails, being invited to join the youth backpacking trip, hearing about your lives and what you are interested in, calls from Julie about upcoming events, and outreach from Rev. Eric to help me come up to speed with being your first intern minister. I am excited to work with you in building this vibrant and welcoming community this year. And I am pleased to have a chance to learn from each of you about what is important to you in a minister and in the ministry of the church. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn the ropes of ministry from a well-established mentor and a congregation full of talents and perspectives.

I sense the spirit that connects me to life and love in many of the aspects of this community so far – the dedication which youth leaders, parents, and young adults planned and carried out a challenging but successful backpacking trip around the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, the generosity and fun that your auction generated for months to come with the events offered for small groups, the interest your leaders took in the Pacific Central District annual meeting last Spring, and the commitment that the intern committee has made to helping me learn this year and promoting an infrastructure to be a teaching congregation. I can't wait to learn more, and get to know each of you! I hope you will take time to tell me as I get oriented to UUCiL what connects you to enjoying life and experiencing love. I hope you will tell me who UUCiL is known to be in the surrounding community. I hope you will tell me what UUCiL stands for. I hope you will tell me what you notice when a new person you meet seems a good match for this community. I am so pleased to begin getting to know you!

Sonya Sukalski,
Intern Minister 2006-2007.

Sunday Services

September 3, *Will Preach for Food*

This Labor Day weekend we'll take a look at ministry and the work of any congregation. Given that, if the title of today's talk strikes you as odd, don't fear. All will be explained.

Rev. Eric Meter speaking.

September 10, *Rivers of Love*

As we do each year on the Sunday after Labor Day, this Sunday we will mark the start our church program year with an all ages service in which we bring forward small amounts of water from places special to us. As we do so we will also share an intention we have for the year to come. This can be a personal intention or a hope for our religious community

Rev. Eric Meter presides.

September 17, *Love the Questions, Live the Questions!*

The end of summer, and the beginning of the school year and church year for many is a time

of questions. Will my children have caring, competent teachers? Will my schoolmates still want to play with me? Will I enjoy the new committee I have agreed to work with at church? Will this nagging question of my health, or a friend or parent's health, get resolved? Will this relationship work out? I have many questions about this community and my role as intern minister here. Wisdom from Rainer Maria Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*, about living the questions provides insights.

Intern Minister, Sonya Sukalski

September 24, *Best Kept Secrets*

Religious liberals have seldom made good evangelists. Even Jesus was reluctant to toot his own horn. Each year we hear from newcomers who wish they had heard of us long before they did. This morning I'll be talking about an initiative designed to get the word out called the Bay Area Roundtable and our role in it.

Rev. Eric Meter speaking.

News from Religious Education

Greetings UUCIL Families!

I hope you had a terrific summer and that everyone is gearing up for things like school and beautiful autumn weather. Here's a quick rundown of what's happening around church this year. Hopefully, your family already has received our RE fall welcome back letter. Your letter should have included a copy of the information we currently have on file for your family. Please review it, update as necessary, sign it and get it back to the office. We hope we'll never have to use this information, but it is so important that we have it.

This year, our Pillar is ***Peace and Social Justice***. Everyone from first grade on up will be using the same curriculum, *In Our Hands*. What better time to explore these topics than now? We have a once-a-month Social Justice activity planned during which all of the classes will participate. We have a special social justice team who will be finding projects of interest to all ages. The pre-k class will of course be working with their own age-appropriate curriculum.

In February, we will present a 6-week anti-bullying curriculum for the elementary classes. This curriculum, called *Don't Laugh at Me*, has received wide acclaim. It was written by Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul & Mary fame and we look forward to using it at UUCIL.

We still need teachers. If you can give one Sunday a month to our children and youth, please contact me at 606-5863. Our children and youth would love to have you in the classroom!

Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered in our classes this summer. The elementary-aged children had a great time doing *virtual tours* with their tour guides. We visited China, Romania, India, Ireland, Costa Rica and more! We appreciate all of your help and assistance.

We have LOTS going on. Be sure to mark your calendar for the exciting happenings coming up!

Sept. 6: Religious Education Committee Meets
7 p.m.

Sept. 9: Teacher Welcome-Dessert & Lemonade
2-4 p.m.
Sept. 10: Annual Water Service, 10:30 a.m.
OWL Parent Meeting: 12-2 p.m.
Sept. 16: Youth Group Sleepover: 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 17: Fall Classes Kickoff 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 24: 7th-9th OWL starts 12-2 pm

In October, we are planning a family game night and our traditional trick-or-treat for canned goods.

As always, I welcome your input and feedback. Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Without all of u, there wouldn't be an us!

Warmly,
Leslie Lemieux, DRE

7th-9th Grade *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* Update: Hopefully, all of you folks with youth in the 7th-9th grades have been informed that we are starting the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum this fall. In order for your child to attend the OWL class on Sept. 22, you must attend the mandatory parent meeting, Sunday, September 10 from noon to 2 p.m. Lunch will be served and childcare can be available if we have advance notice. This meeting is only if your 7th-9th grader will be attending the OWL classes

This particular *Our Whole Lives* class is one of the most important tools we as a congregation offer to our families and youth. We have the ***awesome*** husband and wife team of Craig and Stephanie Fish leading the curriculum this year. They are gearing up for a busy year with your youth. We are very blessed to have such wonderful mentors for the class.

If you want your 7th-9th grader to attend the class but simply cannot make the meeting, I urge you to get in touch with the Fishes or me at your earliest convenience. Prior to class starting, parents need to make a few informed decisions about course content and materials, and fill out permission forms. It is best if you can plan for at least one parent to attend on the 10th.

Youth Group Sleepover: Sept 16th at church, 6:30 p.m. for all 6th graders on up! Come for take out food, have some fun & games with your youth group to kickoff our year. An invitation

will be coming to your house shortly for all youth group members.

Next RE Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at 7 pm in the Tot Green Room. All are welcome. Please join us! We welcome everyone who is interested in contributing to our children's religious education. Contact: Leslie Lemieux, Julie O'Brien, or Ellen Hedges. Childcare can be provided, just let us know of your needs.

Membership Committee

The next Membership Committee meeting will be held September 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tot Green Room. This committee welcomes newcomers to UUCiL and provides opportunities for them to get acquainted with Unitarian Universalism and UUCiL in particular. When people decide to become members, the committee helps them find meaningful ways to get involved. If you would like to be a member of this committee, please contact Lois Dueltgen or the UUCiL office, and plan to attend the meeting on September 27.

Members:

On Sunday morning, first-time visitors have hand written nametags. After their first visit, they have nametags printed on green paper. Please be sure you introduce yourselves to these people and let them know you are glad they have chosen to be with us on a Sunday morning. – *Membership Committee*

Upcoming Events for Newcomers and Interested Members

September 24 - Regular Fourth Sunday Orientation follows the service in the Tot Green Room.

October 1 and October 8 – *What Is This Thing Called Unitarian Universalism?* This class will meet from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and all are invited and lunch will be provided.

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

November 5 – 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.

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

December 4 – During the service, there will be a celebration of members who have joined UUCiL in recent months.

If you have questions about any of the above events, contact Lois Dueltgen.

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, Karen Crosley, and Lois Dueltgen in the Tot Green Room from 12:00 - 2:00 on Sunday afternoons, October 1 and October 8. 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.

Directory Reminder

Julie Scharmer, our Office Administrator, is in the final stages of preparing the 2006-2007 Directory for distribution. Thank you to all who have sent her changes or confirmed that your current information is correct. If you have a last minute change of name or address, please contact her immediately.

Minds on Fire

Minds on Fire will meet on Tuesday, September 4 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the home of Helen Meier. Our Fall meeting dates are: September 4, 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

An Inconvenient Truth

Have you seen film this powerful film yet? If not, join us at UUCiL on Friday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Tot Green Room. 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.

Notes from the choir

Our choir will again be singing two Sundays each month starting in September. All who like to sing are invited to join, either for a short term or ongoing. Our main rehearsal is one Saturday each month, with a review rehearsal before church on Sunday morning. The music ranges from very easy to moderately difficult, unison to four-part.

Choir Saturday rehearsals:

Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov 4, & Dec. 2.

Choir Sundays:

Sept 3 & 10, Oct. 8 & 22,
Nov. 5 & 19, Dec. 3 & 17

Dee Wood

UUCiL Book Group

September 14th, 7:30 P.M., UUCiL Tot Green Room. *Iron Ties* by Ann Parker

This is the second novel by our own Ann Parker. It is a mystery set in Leadville, Colorado in 1880. It takes up where "Silver Lies" left off with the some of the same characters. The railroad is coming to town. Inez Stannert, a partner in the Silver Queen Saloon, is caught up in trying to solve a murder in this lawless silver boom- town.

Please come ready to discuss "Iron Ties" and bring some ideas for our future selections.

-Alyce Rossow

Buildings and Grounds

The Building & Grounds Committee has scheduled their fall work party for Saturday, October 21, 2006 for the hours of 8:30 AM to about 3:00 PM. This is a week ahead of the Halloween weekend, and if this is a problem to

many, it could be scheduled a week later since Halloween day is actually on Tuesday, October 31. Please contact Bob Stearns on 443-5182 if you would prefer Saturday, the 28th.

– Bob Stearns

Sanctuary Ceiling Fans

Many people have asked why we don't have the ceiling fans running to improve air circulation in the sanctuary on hot days. The short answer is: The fan wiring is damaged, and it will be very expensive to fix it.

The fans were installed as part of the sanctuary-remodeling project and were used occasionally for many months. Then suddenly they didn't work, but several more months went by before I discovered the reason.

Apparently, when the new sanctuary roof was installed, a roofing nail punctured the wiring to the fans. I believe the wires run on top of the roof boards but under the roofing paper, and it is possible the roofer did not even know the wires were there. In any event, it was many months after the roofing job until I understood the problem.

To access the wires, the new roof shingles and tarpaper would have to be removed from about ten percent of the roof. Alternatively, new wiring could be run from fan to fan on the ceiling, but that would require erecting scaffolding to reach the ceiling. The cost for either option is not justified, in my opinion.

There is another aspect to this issue that causes considerable discussion: Would working fans make people more (or less) comfortable? Fans have long been used to provide a cooling breeze, but our situation is different. First, our dark, south-facing roof does not have any insulation. On sunny days in summer the roof boards have been thoroughly heated by the time the service is in session, and have created a layer of light, hot air over our heads. Heat from the incandescent lighting further heats this air.

Second, we have air conditioning. The air registers are about eight feet above the floor, and their cool output sinks toward the floor, just where we want it. It may not seem very cool if you are sitting in the beam of the overhead

incandescent lights, but it is much cooler than the air above. (The incandescent lamps are gradually being replaced with compact fluorescent bulbs, by the way.)

Third, we have little mixing of the air layers. Because our ceiling (the underside of the roof boards) is so very high, and because the heat source is at the top and the cooling source is near the bottom, the hot air stays put, and gets hotter, and hotter....

Is the cooling effect of moving air enough to overcome the temperature increase due to bringing that hot air down to our level? I don't believe so.

-Terry Rossow

Circle Dinner Newcomers Welcome!

If you missed signing up, it's not too late. Every four months, we form small groups of people who gather for a monthly potluck. The more the merrier is our motto, so if you are interested, call the office and leave your name. Barbara Eniti or Lois Dueltgen will find you a group for this round or for the one that starts in January.

A Fellowship of Gardeners

Our grounds would benefit from more care from knowledgeable gardeners, and there may be many of us who enjoy working for a few hours in a garden other than our own.

I propose that we form a Fellowship of Gardeners, which would meet twice a month at the church to work together on our flowerbeds and borders, and enjoy some talk and food together. There is much to be done – deadheading, changing seasonal annuals, weeding, pruning, cutting bouquets for the church, etc.

One of our neighboring UU groups has a program called *Adopt-a-Bed* in which an individual or family chooses a particular flowerbed to maintain, and perhaps this is a plan which would appeal to some of us.

If you are interested in joining a gardening group, please contact Barbara Eniti at (925) 449-3443, or Bob Stearns at (925) 443-5182. It would be good to start this new gardening

endeavor in September. We have nothing to lose but our weeds.

– Barbara Eniti

UUCiL Turns 50! No WAY!

Yes, it's true! We will be celebrating 50 years of liberal religion in the tri-valley this spring. I am taking signups now for the Party Planning Committee! Who doesn't love a party???? Contact me if you are interested in helping. We will need a variety of helpers in a variety of tasks, including (but not limited to):

People with a memory—we need folks who are willing to help us find names of original or early members, and who are willing to share their memories of the early days, either in picture or written form, people with pictures, stories and other things to share to help make this a celebration to remember

People who love to eat—our hope is to have a gala celebration dinner on a Saturday night in spring to celebrate, and we need help planning menus, invitations, entertainment, etc.

People who love to celebrate—we need people to help us plan an intergenerational celebration that includes children and youth to celebrate on a Sunday morning in spring.

We hope to have a more formal party one night and then a worship service/celebration during a Sunday morning that includes all ages. We hope to put together a “memory book” looking down memory lane that we can sell during the celebration. Perhaps you have a special photo or slide we can use, or an old order of service, or a special time or memory you want to write down to share with us. And, perhaps you have other ideas to help us celebrate. We want to hear those, too.

A celebration this big needs lots of helpers. We will have FUN doing it, I know. Please contact me at your earliest convenience. I hope to hold a meeting in October.

Thanks!

Leslie Lemiueux, 606-5863

jlmm@pacbell.net

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1 st Friday Film	2
3 Rev. Eric Meter: <i>Will Preach for Food</i>	4 Board Retreat 9-3 Kontempli, 8 pm Green Room YAG, 9 pm Green Room	5 Suzuki 3:30-5:30	6 Men's Group 7:30 pm Round Table Rm	7	8	9 RE Teacher Orient. 2-4 Green Bldg Suzuki 3-5
10 Rev. Eric Meter: <i>Rivers of Love</i> OWL Parent Mtg, 12-2 pm Tot Green Bldg	11 Kontempli, 8 pm Green Room YAG, 9 pm Green Room	12 Board Mtg 6 pm Suzuki 3:30-5:30	13 Directory Mtg 2 pm Suzuki 5:30-6:30	14 Book Group, 7:30 pm Green Room,	15	16 Suzuki 4-5
17 <i>Love the Questions, Live the Questions!</i> Sonya Sulkalski, Intern Minister RE Kickoff Meet our Intern Potluck Meditation Workshop 1-6 Tot Green Bldg	18 Kontempli, 8 pm Green Room YAG, 9 pm Green Room	19 RE Comm. 7:30 pm Tot Green Bldg Suzuki 3:30-5:30	20 Shawl Ministry 7-8:30 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm Round Table Rm October Newsletter deadline Suzuki 5:30-6:30	21	22 Stargazers 7-10 pm	23 Suzuki 4-5
24 Rev. Eric Meter: <i>Best Kept Secrets</i> New Member Orient 11:45 OWL 12-2	25 Kontempli, 8 pm Green Room YAG, 9 pm Green Room	26 Suzuki 3:30-5:30	27 Suzuki 5:30-6:30	28	29	30

In the coming months . . .

POPS at the ZOO, a UFO - Unitarian Universalists and Friends Outing

POPS at the ZOO is NOT in Oakland, but rather, right here in Livermore at the BARN on Friday evening, October 13, 2006. The Livermore-Amador Symphony will play great animal tunes including Carnival of Animals, Pink Panther, and Three Little Fishies. Sing alongs. Fun for all. Bring food to share *a la* potluck.

Tickets are \$20 each and must be reserved by **September 3**. Sign up with Marion or phone her 443-5182.

Do not bring beverages. Plates, napkins, flatware provided

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 October.

Christmas Boutique

Only 4 months until the boutique, please be thinking of "crafty" items that you can make and contribute to the sale. If you have ideas of what you would like to see for purchase please let Joan Dickinson know.

UUCiL Ski Trip February 16-19, 2007

I have reserved two cabins at Bear Valley for the President's Day weekend Friday, February 16 through Monday, February 19, 2007. Bear Valley offers downhill skiing, snowboarding and 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

From the younger members of our congregation

Dear Congregation,

This summer the Youth Group participated in many fun and interesting activities. We have learned to work individually in addition to as a group. We have created countries and gone on many exciting trips.

In June, we kicked the summer off with a trip to Santa Cruz. We went to the beach and boardwalk. When we returned we began to plan our countries. We started with the name: *Ballistiqua*. We began to decide on a government and laws for our country.

Then July came. We voted on a lot of policies and created flags for *Ballistiqua*. At the end of the month the church went to Camp Shelly. We enjoyed hikes, swims, and jumping off rocks

August came and we voted on colors and anthem for our country. Then we went on a backpacking trip. It was really fun and we hope to go on a similar trip soon.

We thank our teachers for teaching us well and for helping us learn and grow.

Thank you for a great summer -*The Youth Group*

Young Adult Group & Kontempli

Dear Friends,

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 worshipping, 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://www.uucil.net/yag1.html>

Best,
Wendy Mason