



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Vol. 11, No. 7

July 2006

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Incoming Newsletter

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in conversation

Growing up we would take walks, but it was my maternal grandfather who did so religiously. Howard was of the age before walking shoes, and before Nike began challenging us to *Just Do It*, he was out walking early each morning.

One of the things I like best about living where I do is how close I live to an arroyo trail. Some days it seems I have the trail to myself and I lose myself in the ramblings of my thoughts, other days I'm saying Hello left and right and its as if we're all taking a stroll around a village square of old.

One of the things I missed most this year was not being able to take part in the Relay for Life walk-a-thon to help support the work of the American Cancer Society. I had a great time last year, walking sometimes alone with my thoughts, but more often with folks from our congregation. While we walked together we talked about great things and small. There is an amazing feeling that can come to life when people get together for a good cause. People, united and at their best, really do make magic.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Relay this year. I hope you had as good a time as I did last year, and I look forward to more conversations around the track next year.

I wasn't able to be at this year's Relay because I was in St. Louis at the UUA's annual General Assembly. Next year GA will be held in Portland, Oregon (from June 20 - 24). If you won't be taking part in the Relay for Life, I would certainly encourage you to think seriously about taking a long weekend and heading up to Portland. When GA was in Long Beach two years ago we had a good group take part, and folks came away with everything they had hoped to receive and more.

Hoping to augment our summer series on the principles and purposes of our faith, I'll offer some reflections on my time in St. Louis during our service on Sunday, August 13th. Unless there's an emergency, I'll be away from church until shortly before then, recharging my batteries and visiting family and friends.

In the meantime, I wish you a wonderful summer; full of gentle morning walks or whatever else it is that refreshes you.

in peace,

Eric

President's Message

I feel honored to have been chosen as your new congregational/board president for the fiscal year 07, which starts on July 1, 2006. The following people have been chosen to fill the other board positions:

Vice-president	Elona Pertica
Secretary	Marilyn Graham
Treasurer	Arlen Rowe
At Large	Joan Dickinson Chuck Hartwig Jes Pedersen

What a great group to work with! I'm looking forward to another great year on the board!

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I became a UU in 1991 when I joined the UU Community Church of Sacramento. I performed lots of little tasks such as RE teacher, potluck coordinator, opener and closer, reader in the worship services, usher/greeter, etc. I was then asked to become part of the UUCB Board as treasurer, which I did for two years starting in 1998. In 2001, I was elected to Pacific Central District Board and served there for four years. I moved back to Livermore in 2002 and soon became an active member of UUCiL where I've served on the canvass, membership and Sunday services committees. I also helped run two Evensong groups along with Jane Staehle. I'm pleased that I'm able to serve UUCiL in so many ways and am looking forward to working as congregational/board president.

Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry meetings for July will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11 and 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26. The meetings for August will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesday, August 1 and 7

Lots of very successful things happened last year—our best ever service auction, a great Mardi Gras dinner, several special collections for outside groups (Open Heart, Hurricane Katrina and Pakistani Earthquake relief), another fabulously successful yard sale, several well attended congregational meetings, a very successful canvass campaign, Shakespeare, circle dinners, wonderful Sunday services, and outstanding RE classes. I'm sure that I'm leaving out something wonderful. We have such a great group of people at UUCiL that we can't help but do the right things! Thanks so much to outgoing president, Arlen Rowe. He's going to be a hard act to follow!

Please look in another part of this newsletter to find out about some wonderful plans that Wendy Mason and others have put together for our young adults. Those groups along with several other planning committees promise another great year at UUCiL.

Do you like to plan and give parties? Here's your chance--We are putting together a new task force, a 50th anniversary celebration task force. We need volunteers, both older and newer members and friends, to plan these gala events. Please talk to one of the board members if you are interested in helping out!!

Let me know if you have any concerns/questions!

-Janice Paquette
373-6894 /

janicepaquette@comcast.net

p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16. All meetings will be in the Tot Green building. Children who are working on a project are welcome to attend the morning meetings

-Kim Rowe

News from Religious Education

Greetings to all of our children and youth and their families at UUCIL

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be in the classroom this summer!

We still have openings left to fill. See the clipboards at the back of the church.

We are hoping to start a weekly “Mid-Week Fun Day” for the elementary-aged children. This would be about a 3-hour session, with a snack, sharing and craft or fun active games. If you think your child would be interested in something like this, please let one of us on the RE committee know.

Chalice Camp Brochures are now available at church. Chalice Camp will be held at UUCiL August 7-11th from 9 to 3 pm. You won't want your elementary-aged child to miss this exciting week.

PCD Coming of Age program is being offered this fall.

Coming of Age is a yearlong program for youth from 8th-10th grades. It consists of 4 weekend-long retreats with other youth from the district. The retreats take place in the fall, winter, and spring, with a *Coming of Age* service at UUCIL after the year has finished. The youth work individually with a mentor from UUCIL during the year as well to honor the youth's coming of age.

The retreat topics are:

First weekend (October timeframe):

Kickoff with trust-building exercises and a ropes course

Second weekend (January timeframe): Street Retreat in San Francisco with the *Faithful Fools*

Third weekend (April timeframe): Camping retreat with a nature experience.

If you want more information, please visit <http://www.pcd.uua.org> and click on *PCD COA Brochure* or contact me.

Important dates this summer:

July 2nd: Games Day, hosted by Kim Rowe & Friends. Bring your favorite board or active game and plan to play, play, play.

July 12th: End of early-bird registration for Chalice Camp

July 15th: Registration closes for Chalice Camp

July 28th: Camp Shelly trip

I am away from church on Sundays during the month of July and part of August. Please contact Julie O'Brien or Ellen Hedges with any needs you may have. Have a great summer!

Warmly,
Leslie Lemieux, DRE

RE Committee News

July 1 signals the start of the new church year, and with it the turnover of committee members. The RE committee bids a fond farewell to outgoing committee co-chair, Alyce Rossow. We are very grateful to Alyce for her years of service on this committee, and her creative energy, boundless enthusiasm, and incredible hard work on behalf of our children's religious education program.

We welcome Ellen Hedges as our new co-chair. Ellen is a fourth grade teacher at Altamont Creek Elementary School. We are

happy to have her join us.

Clothing and Props needed for RE Activities

Do you have the perfect dress-ups taking up space in your closet? Want to see that very special dress or jacket come out of the closet and find a new life at church? We are looking for donations of clothing to be used for costumes in the theatrical productions our children put on during the RE year and summer. Hats, shawls, sweaters, shoes, shirts, vests, ties, dresses, skirts, veils, boas—we can use them all. So look in your

closets and trunks for those treasures, and share them with a new generation.

Cut Coupons for RE

The RE committee encourages you to save your Richard's, Michael's, Joann's, or Bed, Bath, & Beyond coupons from newspapers and mailers and, if you are willing, pass them to us. We can always use them to stretch our RE budget. Just bring your coupons to church and leave them in coupon

UUCiL Book Group Meeting

July 8th 7:30 P.M., UUCiL Tot Green Room. *My Grandfather's Blessings* by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

Dr. Remen is a doctor who has been counseling people with chronic and terminal illness for twenty years. She is cofounder and medical director of the Commonwealth Cancer Help Program of Bolinas, California. This is a book of short essays telling stories of her patients. Dr. Remen encourages the reader to "recognize and celebrate the unexpected blessings in their own lives".

box on the RE table. Thanks!

Next RE Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, July 19, 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.

She also tells her recollections and lessons she learned from her grandfather, who was a rabbi.

Pushpa De Lal has suggested that we choose a selection that has particular meaning for us and share it with the group.

August 10th, 7:30 P.M. , UUCiL Tot Green Room. Judy Herr will choose a play for us to read together.

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

-Alyce Rossow

Young Adult Group (YAG) forming

This summer we are building a Young Adult Group (YAG) for Unitarian Universalists, ages 18-35. Our YAG activity nights include a crafts circle, an open writing night, a games night, and a once-monthly UU vespers service. YAG meets weekly on Monday evenings at 9:00 in the Tot Green Room. We are also introducing Kontempli! Kontempli is an interfaith discussion group for young adults. At Kontempli meetings, young adults discuss topics of concern or interest to them in an atmosphere of respect.

Kontempli will meet every Monday evening at 8:00 from August 20th through November 21st in the Tot Green Room. These two groups will be outstanding additions to our church community. I hope you look forward to them as much as I do. Questions? Contact me at wendyjanemason@gmail.com or check out the YAG website at <http://www.uucil.net/yag1.html>

-Wendy Mason

Camp Shelley

This is a reminder that our annual camping trip to Camp Shelley is planned for the July 28-30. We have a big group going, and expect to have a great time.

If you missed the chance to join us this year, please be on the lookout for the signups next spring.

Reminder

If you are using our buildings at times other than during regular church service hours, PLEASE make sure that all the doors are locked and latched when you leave!! There have been a few times of late when one or more doors have been left unlatched/unlocked and another member has discovered this!! We need to keep our beautiful buildings secure!

-Janice Paquette

A Fall Outing

Coming up this fall: a UUFO—(Unitarian Universalists and Friends Outing). Plan to attend "POPS at the ZOO" on Friday evening, October 13, 2006. Tickets are \$20 each. The evening features a great concert, solos, and sing-alongs, with the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Look for more information next month. Contact Marion Stearns (443-5182) or Joan Dickinson (447-6454).

Relay For Life

Thanks to all who walked and contributed to the 2006 Relay for Life. Our team, *UU's for Life* raised \$1357 for the American Cancer

Society, and the Livermore event raised over \$225,000. If you haven't had a chance to make your contribution, donations can still be made online at:

<http://www.acevents.org/relay/ca/livermore>.

The website will be active until August.

Minds on Fire

Minds on Fire will not meet in July or August. We will resume our regular first Tuesday meeting schedule in September. For questions, please call or email Shelley Covey, shelcovey@comcast.net, or Helen Meier, hmeier@earthlink.net.

Newsletter Online

You can now access the UUCiL newsletter in PDF format via our website (at www.uucil.net). Please email the church office (uucil@sbcglobal.net) to let us know that you no longer want to receive the printed newsletter. You will receive a monthly reminder when each issue of the newsletter is available on the website.

Potluck July 16



Thanks to all who've helped out as we've tried this new system this year!

G through I has potluck duty this month! If you can't be there, please switch with someone who can. Those who are able to could help by putting their chairs away when they are done. Potluck duties include setting up tables and chairs, putting the food out on serving tables, putting plates, bowls, utensils and napkins out and restocking them as needed, bringing dirty serving dishes to the kitchen, and putting away tables and chairs. If the weather is nice, the tables can be set up outside before the service. When we are eating inside, the sanctuary chairs will need to be stacked near the walls before the tables can be set up (the sanctuary chairs do NOT need to be moved back after the potluck). Here is the potluck rotation schedule.

G-I July 16	P-R October 15
J-L August 20	S-Z November 19
M-O September 17	A-C December 17

If you have questions or suggestions on potluck scheduling, please call Kim Rowe.

Sunday Services

July 2, Our Fifth Principle- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Where did our fifth principle come from? And just whose conscience are we talking about here? Jane Staehle speaking.

July 9 Our Sixth Principle- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all:

Sufi Dance, Rev. SierraLynne

Rev. SierraLynne White, MFT, a Sufi Interfaith Minister and Marriage Family Child Counselor. She is also a singer, sacred dancer and drummer who leads the Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). She is accompanied by her talented musician husband, Bill Wentz.

July 16, Our Third Principle- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. Cathy Malloy speaking

July 23: Our Seventh Principle- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part:

Global Warming and Me, Curt Covey

July 30: Our Second Principle- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations:

Wisdom for Us from the Buddha, Rudy Johnson

The Buddhist tradition is central in the lives of many millions of people. When we understand this tradition a bit, going deeper than the symbols on the surface, we begin to realize that this tradition is not really foreign to us. Buddhist wisdom is wisdom to us as well.

Dr. Johnson has been a Lutheran pastor, a public school administrator, and an Episcopal priest. He has served on an education committee for the State of

California, and currently serves on a commission that accredits schools in California and Hawaii. He is very active with the cultural community in Pleasanton, is a world traveler and avid student of world religions.

August 6, Our Fourth Principle- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning:

Are There Transcendent Ethical Values?
Allan Smith

Why is it bad to lie, kill, and cheat? Why are love and charity good? Have these values been created by humans because they make society operate more smoothly? Or are these values somehow consistent with the properties of the universe? The answer to these questions affects how we conceive of ourselves as human beings and what our purpose in life might be.

Dr. Smith has earned four university degrees, a Bachelor of Science as well as an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts in Consciousness Studies from John. F. Kennedy University in Orinda, California, and a Master of Arts in Theology, specializing in Bioethics, from Graduate Theological Union, the Pacific School of Religion, in Berkeley, California.

August 13: *Early Harvest*

While each congregation in a denomination is unique, there are common concerns among them. What are the hot-button issues in the larger Unitarian world these days? Rev. Eric will report his gleanings from General Assembly and beyond. Rev. Eric Meter speaking.

August 20: *The Roethlisberger Conundrum*

Ben Roethlisberger, you may remember, is the Superbowl-winning Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback who had what could have been a disastrous motorcycle accident early this summer. He regularly rode without a helmet, and was regularly criticized for it, to no avail. Beyond the sporting world, however, his case highlights the fulcrum between private desires and public responsibilities. Where are the lines drawn, and how can we better learn where they lie? Rev. Eric Meter speaking.

August 27 *Finding Meaning In The Face Of Difficult Life Situations and Health Challenges*, Patrick Goonan

Problems such as health issues give us a way to exercise our spiritual muscles and put us in touch with our souls and the deep existential questions that life asks of us.

Educated early in his career as a scientist, Patrick Goonan is an experienced personal and professional development coach and consultant, and has worked for many well-known companies including

Merck, Xerox, Oracle, and PeopleSoft. Pat has a strong background in East/West Psychology and is a long-time meditation practitioner. He led the 4-week meditation series at UUCiL in June.

September 3 *Will Preach for Food*
An odd title? Perhaps. What lies behind it will be become clear during this exploration into the heart of what it means to minister. Rev. Eric Meter speaking.

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2 10:30 Service: <i>The Right of Conscience & the Use of the Democratic Process</i> Speaker: Jane Staehle	3 Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	4	5	6	7	8	
Meditation Class							
9 10:30 Service: <i>Goal of World Community</i> Speaker: Sierra Lynne	10 Book Group, Green Room, 7:30 pm Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	11 Shawl Ministry 10-12 am 6 pm Board Mtg Suzuki 3:30-7:30 pm	12 Chalice Camp Early Bird Registration Ends	13	14	15 Chalice Camp Registration Closes	
16 10:30 Service: <i>Acceptance</i> Speaker: Cathy Malloy	17 Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	18 Suzuki 3:30-7:30 pm	19 Religious Education Comm. 7:00 pm Green Rm	20	21 Stargazers 7-10 pm	22	
23 10:30 Service: <i>Global Warming & Me</i> Speaker: Curt Covey	24 Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	25 Suzuki 3:30-7:30 pm	26 Shawl Ministry 7-8:30 pm Men's Group 7:30 pm	27	28	29	
29 10:30 Service: <i>Wisdom for Us from the Buddha</i> Speaker: Rudy Johnson	30 Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	31 Suzuki 3:30-7:30 pm					

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 Shaw! Ministry 10-12 am	2	3	4 1 st Friday Film	5	
6 Service: <i>Are There Transcendent Ethical Values?</i> Speaker: Allan Smith	7 RE Chalice Camp Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	8 RE Chalice Camp 6 pm Board Mtg	9 RE Chalice Camp NOW Feminist Film Men's Group 7:30 pm	10 RE Chalice Camp Book Group, Green Room, 7:30 pm	11 RE Chalice Camp	12	
13 Service: Rev. Meter Sunday Services Comm	14 Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	15 RE Comm. 7:30 pm Tot Green Rm	16 Shaw! Ministry 7-8:30 pm	17	18 Stargazers 7-10 pm	19	
20 Service: Rev. Meter Potluck: JL Newsletter deadline For Sept	21 Kontempli, Green Room, 7:30 pm Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	22	23	24	25	26	
27 Service: <i>Finding Meaning In The Face Of Difficult Life Situations & Health Challenges,</i> Speaker: Patrick Goonan Orientation 11:45	28 Kontempli Green Room, 7:30 pm Young Adult Group (YAG) Green Room, 9:00 pm	29 Suzuki 3:30-7:30 pm	30	31	Upcoming Events: Sept 3: Cookout/Potluck Meet & Greet for Sonia Sukalski, UUCIL Intern Minister Monday, Sept 4: UUCIL Board Retreat 9-3		