



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 12, Number 1

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in conversation

Welcome to the New Year!

As has been increasingly apparent over the last several months, the first half of 2007 is shaping up to be a full and vital time at UUCiL. Here's an outline of some of the things in store...

By now I hope you will have heard that there's a plan for our youth and others to travel to New Orleans in April to help in the ongoing hurricane relief efforts there. The idea for the project surfaced back in October.

Marilyn Graham and I set aside a table during the monthly potluck lunch and invited those interested in the congregation doing more social justice work to join us. To our delight members of our High School youth group showed up. We brainstormed many things that needed doing, and the one that developed the most interest was going to the Gulf Coast to help in the hurricane relief efforts. Yes, it was by far the most ambitious project but when we saw the eyes of our youth light up at the thought of taking part in history, who were we not to give them our full support?

I'll be meeting with the youth on January 7 and expect to have an open informational meeting later in the month, most likely during the potluck on January 21. At this point we are targeting a trip to New Orleans the week after Easter. Details are still being worked out, but one thing is clear: the congregation's support will be needed to make the trip possible. If you have a store of frequent flier miles, I hope you will consider donating some so our youth can make this trip a reality. If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Lemieux or me. And if you may want to take part in the project, let us know as well. While the trip came up in conversation with our youth, others are welcome to take part.

Well, it seems I don't have much space left to highlight the rest of what I had planned to discuss. Elsewhere in this issue Leslie Lemieux outlines the plans for the 50th Anniversary that the team is putting in place as we move toward our main celebrations later in the spring.

Beginning mid-month, Sonya Sukalski and Mike Ong will offer an adult education course on *Film as Theological Text*. Next month Sonya and her husband Mitch will offer a Committed Couples workshop. Also in February Jill Quick and I will begin offering a five part course titled *Our American Roots* on the impact Unitarians had on the formation of the United States. Also our second Mardi Gras celebration is planned for Saturday, February 10, and we're targeting Saturday, March 31 for UUCiL's Seder this year.

Of course there are many activities I haven't had space to list, so check the church calendar and announcements.

in peace,

Eric

**We are a
Welcoming Congregation**



January 7 *Beginnings and Endings*

Join us for our yearly *Beginnings and Endings* service. If you have a reading, a poem, a sketch, a piece of music, a whatever, that you would like to share with the congregation in celebration of the end of 2006 or the beginning of 2007, please contact Linda Bissum

January 14 *What the World Needs Now*

The song says it's love, sweet love, and we say that love is the doctrine of our church. But another tune says love is just a sweet old-fashioned notion. We'd better take our ideas of love past sweetness and light if the world is ever to be a better place. Paul Tillich wrote of Love, Power and Justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. developed some of his ideas further. Maybe that's a place to start. Rev Grace Simons speaking.

This morning we exchange pulpits and choirs with the UU Fellowship in Modesto. It's a great way to develop connections between our congregations, and to strengthen our cluster, the Central California UU Cluster or CCUUC. (Ask how that's pronounced!)

January 21 *Years of New Foundations — the 1950s*

This morning we kick-off a monthly series on the decades of our congregation as we count down to May when we celebrate UUCiL's 50th Anniversary. On each potluck Sunday between now and then, we will take the opportunity to look back a decade, specifically the challenges we

faced and what we learned during it. So today we look at the 50s: the era of Sputnik and desegregation, of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley, and of course, the founding of the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship. So bring a dish that was a staple at the time and don't be afraid to dress for the occasion.

Rev. Eric Meter presiding.

January 28: *Live Simply so Others May Simply Live*

As we look around at our post-holiday clutter: the crumpled wrapping paper, discarded ribbons, piles of boxes, this may be a good time to reflect upon how our lives can be made simpler, easier, better. Join with others to share practical ways to turn simplicity into a reality. During this morning's service we will also celebrate those who have recently joined our congregation as members

Coming in February:

A series on Our American Roots, and, on February 11, the Rev. Erika Orbán. The Reverend Erika Orbán comes to us from the Starr King School for the Ministry where she is currently the Balázs scholar representing the Unitarian Church in Transylvania.

Announcements at UUCiL Services

Special business announcements at our UUCiL church services are important to us all. (They are, of course, different in character from our sharing that occurs in Milestones, where we reflect on important aspects of our life). We all appreciate the insert in our programs that presents business announcements, which gives us a chance to examine what the Church is planning and enables us to take a record home.

There are, of course, last-minute business announcements that could not get placed in the insert and that our Church community needs to hear. We have become accustomed to the Board Service Opener announcing these at the beginning of the Service. There has been increasing questioning, however, about whether these announcements should be given from the pulpit.

The Board, with your support, will be testing a new approach to last-minute announcements: the use of a white board for the placement of written announcements on the day of the Service. The approach will be for the individual that has the immediate announcement to confer with Eric Meter, our minister, or the Board Opener for the day to determine if the white board would be appropriate or whether there should be some other means of making the announcement. (If neither the Minister nor the Board Opener is available please consult with Sonya Sukalski, our intern minister.) The white board will be placed near the bulletin board, near coffee, or in some other convenient location. To stay current, this board will be refreshed every Sunday. There will, of course, still be special verbal announcements that will be made from the congregation at the opening of the service that the Minister or the Board has approved and that are important for us all to hear.

We will start this new practice in February and test it for several months. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please keep the Minister and the Board informed of your thinking about this new approach to last-minute announcements.— UUCiL Board of Trustees

Sensing the Spirit with Sonya

One of my favorite songs of the season goes like this:

*Think of your fellow man
Lend him a helping hand
Put a little love in your heart*

*Another day goes by
And still the children cry
Put a little love in your heart*

*Take a good look around
And if you're lookin' down
Put a little love in your heart*

*You see it's getting late
Oh please don't hesitate
Put a little love in your heart*

*If you want the world to know
We won't let hatred grow
Put a little love in your heart*

*I hope when you decide
Kindness will be your guide
Put a little love in your heart*

*And the world will be a better place
For you and me
You just wait and see*

*And the world will be a better place
For you and me
You just wait and see*

*And the world will be a better place
For you and me
You just wait and see*

And the world will be a better place... So goes the duet with Annie Lennox and Al Green. What are the things you do to put a little love in your heart? It is a fine aspiration for the new year.

Some of the things I do to put a little love in my heart are to consider how life is for people who don't enjoy all the privileges I do – middle class existence with a mortgage, two beautiful children, good health, money for heat, good food, and more books than I will probably ever be able to read. No outstanding issues with the law at the moment, the privilege of being white, and married. Since researching one of our Unitarian founding fathers, William Ellery Channing, earlier in December, I have discovered he has a wealth of wisdom still relevant today. He says,

The best condition of society is that in which all ranks, classes, orders, are intimately connected and associated... (those with property) ought to regard it as a TRUST for the good of those who are in want... and that (people) forfeit the right to property just as far as they fail to contribute, according to their ability, to the common well-being.

The challenging thing for me is that sometimes the benefits these privileges afford are hard to identify on one's own. That is where religious community in which we can explore values and our hopes for a more just and compassionate society can be invaluable. I hope you will join me in delving into how our individual beliefs help us navigate the challenges of today's society with its approach to women, the mentally ill, and prisoners as well as issues of classism, ableism, heterosexism, and racism. Mike Ong and I will be teaching this on Thursday nights starting January 18th using films as theological texts. There is further information below.

One of the ways I put a little love in my heart in my family life is to take time out to converse and appreciate my partner. Reverends Bill and Barbara Hamilton-Holway helped us along the way with a "Committed Couples" curriculum they developed, and Mitch and I will be offering this Feb. 9th and 10th. It is a great present to your sweetie for Valentines day! **Let's all put a little love into this New Year!**

Winter Adult RE Offerings

Film as Theological Text Thursdays, **Jan. 18th – March 8th**. This is a religious education class for adults, and mature teens. Join Sonya Sukalski and Mike Ong as we delve into current issues in our society using movies to generate discussion. Starting January Thursday 18th, we will meet weekly, and watch movies such as, *St. Ralph*, *Water*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *Pow Wow Highway*, and *Spitfire Grill* to spark discussion about how our beliefs help and/or hinder us when engaging in our larger world. More information about the movies to be used can be obtained by e-mailing sonya.sukalski@comcast.net. We will have some fun munching popcorn and talking with other UUs about the perspectives and questions that come

up during the film! Call the church office – 925-447-8747, or e-mail Sonya to sign up.

Committed Couples Class Feb. 9th-10th. Give your sweetie the best Valentines Day gift ever! Time spent together and in community appreciating each other's talents and approaches to life. Mitch and Sonya Sukalski will lead this Friday evening, Saturday 9 am-3 pm retreat where there will be time to consider each person and the relationship for the opportunities, challenges, gifts, and regrets that are present. This retreat is appropriate for couples of all shapes and sizes, engaged, partnered, and married. Call 925-447-8747 or e-mail sonya.sukalski@comcast.net to sign up.

I am very proud to be a member of UUCiL. We are such a wonderful group of people!! I look forward to coming to church every Sunday to see so many friends and also to meet new people!! There's never a dull moment! Meetings and activities on the weekdays or after church can never be called boring—there's always something new to discuss, ponder or react to.

I have met with the Canvass/Stewardship Committee, the ministers, and of course, the Board, all of which have exciting plans for the upcoming year, 2007. I've received reports and touched bases with the 50th Anniversary, the Sunday Services committee, the RE committee, and the Long Term Rental Task Force, all of whom are working hard. The rest of the committees and individuals that haven't been mentioned are up and running and continue to contribute so much! Thanks to all of you who work so hard to make UUCiL the best possible church it can be!

I want to highlight a few of the items the Board of Trustees discussed at our last meeting, Dec. 12. It has been decided after discussion with the owners of the Little Rascals Pre-School which rents our Starr King building that we will make a joint effort to put in some concrete pavers in the play yard. This will give the children a dry place to play outside after the rains let up. Another item discussed was the effort to put together a high school team to go to Louisiana

Circle Dinners

It is time to think about regrouping people for the next round of circle dinners, and we are looking for input. Please respond if you are interested in any of the following changes:

By grouping people with same age kids, we are finding that there is limited flexibility for providing exposure to a variety of people. If you are open to being in groups with kids of different ages or in groups without kids, please respond and let me know.

During the current cycle, Ron and I (no kids) were with a group that included children of similar ages. We had kids with us at other homes, but had an all adult night at our house. We loved getting to know some of the kids, and parents enjoyed an adults only night. If this appeals to you either as a parent or as a non-parent, please respond and let me know.

Because we have regrouped several times, you will begin to be in groups with people you have shared dinner with previously. Also, because it is challenging to regroup people and accomplish a

during Spring Break to aid in hurricane relief. The offerings at the Dec. 24 evening service and also Dec. 31 will go to help this effort. Judy Herr has agreed to spearhead another Mardi Gras dinner on Feb. 10 to also help fund this trip. (If you attended last year's event, your mouth is probably already salivating!) These are just a few of the important events beyond the 50th Anniversary celebrations that we're working on for the coming year.

I met with Catherine Lynch from the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston on December 14. As I mentioned in church on December 17, all active members of this congregation should have received a letter from the UUA and Reverend Eric asking for a contribution to spread the *good news* of Unitarian Universalism in the San Francisco Bay Area. I plan to make a good sized contribution to this campaign! I'm very excited about opening our congregations to others and letting them know what a great thing we have! More will follow as the campaign gets started. Feel free to let me know your comments. If you did not receive the request for a contribution, let me know and I can find out how to accept additional contributions

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to a great 2007!

Janice Paquette, President
janicepaquette@comcast.net, 373-6894

thorough rotation, please let us know if there is anyone on the participant list that you have missed in the rotations to date. We will try to make the match happen this time.

Finally, if you are interested in taking a break from the program or if you know any new people who might be interested in participating, please let me know.

Stewardship Campaign 2007

The Stewardship Committee for 2007 is gearing up with an exciting new format--small group discussions. We will be meeting in groups of 10 or so both at church and in members' homes to discuss important UUCiL issues that are usually discussed during "the Canvass." We will need hosts/hostesses and facilitators. If you are interested in hosting a meeting or being a facilitator, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

News from Religious Education

Greetings UUCIL Families!

Welcome to 2007! I hope you enjoyed your holidays and got to spend some time with your loved ones. Our social action project this month will take place on January 14th. Yvonne Konneker and Kim Rowe, along with other adults and youth will do a *Kids Decide Popcorn Sale*. We will be making popcorn to sell after church and the kids will discuss where to send the proceeds and vote to do so, practicing our democratic process and desire to help others. *This project will be for the middle school and high school youth as well.*

This last month, December, you would have been in awe to see about 25 children and youth of all ages sitting quite still, listening to Yvonne explain meditation, and then guiding us all in a meditation for peace. Afterwards, we wrote supportive letters to our troops.

The Religious Education Committee and I would like to thank Hildy Pehrson for directing our holiday play, *Three Miraculous Births*. Hildy gave a lot of her time and energy to making our presentation a success.

Thanks also to Alyce Rossow, for production support, Terry Rossow for making DVD copies available for purchase, and to all the children, youth and their parents for their participation.

The Religious Education Committee welcomes your presence and contributions to our committee. Most of you know that this is my last year as your Religious Education Director and we are at the point where we

need to start preparing for the change. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at 7 pm in the Tot Green Building Conference Room.

Youth Group News

In addition to the news in Rev. Eric's portion of the newsletter, regarding the upcoming opportunity for service in the New Orleans-Katrina affected region, we are in need of some parent volunteers to take the youth group on their Fun Sundays. We have the following dates scheduled for Youth Group Outings:

Sunday, **January 28th** & Sunday, **February 18th**

We have suggestions and will provide support for the outings. In the beginning of the year, the youth wrote up a list of ideas for outings. Please volunteer if you can, contact Leslie Lemieux. Thanks!

Our Whole Lives Class Schedule for the Spring

Here is the rest of the *Our Whole Lives* schedule for the remainder of the year. Please mark your calendars!

Saturdays, 6-9:00 pm	Sundays, 12-2:00 pm
January 6	January 21
February 3	February 25
March 10	March 25
April 21	April 29

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

UUCiL Member Jim Wilson Awarded the 2007 Hans Bethe Prize

Jim Wilson, a longtime member of this church and physicist for the last 53 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has been selected to receive the 2007 Hans Bethe Prize. This American Physical Society award is presented annually to an individual for outstanding accomplishments in astrophysics, nuclear physics, nuclear astrophysics, or closely related fields. Jim is being recognized for his work in nuclear astrophysics and numerical work on supernovae core collapse, neutrino transport, and shock propagation. Wilson is best known in the physics community for his supernova calculations, proposing how one works and why it explodes.

According to the APS, the Hans Bethe award recognizes outstanding work in theory, experiment or observation. It is one of the highest honors a physicist can receive, symbolizing both peer admiration and worldwide recognition of exceptional accomplishments by colleagues. The award commemorates Hans Bethe, a

German-American physicist whose career spanned 60 years, culminating with the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1967.

Long Term Rental Task Force needs your ideas!

Please watch your e-mail in January for an update on the work of the long-term rental taskforce. We will also provide limited hard copies at the church.

Currently, we have contacted several organizations to determine their interest, and we will continue to do so. In order to provide you with the rental *policies and standards* that you voted for at the Annual Meeting, we also continue the discovery process of what is involved in renting to another long term tenant. Also as requested at the Annual Meeting, the Task Force takes to heart your request to be informed and involved. To that end, please watch you January e-mail and hard copy availability for detailed information regarding the prospect of renting.

Long-Term Rental Task Force

Recent Tax Law Changes May Affect People Giving to Charity: IRS Offers Tips for Year-End Donations

Starting in 2007 there are new record keeping requirements for cash contributions to the Church. In the past, the IRS allowed a person to maintain a personal record or diary of contributions under \$250, and as long as the entries were regularly made they were accepted as proof of a charitable cash gift. The *new provision*, which goes into effect on January 1, 2007, will no longer accept personal record keeping as proof of charitable contributions. A person making a charitable contribution of money, *regardless of the amount*, must maintain the following documentation if they wish to take it as a tax deduction:

- a cancelled check,
- bank record,
- or ***a receipt from the organization receiving the gift*** that shows the name of the organization, the date of the contribution and the dollar amount.

This means that people who drop cash into the Sunday Basket will no longer be able to take a tax deduction without getting a receipt from the church. Starting in January, offering envelopes will be available at the entryway to the Church. The church will maintain a log of these cash gifts (just like pledges) and send a receipt to the donors at the end of the year.

In 2006 and 2007 there is a new tax break for IRA owners. An IRA owner, age 70½ or over, can directly transfer tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charitable organization. This option is available in tax years 2006 and 2007. Eligible IRA owners can take advantage of this provision, regardless of whether they itemize their deductions. Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are not eligible.

For further information go to this IRS website: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164997,00.html>

On the Calendar . . .

Minds on Fire

Minds on Fire will meet on Tuesday, **January 2**, from 7:00 to 8:30 at the home of Helen Meier. Our 2007 meeting dates are: February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 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

Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry will be meeting Wednesdays: **January 3** from 10 a.m. to noon, and **January 17** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at UUCiL. New members are always appreciated. Please call Kim Rowe at 606-9531 for more info.

Do you like to Scrapbook?

Would you like to spend the evening scrapbooking with other UUCiL'ers? Then please join us on the first Saturday of the month from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The dates for the next three months are **January 6**, February 3 and March 3. Bring your books, supplies, and creativity. \$5 - \$10 is the suggested donation to the church. Questions? Please contact Susanne Breckenridge.

Behind the Podium - What do You Want?

The quilted banner behind the podium has been temporarily replaced with holiday decorations. If the banner is to return it needs to be dry cleaned. If not, we need something else to decorate the very blank and most highly viewed wall surface at UUCiL. If you have thoughts on this subject, please join a discussion at the podium during coffee time on Sunday, **January 7**. Or, contact Chilli Barlow or Pat Mielke with your ideas.

UUCiL January Hike

Hi Livermore Valley Hikers! Join us on Saturday, **January 13** for the Marsh Meanderings session offered by East Bay Parks, with Naturalist Kristina Parkinson, at Coyote Hills Regional Park, at 8000 Patterson Ranch Road, in Fremont, CA, Saturday, January 13, from 1:00 to 3:00. We'll meet at 12:00, noon, at the Starbucks at 6050 Johnson Drive, in Pleasanton (the one next to Home Depot) to carpool. It's about a 25-minute drive from Starbucks.

In February, we'll climb Mission Peak, in the Sunol Wilderness in Sunol, with longtime member, Terry Rossow. And in March, we'll visit Lake Chabot, with Intern Minister, Sonya Sukalski.

Happy Trails! Bob Breckenridge

50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Our next meeting is Thursday, **January 11** at 7 p.m. in the Tot Green Building Conference Room. We need your help and input—ALL ARE WELCOME!

50th Anniversary Help Needed: The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee needs the following types of help:

- A couple of volunteers to help host the monthly *Movie Nights*. If you love movies, this just might be the task for you
- Anyone with memorabilia and photos from any of the following decades: '50's, '60's, '70's, '80's or '90's—we will be making bulletin boards each month to celebrate the decades in pictures and memories
- Anyone with great ideas or items that would be

appropriate to include in our time capsule

If any of these items hold interest for you, we would *LOVE Your Help!* Please contact Leslie Lemieux, Committee Chair, if you are interested.

All-Ages Movie Night will celebrate a movie from that month's decade. Join us **Friday, January 12th** at 7 p.m. for popcorn and the movie; you may also dress accordingly. The movie this month is "*The African Queen*," starring the power duo of Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn. This movie was made in 1951, and has something for everyone: adventure, romance and drama. "*The African Queen*" won four Oscars. February's movie from the '60's is "*The Miracle Worker*" and it will be shown *Saturday, February 24th* at 7 p.m.

50th Anniversary News & Celebrations for January!

Starting this month, our third-Sunday *Potlucks* will celebrate each decade of the church's history, starting with *The 50s*. Bring your favorite dish from the decade and dress accordingly. Here are some ideas of what was happening in the '50's to help you decide what to wear and what to bring:

New to the Market in the '50's:

Kraft pre-sliced processed cheese (1950)

Lipton Onion Soup Mix (1952)

Jif Peanut Butter (1958)—Wow! How did we ever get along without that?

Rice-a-Roni (1959)

Eggo's Frozen Waffles (1953)

Chicken Ramen (1958)

Fast Food Chains and Chain Restaurants in the '50's:

Dunkin' Donuts (1950)

Jack in the Box (1950)-Gosh! Jack doesn't look a day over 30!

Denny's (1953)

Swanson's TV dinners were introduced in 1954, and the first ones were packaged in a carton that even looked like a TV screen—with a simulated wood console and a dial!

Looking forward to seeing you at potluck this month in your poodle skirt and your duck-tail!

More celebrations are planned as well. In addition to the monthly celebrations listed above, we have the following events coming up:

Walk Down Memory Lane Reception: Saturday, **April 21st** from 2-5 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, memory and story sharing. Light refreshments will be served.

Gala Dinner Event at Beeb's in Livermore: Saturday, **May 5th**, 2007. Tickets to this event are limited and will be available starting February 1st for a suggested contribution. The evening includes dinner, the evening's program and dancing.

Commemorative Sunday Service: Sunday, **May 20th**, 2007, followed by a *Day on the Green* with our choir's singing, lunch, magicians, a treasure hunt and rededication of our Time Capsule!

In addition, we are creating a *Memory Book*, which will be available for purchase. If you have any items, stories or photos appropriate for the book, please forward them to Julie in the Church office at your earliest convenience.

We would like to find as many of our friends and former members as possible to invite them to these events.

Without our Founders, and indeed, all who came before us, we wouldn't be here today. Feel free to invite anyone you may know, and if you'd like to get them on the mailings, please contact the Church Office, or our Committee Chair, Leslie Lemieux, with the appropriate information so we may include them. In addition, if you have children who grew up in this congregation, we would like to invite them as well, so again, please get that information to the Church Office or to the Committee Chair.

UUCiL Book Group: January 18th, 7:30 pm

Beyond the Sky and Earth by Jamie Zeppa

Reviewer: Pat Mielke

Jamie Zeppa, a 22-year-old English teacher, goes to Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayan Mountains between India and China as a volunteer teacher. She encounters a very different world.

We will be meeting at Pat Mielke's house in Pleasanton. Alyce is willing to arrange car pools, so call her 447-8881. We are changing our meeting night to the third Thursday of each month.

Singing Workshop with Songwriter Jim Scott

January 27th, 2007, 1 - 4pm, 1st UU Church of Stockton

From Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival with the Paul Winter Consort to a concert at the end of the Great Peace March with folk legends Pete Seeger and Peter Yarrow, Jim Scott is a true UU troubadour. In cooperation with our fellow congregations in Modesto, Stockton and Tuolumne County (together we make up the Central California UU Cluster), we are pleased to announce this musical opportunity. Free for choir

Service Auction – January 27, 2007

It is time to be thinking of our annual Service Auction. Please offer a special skill or service for the Auction. There are many members in need of handyman work, yard work, trips to the airport, or just a night out for a meal or a game, or both. Young families may be in need of childcare for a night or weekend. Use your imagination and offer a helpful or fun activity. Also your help in staging this event would be appreciated. (Call Joan Dickinson). Plan to attend and bid for a service(s). We will have a complimentary dinner with wine (donations accepted) starting at 6 PM and the auction at 7 PM. This will be the first FUNdraising event in our 50th year.

Offer tickets to a play.

Sell your priceless Faberge.

Take me riding in your sleigh.

Help me understand feng shui.

Rent your summer home in Story.

Cook me chicken cacciatore.

Plant my purple morning glory.

Send me fishing in your dory.

Teach mah-jongg to a beginner.

Serve a smashing ethnic dinner.

Coach a surefire lotto winner.

Show me how to get much thinner.

Teach me how to use Excel.

Offer shares in your gas well.

Demonstrate the Stanford yell.

Rent your cottage in Carmel.

Show me how to land a perch.

Make homemade canoes from birch.

Bring your talents in research

On tax evasion to the church.

Hang a door. Mop a floor.

Show us tide pools at the shore.

members, others will be asked for a nominal donation. Childcare will be available if requested by January 15. See Rev. Eric for further details and directions.

Feminist Film Festival Returns!

Alameda County/Tri-Valley NOW (ACTNOW) is sponsoring a showing of "Miss Congeniality" on Friday, **February 2**, at 7 p.m. in the Tot Green room of Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. Sandra Bullock stars in this comedy about a feminist FBI agent (rated PG-13.) Doors open at 6:45 p.m. The event is free but donations are gladly accepted. Light refreshments will be served. Due to limited space, please RSVP to Kathy Woofter at 925 373-7325. See you there

New Member Recognition Sunday

On **January 28**, 2007, we will be celebrating new members who have joined UUCiL since last spring. If you want to be part of this group, but haven't yet signed the membership book, please contact Eric Meter, Lois Dueltgen, or Chilli Barlow to make arrangements to do so.

Lecture on the Boer War,

Explicate the Apgar score.

Pickle up a peach preserve.

Fix my backhand, lob, and serve.

Plate a spread of fine hors d'oeuvres.

Teach me how to throw a curve.

Lead a hike out by Del Valle.

Teach me coding in Pascal.

Exercise my canine pal.

Buy us all café royale.

Fix my brake. Ply a rake.

Take me sailing on the lake.

Babysit my six-foot snake.

Rub my back where it do ache.

Host Victorian croquet.

Make souffles for Mother's Day.

Teach my daughter macrame.

Volunteer as my valet.

Play the tunes of Andre Previn.

Hire out teens like Ian and Devyn.

Dig up my old Tree of Heaven.

BUT BE HERE January twenty-seven!

January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Men's Group, Round Table Rm, 7:30 pm Minds on Fire, Meier's, 7-8:30 pm	3 Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, 10-12:00	4 Long Term Rental Task Force, noon, Green Rm. Canvass Mtg. 7 pm	5	6 Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 am OWL, Green Rm, 6-9 pm Scrapbooking, 6:30-10:30 pm
7 <i>Choir sings</i> Sunday Service Comm.: <i>Beginnings & Endings</i> , 10:30 Podium decor discussion follows	8	9 Board mtg, Green Rm, 6 pm	10 RE Comm., Green Rm, 7-9 pm	11 50 th Anniv. Planning Comm. Green Rm, 7 pm	12 50's Movie: <i>The African Queen</i> Green Rm, 7 pm	13 Bird Watchers hike*, Fremont, 1:00 pm Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg. 8:30-1:00
14 Rev. Grace Simons: <i>What the World Needs Now</i> , 10:30 pulpit & choir exchange w/ Modesto RE Social Action Sunday	15	16 Men's Group, Round Table Rm, 7:30 pm	17 Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, 7-8:30 pm	18 Book Group*, Green Rm, 7:30 pm Adult RE: <i>Film as Theological Text</i> * 7 pm	19 StarGazers, Sanctuary, 7-10 pm	20 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg. 8:30-1:00 Newsletter input due
21 <i>Choir sings</i> <i>Years of New Foundations</i> , Rev. Eric, 10:30 1950's Potluck, D-F OWL, Green Rm, 12-2 pm	22	23	24	25 Adult RE: <i>Film as Theological Text</i> * 7 pm	26	27 Jim Scott Singing Workshop* Service Auction*, 6 pm
28 Voluntary Simplicity Group: <i>Live Simply so Others May Simply Live</i> , 10:30 New Member Recognition Youth Group Outing New Member Orientation 11:45	29	30	31	Feb 1 Long Term Rental Task Force, noon, Green Rm. Adult RE: <i>Film as Theological Text</i> * 7 pm	Feb 2 NOW Film: <i>Miss Congeniality</i> , Green Rm, 7 pm	Feb 3 Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 am OWL, Green Rm, 6-9 pm Scrapbooking, 6:30-10:30 pm
Feb 4 <i>Choir sings</i> <i>Our American Roots series</i> , 10:30 am	Feb 5	Feb 6 Men's Group, 7:30 pm Minds on Fire, 7-8:30 pm	Feb 7 RE Comm, 7-9 pm	Feb 8	Feb 9 Adult RE: <i>Committed Couples</i>	



***UUCiL Through the Years:
My Memories of UUCIL by Dorris Lee***

My very first memory of the Livermore UUs is that of a beaming Harold Wiesner standing on the veranda of the old UU Fellowship building on First Street.

Our family moved to Livermore on July 1, 1969, and attended the UU Fellowship the very next Sunday. We'd been members of the Sacramento Society Church and the Reno Fellowship for several years, so we weren't visitors to the denomination. Harold didn't know any of that; he just smiled, said a hearty "welcome!," shook our hands, ushered us inside, and began introducing us and making sure we got the children settled in. To this day, when I hear UUs talk about hospitality and membership and growth issues, Harold's big smile swims up in my mind. If the UUA could patent and teach what he did so naturally, we'd be the fastest-growing denomination!

After that first memory, the others are like a flood! All of them are centered on the people at UUCiL, of course. The activities – search committees, the Vasco Road widening project, all the committees, the board, the potlucks, the programs – form the richest kind of tapestry of faces and times spent together.

I moved two years ago. As many of you have heard me say, I love living here in Windsor, near Santa Rosa. But I loved – and love – Livermore and the congregation there!!

In the local UU Church, we recently had a major discussion about whether to continue to sing "Spirit of Life" every Sunday, following the meditation. The "yes" contingent won, I'm pleased to say. It was written in 1981 and I've sung it in many a UU gathering. But I was at UUCiL when we first began to sing it. And it's there I go in memory every time I hear or sing it. If you're reading these words and you know me, you can be absolutely sure I carry you in my mind and heart.