

Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 12, Number 6

Summer 2007

Sunday Services, High School & Middle School Youth Group, & Children's Religious Education 10:30 am

July 1, Living Your Dream Life

Dr. David Olkkola

On Sunday July 1st UUCIL will get a double treat from cooperative trainer Dr. David Olkkola. First at 9:00am we'll be meeting in the Tot Green room for a special sneak peek of Dr. Olkkola's energizing new motivational speech & workshop "Allowing Your Dreams To Become Reality - Living Your Dream Life" Then at 10:30 we'll have Dr. Olkkola as our guest service speaker where he'll talk about how this new concept has changed his life while living his free and responsible search for the truth and meaning, our continuing series on the 7 UU principles.

So come early and enjoy Dr. Olkkola at 9am and then listen to his life changing experience and see if you can enjoy the same. Dr. Olkkola will be on hand after the service to answer your questions on his amazing motivational program. Feel free to look over his website for additional biographical or program details. <http://www.thedreammasters.com/>

July 8, Why I choose to work at a Nuclear Weapons Laboratory

Hank O'Brien, Curt Covey, Terry Rossow, & Carol Myers

Four of the members of our congregation will tell their personal stories about how they came to choose to work in a Nuclear Weapons Laboratory.

July 15, Sufi Dances,

SierraLynne

The Dances of Universal Peace are simple, meditative, joyous, multi-cultural circle dances that use sacred phrases, chants, music, and movements from the many traditions of the earth to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. Based on the work begun in the late 60's by Samuel L. Lewis, they promote peace and integration within individuals and groups worldwide. There are no performers nor audience - new arrivals and old hands form the circle together. And, no prior experience is necessary!

July 22, Native American Service

Michelle Herrera

Michelle was born into and grew up in the traditions of the Tewa Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. She has a Masters degree in psychology and child guidance. Michelle has conducted services for us in the past and her services include dancing, music and prayer in the Tewa language. This will be a service for the entire family. This service will be a totally Native American service and no UU hymns will be offered. Please join us.

July 29, Stages of Recovery

Rev. Barbara Meyers

Recently the psychiatrist Mark Ragins has proposed that there are several identifiable stages in recovery of one's mental health, similar in concept to the stages of death and dying identified by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross. We will reflect on these concepts and how they might be helpful in our lives. Our guest speaker is Rev. Barbara Meyers, a Unitarian Universalist Community Minister endorsed by the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont. Her ministry is focused on mental health issues. She also happens to be the proud mother of UUCIL member Carol Meyers!

August 5, Education and the Exit Exam

Johanna Hartwig

Johanna Hartwig is an attorney with the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, headquartered in San Francisco. She has been a member of the Morrison & Foerster legal team that has been representing high school students challenging the requirement that students pass the California High School Exit Exam in order to graduate. The case started in February, 2006, and is currently in settlement negotiations. Ms. Hartwig is familiar with legal and policy issues related to public education, and will be speaking about them for her Church program. Ms. Hartwig holds graduate degrees from the University of Michigan's law school and public policy school. She is the daughter of Khabira and Charles Hartwig, members of UUCiL.

August 12, Some Thoughts on Our Time in Haiti

Marc & Elizabeth Costantino

Marc and Elizabeth Costantino spend a week in Haiti, volunteering and experiencing at an orphanage there. On August 12, they will tell their story.

August 19, The Importance of Showing Up

Dorris Lee

Some of us wait for the Prince (or Princess). Some put off taking action while we wait for a situation to be better or calmer, or for divine intervention. Great chunks of a lifetime can disappear while we wait. Meanwhile, there are issues of trust and connection, discovery and engagement. Today, we'll consider how the simple act of showing up is an antidote to the waiting games. (P.S.: Be sure to show up for this one!)

August 26, Helpin' OUT IN New Orleans: "Heroes of the Spirit" AND the UUSC

This Sunday Service includes reflections and pictures taken by the UUCiL Team that represented us by doing hands-on work

in the New Orleans area. Additionally, we'll screen the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)'s documentary, "Heroes of the Spirit."

In April, we sent our UUCiL Team of 15 youths and accompanying adults to New Orleans to work with and learn from community residents as they "arise and rebuild." We sent our group and the UUSC's s Gulf Coast Volunteer Program staff coordinated their transforming work -- finding our team a place to sleep and a place to contribute to the task of "arising and rebuilding."

Just about every year at UUCiL, we receive our UUSC "Guest at Your Table" boxes. We put them on our tables at home and try to put some money in every day for several weeks. Finally, one Sunday at church we collect and send the donations to the UUSC. The UUSC film we will show celebrates the daring 1939 mission of the founders of the UUSC as they risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. From natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean tsunami and the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, the UUSC continues to defend human rights in humanitarian crises.

September 2, Labors of Love

Join us in an all-church work party to spruce up the buildings and grounds. There will be something for everyone no matter your age, so come prepared to join together for fun, fellowship, and a bit of work as an expression of our commitment to our church and community.

President's Message

Thanks so much to all of you for making my first year as President an outstanding one!! I appreciate all the support and caring you've given to me and even some of those thorny problems!! I will continue as your President again. The Board elections were held at the last Board meeting on June 15. We have another great slate of Board officers this coming year—Vice-President: Sunil Wijeyesekera, Secretary: Chuck Hartwig, Treasurer: Arlen Rowe. Jes Pedersen will be our Buildings and Grounds Chair, Elona Pertica will be Religious Education Liaison, Ron Dueltgen will assist Arlen in his treasurer duties and also serve as External Community Liaison. There will many more tasks these fine people take on as they go through the year. Just ask them...

As the many transitions continue, one more has occurred. Julie Scharmer, our office administrator, is no longer working with us. A group of volunteers including Joan Dickinson, Jane Staehle, Beth Dowling, Lois Dueltgen, Julie O'Brien and myself will be manning the office. Please be patient as we fumble our way through the summer months. Let one of us know if you are able to work for a few hours. We will work on hiring a new administrator when Rev. Carolyn Colbert arrives in late August.

We had great sendoffs for Reverend Eric and for our intern minister, Sonya Sukalski! We wish both of them the best

as they continue on their life journeys. They are both wonderful people who have served UUCiL very well.

I met with the Ministerial Search Committee recently and envision wonderful things happening in the coming months. They will be communicating with you as they ask for your thoughts in what you want in a permanent minister. It will be done in both survey form and in cottage meetings. I look forward to hearing more from them!

General Assembly was great! We had a fabulous time and learned so-o-o-o much!! Rev. Eric, Rev. Carolyn, Sonya Sukalski, Ron and Lois Dueltgen, Pat and Keith Mielke, Polly Sellers and I attended. A highlight of the time for me in Portland was UU University where I was able to interact with other UU leaders from other parts of the country and exchange ideas and stories about our congregations. I learned a lot! I also enjoyed being part of the banner parade for GA's opening ceremony. What a treat to see such diverse and beautiful banners from many parts of the country!

As always, I appreciate all of your hard work on behalf of UUCiL. You make it all worthwhile!

Janice Paquette

Janice Paquette, 373-6894
janicepaquette@comcast.net

Search Committee Update

On Thursday June 14th, the search committee held our first meeting at the Mielke's house. There are many tasks involved in helping our church find a new settled minister such as: completing a packet to send to prospective applicants that portrays our church history, needs, wants, hopes, talents, and financial status; conducting cottage meetings within the congregation to better understand what we are looking for; carrying out a church wide survey, communicating with applicants, arranging preaching dates

in the surrounding churches for the committee to see them in action; and of course carrying out interviews and reference checking. Our members include Keith Mielke, Wendy Mason, Chili Barlow, Joan Dickinson, Linda Bissum, Kim Rowe, and Eric Serdahl. We have a series of meetings scheduled over the summer as well as an overnight retreat at the end of August. The committee will make efforts to keep the congregation informed on our progress and we welcome (and will need) input from all.

Religious Education News & Notes

Summer is up and running in our Religious Education program. We have been working on various art projects as well as scheduling time for outdoor activities.

We still need teachers to help out this summer. Why not join one of RE age groups for a summer Sunday? You do not need any prior experience working with our youth – all you need is enthusiasm. We will provide all the materials and guidance you need. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

The RE committee met on June 6th, one of the issues that was discussed was the need for a RE cleanup day. This will be a chance to get the class rooms ready for Fall, as well as finding out what supplies we still have and what were running out of. Please join the *Labor of Love Service* on **September 2** and help us spruce up the classrooms! We are also looking at teacher training for Fall that would include a CPR/First Aid component.

Jean Moran has agreed to be the co-chair of RE for the

next year. Along with Ellen Hedges and the rest of the RE committee, we look forward to a productive and rewarding year.

Fall classes start in September and planning is already underway. This Fall we will be studying World Religions. This will be an in depth look at different belief systems that will include field trips to check out different religious centers and services.

Please join us for our **RE Committee meeting** on Thursday, **July 12th**, to learn more about our plans for Fall. We would love to have your input and creativity! It is not too early to sign up to teach for the Fall. The time commitment is reasonable: one or two Sundays per month, and you usually team with at least one other adult in the classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our youngest members. Please join us on the 12th and get to know our program!

Rich Partida, DRE

What's Happening at UUCiL This Month . . .

UUCiL Hospitality Retreat, July 11, 6 to 9 pm in the Tot Green Room. See the article on the following page for details.

Religious Education Committee meets Thurs., July 12th at 7 pm

Summer is here and we have lots of wonderful plans for the children, but *we need YOU!* Please join the RE committee, our new DRE, Rich, and all interested friends as we address the our children's religious education program for the coming months. Our meetings start promptly at 7 pm in the Tot Green Room, finish up on the dot of 9 pm, and are usually entertaining.

Shawl Ministry, July 18th & Aug 15th at 7 pm, and July 24th & Aug 28th at noon

Please come and join us in making shawls that give comfort or support to those in need or who are celebrating a life event. We have patterns for crocheting and knitting shawls. If you have a different project that you are working on feel free to bring it and enjoy visiting with other people as you work. The Shawl Ministry group meets in the Tot Green building at church on the third Wednesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 pm. and the fourth Tuesday of the

month from noon to 2 p.m. Call Kim Rowe at 606-9531 if you have questions.

UUCiL Family Camp Out - July 27 to 29

Camp Shelley Update: The response to this Camp Out has been so positive that, unfortunately, we have no room for additional families to join us this year. For those who will be attending: The recent Angora Lakes fire came close to the Angora Lakes Resort, but according to photos on blogs from local residents, the Resort and Lakes came through untouched. Also spared were Camp Shelley and Baldwin Beach. So it looks like we will still have a wonderful campout!

Minds on Fire resumes on the First Tuesday in September, Sept. 4, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Minds on Fire will pause for a short respite over the summer. We will resume with a slightly altered format in September. New members are always welcome. 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

Sharing the Good News of Unitarian Universalism

When the regional marketing campaign swings into action in September, we hope to see visitors who are discovering the religious community they have been looking for but didn't know existed. When they walk in the door our hospitality will determine whether they want to come back or not. That's where YOU, members and friends, play an important role.

A UUCiL Hospitality Retreat is planned for July 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to build on ideas generated by the 12 people who attended the District

Hospitality Workshop recently. This event is sponsored by the Membership Committee and will include dinner. Everyone is invited, especially if you have an interest in membership development, religious education, building and grounds, Sunday services, small group activities or music. RSVP is requested so there is enough food for all attendees.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Lois Dueltgen at 449-0528 or lois@dueltgen.net.

Agenda For Hospitality Retreat – July 11, 2007

6:00 Dinner is Served

6:15 Chalice Lighting, Welcome, Introductions,
Website Update

6:30 Review of Current Membership Practices

- Welcome Card
- Glad You Are Here Brochure
- Name Tags
- Visitor Database
- Orientation
- New UU Class
- New Member Breakfast
- New Member Folder
- New Member Celebration

6:45 Group Brainstorming

- Members of the Congregation Welcoming Visitors on Sunday

- Making Coffee Hour More Friendly
- Inside Greeter/Usher Opportunities
- Overcrowding in Sanctuary/Parking Lot
- Welcoming New Families to Religious Education

7:15 Break Out Groups

- Visitor Table – where, what, who
- Connecting Return Visitors – who, how, when
- Small Group Development – how to get started, topics, when, where, etc.

8:00 Groups Report Back to Larger Group

8:15 Identify Next Steps

- Current Practices
- Group Brainstorm Topics
- Break Out Topics

9:00 Chalice Extinguished

A Final Note

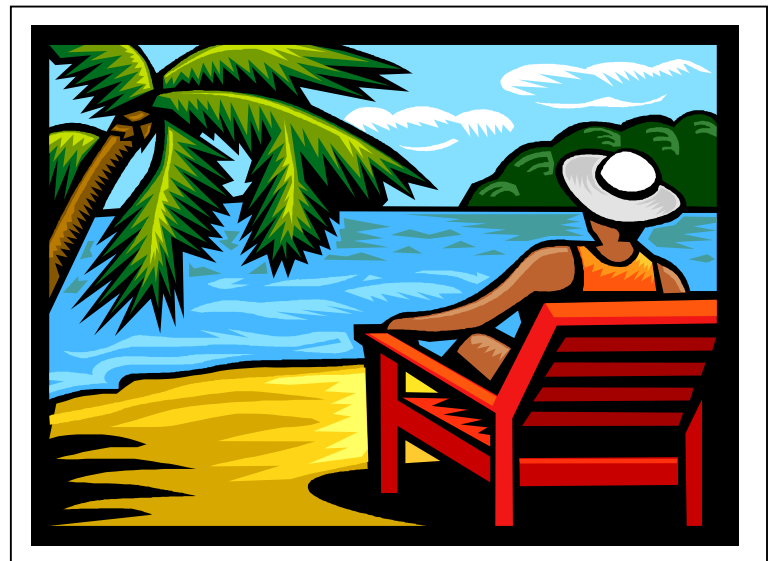
We Unitarian Universalists have two ceremonies which are uniquely ours: the Flower Communion, which we celebrated this Spring, and The Water Communion, which we will celebrate when we come back together from our summer wanderings this fall.

The Water Communion, also sometimes called Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September).

Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. It is often then blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation's "holy water" in child dedication ceremonies and similar events.¹

As you roam through these summer months, traveling near and far, collect water from places you hold dear and think of us, your church community that awaits our reunion to begin a new year together.

¹quoted from the UUA Holidays webpage:
<http://www.uua.org/visitors/worship/holidays/index.shtml>



July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Living Your Dream Life,*</i> Dr. David Olkkola: 9:00 am workshop 10:30 am Service	2	3 Men's Group 7:30, Green Rm	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8 <i>Why I choose to work at a Nuclear Weapons Laboratory*</i> , Hank O'Brien, Curt Covey, Terr Rossow, & Carol Myers, 10:30 am Service	9 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg, 4-9 pm	10	11 Board Mtg, Round Table Rm, 6-9 pm Membership Retreat Green Rm, 6-9 pm	12 RE Comm*, Green Rm, 7-9 pm	13	14
15 <i>Sufi Dances,*</i> SierraLynne, 10:30 am Service	16 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg, 4-9 pm	17 Caring & Concerns, 9:30, Round Table Rm Men's Group 7:30, Green Rm	18 Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, 7-8:30 pm	19 Communications Practice group, 9:30, Round Table	20 StarGazers, Sanctuary, 7-10 pm	21
22 <i>Native American Service,*</i> Michelle Herrera,, 10:30 New Member Orientation, 11:45	23	24 Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, noon-2 pm	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Stages of Recovery,*</i> Rev. Barbara Meyers, 10:30 am	30	31				

(*) item described elsewhere in this newsletter

August 2007

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Education and the Exit Exam,*</i> Johanna Hartwig, 10:30 am	6 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg, 4-9 pm	7 Men's Group 7:30, Green Rm	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Some Thoughts on Our Time in Haiti,*</i> Marc & Elizabeth Costantino, 10:30 am	13	14	15 Rev. Carolyn Colbert begins her year as our Interim Minister Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, 7-8:30 pm	16	17 StarGazers, Sanctuary, 7-10 pm	18
19 <i>The Importance of Showing Up,*</i> Dorris Lee, 10:30 am	20 Newsletter input due	21 Caring & Concerns, 9:30, Round Table Rm Men's Group 7:30, Green Rm	22	23	24	25
26 <i>"Heroes of the Spirit" & the UUSC,*</i> Sunday Services Comm. 10:30am New Member Orientation, 11:45	27 1 st Day of School, Livermore Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg,4-9 pm	28 1 st Day of School, Pleasanton Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, noon-2 pm	29	30	31	

(*) item described elsewhere in this newsletter

September 2007

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p><i>All Entries for this month are tentative, and as accurate as possible as of July 1.</i></p>						1
2 <i>Labor of Love</i> , 10:30 am Fall All-Church Work Party	3 Labor Day	4	5 RE Comm*, Green Rm, 7-9 pm	6	7	8
9 <i>Annual Water Ceremony*</i> (tentative), 10:30am	10 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg,4-9 pm	11	12 1 st of Ramadan	13 Rosh Hashanah	14	15 Middle School Youth Group Sleepover
16 <i>Rev. Bill Sinkford speaks</i> , 10:30 am Start of Fall RE Classes	17 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg,4-9 pm	18 Caring & Concerns, 9:30, Round Table Rm Men's Group 7:30, Green Rm	19 Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, 7-8:30 pm	20	21 StarGazers, Sanctuary, 7-10 pm	22 Yom Kippur
23 <i>Sunday Service</i> , 10:30am New Member Orientation, 11:45	24 Suzuki Strings Founders' Bldg,4-9 pm	25 Shawl Ministry, Green Rm, noon-2 pm	26	27	28	29
30						

(*) item described elsewhere in this newsletter

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