



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 12, Number 3

March 2007

Sunday Services & Children's Religious Education

10:30 am.

March 4, Gifts of Love

Sonya Sukalski and Rev. Eric Meter speaking

As our annual stewardship drive kicks off, this morning we will lift up what our generosity and love can make possible. Expect another rousing winner from Choir Director Dee Wood as well.

March 11, Alternatives to Incarceration

Rev. Eric Meter speaking

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has his work cut out for him in many ways. Not the least of these is the need for some manner of meaningful prison reform. The question of how best to create justice demands leadership, but it also deserves everyone's attention. This morning we will explore this question on both the wider and local levels. This theme was selected by Terry Rossow at this year's Service Auction.

Reminder: earlier in the year than ever before, **Daylight Savings Time begins today**. Set your clocks ahead.

March 18, Movin' On Up— UUCiL in the Seventies

Rev. Eric Meter speaking

Ah, the '70s! From Watergate to *Welcome Back Kotter*, from the Energy Crisis to Love Canal, this was a decade of a nation in search of itself. This morning we continue our series on the decades in the life of UUCiL, so dust off your bell bottoms and dress up for the '70s-style potluck following the service.

March 25, Queen of the Platform

Sonya Sukalski speaking

Universalist Mary Livermore was much in demand as a Lyceum speaker and leader of the Woman's Suffrage movement. Since our church shares two names with her—Universalist and Livermore—perhaps her writings and stories will speak to us today.

April 1, Taking It All In

Rev. Eric Meter speaking

More than simply enjoying a well-executed April Fools prank, how we learn to appreciate all that life presents us with has much to do with how we rise to any given occasion.

in conversation . . .

with Reverend Eric

As most of you will know by now, I've announced that at the end of June I'll be stepping down as minister to UUCiL. While the decision has not been an easy one to reach, I'm heartened by the kind words of support and encouragement I've received from so many of you in recent days.

My favorite response so far has been from someone who told me, "I expect I'll be happy for you in a week or two, but right now I'm just mad you're leaving." This, I should add, was not said in anger, but came across as an honest statement of someone's emotional response. I was touched that they were so open with me. In the weeks and months to come, I hope we're able to continue being respectfully honest with one another.

The denomination has, for more than 20 years now, recommended a practice of interim ministers for a year (sometimes two) between regular ministerial settlements. One of the things your interim minister next fall will do with you is to help you look back on what worked well while I was here and then look forward to what you want for the future of the congregation. That doesn't mean that you can't or won't start some of that reflection now.

In the ten years I've been with the congregation we've done wonderful things together. All the same, I'm going to have to resist the temptation to dwell on what we've done together. Instead, the still, small voice of conscience reminds me that it's not about what we've done together that matters most.

Instead, as one of my ministerial heroes, the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, put it as he reflected back on his career prior to his retirement, "Twelve years in ministry and I was just beginning to really understand that ministry was not about *my* relationship to the members but rather *theirs* to one another."

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It's not about me. It's not even about *us*. It's about *you*.

I'm heartened by the confidence I've heard expressed about the state of the congregation. I agree, UUCiL is in a very healthy place. The lay leadership is strong and already making plans for a team to select an interim minister for next year and to seek names for the Search Committee to find your next settled minister.

I can think of no better way to conduct this year's Stewardship Drive than with the small group discussions the Stewardship Team has planned. This is the perfect way for folks to share with one another what the congregation means to them.

When I first realized that I would be beginning to say goodbye while the congregation was celebrating its 50th Anniversary, I fretted about its being such bad timing. Maybe it isn't, though. An anniversary is a time to celebrate, yes, and it is also a time to look back at the past and toward the future. Though I've said it before, I still mean it: the best is yet to come.

in peace,
Eric

Sensing the Spirit with Sonya

Sonya Sukalski

The buds and blossoms of Springtime are ubiquitous as I write. My almond trees have broken into full white blossoms, resembling popcorn trees, and I marvel at the magnolias bursting into bud in so many front yards and gardens.

This church too has a beauty and a busy unfolding as the season progresses. There is so much potential that peeks through our collective endeavors. A hardworking, responsible, and thoughtful Board, special taskforces on rentals and how we present ourselves to the larger community with our name, new initiatives in caring, membership, stewardship, and summer worship. So many people contributing their time, talent, and treasure in unique and wonderful ways. I feel like I am in a Unitarian Universalist botanical garden that has been carefully cultivated, honored, and shaped for the last 50 years to inspire all who encounter it. What a pleasure to behold!

Buds and blossoms bear the scent of the fruit yet to ripen, but they must continue to grow and change in form considerably before harvesting can happen. When the flowers fall away, and the tiny fruits have yet to become evident, there can be confusion about what is happening. While we can cultivate growth, it also takes faith that we will be able to reap what we and so many others have sown. May we work together this Spring with a strong sense of our potential becoming a bumper crop!

With love and laughter,
Sonya

President's Report—March 2007

Janice Paquette

As most of you know by now, Reverend Eric Meter will be leaving us June 30, 2007. He has served our Livermore congregation well for 10 years. He will definitely be missed! Let this be the first in a series of well-earned THANK YOU'S! Thanks, Eric for your hard work, patience, perseverance, loving kindness, and leadership! We wish you well!

The next few months will be a time of both celebration and change. It's a wonderful and exciting opportunity to look forward and backward. We will be forming a search committee of about three people who will have the task of searching for an interim minister. The application must be in to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) by **April 15**. It will then move fairly quickly, and if all goes well, we will know the name of our interim minister for September 07-June 08 by the time some of us go off to General Assembly in Portland in June. A year or two of interim ministry is very valuable as it's a necessary transition between the old and the new. We will be having a special Board meeting on Wed., Feb. 28 at 7 pm to work on the timeline and guidelines.

The bigger task is getting a Ministerial Search Committee together to look for a permanent minister for the 08-09 year. We will need your help in this! UUCiL has gone through this process before and has several very experienced members who can advise the Board on the do's and don'ts. The UUA has a very detailed process that will be very straightforward, but it will take time. The congregation will be involved in some goal-setting and visioning during the coming year, and there will be lots to think about. More details will be forthcoming as the Board finds out more. Please feel free to talk to any Board member about the process.
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With all that's going on this Spring, sometimes it's hard to think beyond what's coming up in the next few weeks, but I want to invite you to join me at the UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon June 20-24. I'm very excited that it's so accessible to us in California! Portland is a great city, and I'm looking forward to spending some time there! I've been to three previous General Assemblies and they're great! Getting thousands of UUs together at a convention is wonderfully energizing!

Now we look back at ourselves. Our stewardship campaign will be a major part of the month of March where generosity is a key word! Be generous as you fill out your pledge card for UUCiL and if you haven't sent in a contribution to the Bay Area Marketing Campaign and want to, please do so as soon as possible. We want to spread the "good word" of Unitarian Universalism as far and as wide as we possibly can.

As always, let me know your ideas and concerns!!

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

50th Anniversary Happenings!

We hope you have been enjoying our celebrations through the decades with the decade-themed movie nights and potlucks. This month marks the **1970's!** Break out your sky-high platform shoes, Elton John sunglasses, and polyester jogging suit and join us on March 18th as we celebrate the '70's during the potluck after church. Oh, do you still have your Pet Rock?

Here are some ideas to get you started thinking about the fabulous Disco Decade:

New at the market in the 1970s: Hamburger Helper, Stove Top Stuffing, Pop Rocks Candy, Reese's Pieces, Miller Lite (the first lite beer!). Cup O'Noodles, Perrier, Yoplait Yogurt, Starburst Fruit Chews, kiwi fruit, Quaker Oats 100% Natural Granola, Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popping Corn, Celestial Seasoning Herbal Teas.

Do you remember: Mrs. Fields' Cookies? John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever"? Carrot Cake—the "healthy" dessert? Sideburns, wide lapels, and vegetable moussaka?

Celebrate the Decades with our All-Ages Movie Night!

By popular demand, we will host a screening of the very first "Star Wars" movie on Friday night, March 16 at 7 pm. "Star Wars," now called "Star Wars: A New Hope," is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Costumes and clothing from the era are welcome and encouraged.

Tickets are on sale now for our 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner event on Saturday evening, May 20, 2007 at Beeb's Restaurant in Livermore. Tickets are very limited, so reserve your space early. Tickets are available for a suggested contribution of \$50.00, and include dinner, the evening program, and dancing. Contact Leslie Lemieux at 925-606-5863 or jlmm@pacbell.net to reserve yours today!

Mark your calendar today for our "Walk Down Memory Lane" Reception Saturday, April 21 from 2-5 pm at the church. This will be an opportunity for fellowship, sharing stories and memories, with an informal program and get-together with old and new members and friends of UUCiL. Light refreshments will be served.

Celebration Sunday, May 20, 2006 at UUCiL! This is the big one, folks! Join us as we celebrate 50 years of liberal religion in the Tri-Valley area. We will have a luncheon, music, a treasure hunt, and a special Sunday morning service. Closing the day will be the digging up of our Time Capsule, buried 25 years ago! Don't miss it! All are welcome.

Speaking of Memories, WE NEED YOURS. We would very much like to put together a Memory Book to commemorate our 50th anniversary, but we can't do it without your help. Please send us one or two paragraphs—your favorite memory of UUCiL, a memory of a milestone in the church's life or yours as a member or friend of the congregation, or a favorite picture of life in the congregation for inclusion in our memory book. These can be dropped off with Leslie Lemieux, or emailed to either Leslie, Jane Staehle, or directly to the church. Please help us make this memory book a great one!

Time Capsule Ideas. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, and plan to dig up the time capsule that we buried 25 years ago, we need your ideas and input into the "next generation" time capsule. Do you have church memorabilia or documents we should put in the time capsule? What do you think should be in there? Let's talk. Send your ideas to Chuck Hartwig. Thanks!

Leslie Lemieux

News From Religious Education:

Greetings UUCIL Families!

I have been having a great time working with our elementary students through the "Don't Laugh at Me" curriculum. This Sunday we are talking about how to be a "bully-buster." We have had good conversations about our feelings and have talked about how it feels when we are left out or "put down" by our friends or classmates. Our children are very perceptive, and I have been really surprised by some of the conversations we have had.

We will re-start our "In Our Hands" curriculum in mid-March, and that will take us to the end of the school year.

We need to decide what summer curriculum to use. Curricula will be available to look at during the next RE meeting, Wednesday, March 7 at 7pm. We would love to have parent feedback on what sort of summer programming you would like to see for our children and youth.

As UUCIL celebrates turning 50 this year, we would like our children and youth to be part of this great celebration. In particular, we are going to be digging up and re-burying (with new items added, of course) our time capsule. Brainstorm with your family and think of an idea that you, your family, or your child/youth could contribute to the time capsule. Here are some ideas:

Have the children write a letter either to themselves for 25 years from now, or to a child their age in 25 years from now.

Take a picture of your family at the church with some friends, and include a story about the picture as part of the time capsule.

Write a letter as a class to put in the time capsule.

Write about how it might feel to be 50.

What other ideas do you have?

For the Youth and their Parents, Middle school and up:

We have the opportunity to participate with three of our neighbor UU churches in a weekend at the Ceres Education Center Global Village, a project of Heifer International. The youth would leave on Saturday morning March 31 and return home Sunday afternoon, April 1. We would need some chaperones, and the four congregations would work together to provide meals. You must decide quickly if your youth is interested in attending, as space is filling up quickly. Please let me know if this of interest to your youth and your family and I can get you more information right away. You can also visit Heifer.org.

"Our Whole Lives" dates one more time!

Saturday, March 10: 6-9 pm.; Sunday, March 25: 12-2 pm.;
Saturday, April 21: 6-9 pm.; Sunday, April 29: 12-2 pm.
(final class)

Warmly,
Leslie Lemieux, DRE

Family Outing

Nine families journeyed to Bear Valley for fun in the snow during the Presidents' Day weekend. One cabin held families with younger children: the Rowes, Breckenridges, O'Briens plus the Rossows. Close by were families with teenagers: the Hedges, Herrs, Sukalskis, Pedersens, and Dowling/Struebings. Participants had a choice of cross-country or downhill skiing, snow boarding, or snow shoeing. There was plenty of time for snow play, cabin games, good food, and hanging out. Everyone had a good time.

Alyce Rossow

Christmas Card Donation

Thanks for your donations of used Christmas cards. They have been duly delivered to the Village High School in Pleasanton for the students to use in creating gift cards.

Marion Stearns and Chilli Barlow

Caring and Concerns Committee

The Caring and Concerns Committee is doing some new things and wants to let you know about them. We have divided Livermore into three regions and have separate regions for Pleasanton, Dublin/San Ramon, and Brentwood. We are getting coordinators for each of these areas. The coordinators will arrange for help to be given if someone in their region needs it. To let us know how you can help, please fill out the survey you received in the mail or pick one up at the back of the sanctuary. Once completed, the surveys can be mailed to Caring and Concerns Committee at church or placed in the box at the back of the sanctuary.

If you have questions about the committee or the survey, please contact Kim Rowe at 606-9531. To let us know if you need help, please contact Reverend Eric Meter or Sonya Sukalski at 447-8747 or Kim at the above number.

Upcoming Choir Retreat

The Choir and Dee Wood are planning a retreat sometime later in the Spring. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome; see Dee to tell her you're interested.

Report from the UUCiL Naming Task Force

Background

At the May 2006 Annual Meeting, a proposal was made to change our name: Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore (UUCiL). The congregation decided to delay deciding upon whether to change or not until after a committee of congregants had reviewed the idea. The Board formed a task force to look into a name change, or not. Members of that task force are Charles Hartwig, Brian Mayall, Bill O'Neal, Mary O'Neal, Gerald Nordley, Hildy Pehrson, Jeanette Perlman, Nancy Rodrigue, and Marion Stearns. We have been meeting and communicating electronically over the last several months.

Prior to our discussion, the UUA was contacted about who has responsibility for the name. The UUA informed us that the name, such as "church," is the individual "church's" choice. In addition, we did a review of names used by UU organizations in California. We found that "church" is used 29 times, "fellowship" 24, "congregation" 8, "society" 6, "UU's" 4, and "parish" 1.

In our discussions we addressed a number of questions, including: What would be the reasons for a change/or not? How does the name represent us? How would it explain who we are? How would it encourage others to join us, or stay with us? How can the name be welcoming and inclusive? Should there be a location association, and if so what? How important is it to retain the Unitarian Universalist reference? What is the base meaning of the name being considered?

Several conclusions were reached by the Task Force. First, we agreed that we should retain an association with Livermore. Second, we agreed that there should be a reference to Unitarianism and Universalism. Our principal discussion then focused on the descriptor as to what our body is, i.e., "church" or a replacement to that reference. Thus, third, having reviewed the suggested names, the Task Force decided to bring forward three name suggestions for the congregation consideration. These three are listed below, along with background information about each.

Proposed Names for Consideration by the UUCIL Congregation

Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

The definition of Church is an association of people who share a particular belief system. The term church originally referred to a group sharing a faith based on Christianity. All other uses of this term extend from this Judeo-Christian context.

The pros for using the name "church" include: Many UU organizations use the name "church," and they often use it in public announcements, like the Yellow Pages. It is a generic term for a religious meeting place. It is also a generic term for religious and spiritual gatherings and for related religious and spiritual education. In addition, "church" implies litany and ceremony; we do conduct our services in that manner. Furthermore, it is a name that is understood by the outside community as a body having a community and spiritual element. "Church" evokes a sense of cultural discipline, social contract, and solidity.

The cons for the use of the name "church" include: It is often associated with Christianity. Although a number of us have a Christian association, many in our organization do not. Our congregation is representative of many backgrounds, and this association may not be appropriate. "Church" often implies a building only; consequently the human element of the gathering is missing.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Livermore

The definition of congregation is a large gathering of people or things. a gathering of people in a church, an assembly for religious purposes, and the members of a place of worship. Synonyms are assemblage, gathering, meeting, group, body, circle, company, crowd, and multitude.

The pros for the use of the name congregation include: "Congregation" describes an assemblage of persons who unite to worship and communicate and are independent in the management of their own affairs. There is no reference to Christianity or any other religious faith or belief system. Congregation is more universal in its meaning and has a definite human element to it. Congregation is often referenced in relationship to worship. It may be difficult to speak about going to the "congregation," but other terminology might be used like going to services.

The cons for use of the name "congregation" include: There may be some confusion with the denomination Congregationalism, a Christian Church. It may be unclear what the congregation is and what is its purpose.

UUs or Unitarian Universalists in Livermore

The pros for the use of the name UUs or Unitarian Universalists include: There is a clear association with the denomination UUA. There is no reference to "church" or any faith other than Unitarian Universalism. It clearly states that this is a gathering of those who are members of the UUA. (*Continued*)

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The cons for the name UUs or Unitarian Universalists include: UU or Unitarian Universalist may not have a clear meaning to others. The definition of UU or Unitarian Universalist is unclear: Is it a group, a meeting place, etc? UUs or Unitarian Universalists in Livermore would not allow us to continue the usage of UUCiL as a legal acronym.

Process for Resolution

The Task Force has now finished their deliberations. A report has been submitted to the Board. In the spirit of what the congregation asked for last May and in agreement with the Board, the Task Force will be having at least one meeting with the congregation that will include a discussion about their conclusions, a discussion about other ideas for the name change that have strong support, and a discussion about the path forward. (The Task Force believes that a decision should be made at the May 2007 General Meeting as to whether there should be a name change or not, and if it is decided to change, what that name should be.) **A discussion meeting with the congregation has been scheduled for Sunday, March 11 from 9 to 10:15 am.** Other meetings can be planned if needed.

Charles Hartwig

Report from the Rental Task Force

As directed by a vote at the annual meeting last May, a long-term rental study group was formed to examine factors in taking on one or more renters of our buildings' space. We were then to draw up standards and policies for this/these rental(s). A part of that motion was to keep the congregation informed. To that end, we would like to let you know of some of the things we have been doing.

At this time, the group consists of Barbara Eniti, Marilyn Graham, Maureen Hamm, Eric Meter, Hildy Pehrson, Alyce Rossow, Chuck Shaw, Bob Stearns, and Sonya Sukalski. We have met monthly since June.

We have solicited congregational input, and we remain open and receptive to your thoughts and ideas. We held three small congregational group meetings in the fall and placed a long-running notice in the Sunday announcements on how to provide input. A box for this has been in the church since the fall and Hildy Pehrson has agreed to accept your e-mail. We thank you all for your communiqués. Some of them have been helpful in giving us more perspective and a springboard to actions and ideas. Others have been simply strong yeas or nays, or that this group should actualize a renter. We have also come up with our own list of pros and cons.

In October, our treasurer presented the congregation with financial considerations for renting. We have interviewed volunteers whose work would presumably be impacted by having another tenant on site. Julie O'Brien did an extensive search of the church calendar to see how our space has been used over the past several years.

We continue to look at other churches who rent to either non-profits or for-profits, or who have their own onsite organizations (preschools/daycare). Through the PCD, we have received tax-related websites for study. We hope to find someone with expertise in tax law to look these over and report back to us. We have contacted the community college and learned that to rent to them we would need to supply audio-visual equipment, white boards, tables, chairs, access by someone opening up and closing up, and a secure contract.

Sonya provided us with a UU Connections online article that addressed another congregation's experiences renting. It can be accessed at <http://uua.org/interconnections/onlineextras/vol10-1-extra.html>.

We have been in touch with the county childcare licensing authority and learned regulations on various kinds of childcare. We have discussed some of the modifications we might make during an event where the church and renter would have overlapping needs.

Our landscape designer, Barbara Eniti, has completed a well-deliberated landscape drawing that provides guidelines for the kind of renter our outdoor space could accommodate.

Chuck Shaw introduced us to the Kepner-Tragoe decision-making model of weighing our musts and wants regarding renting. We will be weighing these factors and arriving at some values that we most desire based on several straw-man scenarios.

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On April 29 at 11:45 am., the congregation will also have the opportunity of stating how you want various items weighed. From this, the study group will write up our “standards and policies” for renting, which will then be submitted to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Marilyn Graham for the Long-Term Rental Study Group

Membership Committee Report

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Membership Committee

March 25: Orientation, 11:45-12:15 (childcare can be arranged)

April 22: Breakfast for New Members, 9:00-10:00; Orientation, 11:45-12:15 (childcare can be arranged)

May 20: New Member Recognition in Sunday Service

May 27: Orientation, 11:45-12:15 (childcare can be arranged)

Rev. Eric Meter is available by appointment to discuss membership with anyone who considers joining this community. Call the office (447-8747) to make an appointment.

Everyone’s Invited to Orientation

Orientation sessions are held right after church on the fourth Sunday of each month. This is an opportunity for newcomers to learn about Unitarian Universalism and what it means to be involved in the life of the UU Church in Livermore. Active friends and members are also encouraged to attend. Questions are always welcome, because they lead us into discussions that are of interest to all.

The Membership Committee Wants You

If you enjoy meeting people and are interested in supporting our efforts to integrate newcomers, new members, and inactive members into the life of this religious community, WE WANT YOU! We need committee members and Sunday morning greeters who will enjoy contributing their time and talent in a way that provides outreach to people who come through our doors. Contact Lois Dueltgen (lois@dueltgen.net) now and ask how you can help.

There will be a major UU Marketing Campaign in the Bay Area in the Fall, and we anticipate that we will see an increase in the number of visitors at that time. In preparation for this, the Pacific Central District is offering Hospitality Workshops (one at UUCiL in May) that will help us all become experts at welcoming people and sharing all that our faith tradition has to offer. This workshop is for EVERYONE, not just for membership committee members. More information will be available in the April newsletter.

Lois Dueltgen

Stewardship Campaign 2007-2008

Our annual Stewardship Campaign, “Cultivating Growth,” kicks off on Stewardship Sunday, March 4, when we will hear from both our minister and intern minister about the meaning and importance of stewardship for our church. This may not be a completely new message for most of us, but it bears repeating, and it still rings true each year.

By now you should have received a pledge packet containing, among other things, an invitation to a small-group meeting where we will discuss our hopes and dreams for both the immediate and longer-range future of UUCiL. Please RSVP with the enclosed card and envelope. These meetings will be a great time to get to know each other a little better and to meet friends and fellow members who are your neighbors. These meetings will culminate with the collection of your pledge cards for the coming year.

It seems like every year we face interesting times. This coming year is no exception for UUCiL. Your thoughtful discussion of our future, coupled with your generous pledge, will provide a strong framework for our future health and growth. Please pledge responsibly!

Ron Dueltgen
Chair, 2007/8 Stewardship Campaign

What's Happening at UUCiL This Month . . .

Thursday, March 1: Registration opens for UUA General Assembly.

Thursday, March 1: Film as Theological Text, Green Room, 7 pm.

Sunday, March 4: "Our American Roots" class, Green Room, 1-3 pm.

Tuesday, March 6: Caring & Concerns Committee, 9:30 am., offsite.

Tuesday, March 6: "Minds on Fire" meets at the home of Helen Meier at 7:00 pm. All are invited to attend this open discussion group. Please come and check us out. We meet the first Tuesday of each month to discuss a variety of topics. For more information, contact Shelley Covey, shelcovey@comcast.net

Tuesday, March 6: 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, 7 pm.

Wednesday, March 7: RE Committee, 7 pm.

Thursday, March 8: Film as Theological Text, Green Room, 7 pm.

Saturday, March 10: PCD Board Meeting, Green Room, 8-5.

Saturday, March 10: OWL, Green Room, 6-9 pm.

Sunday, March 11: Church-wide meeting with Naming Committee, Sanctuary, 9-10:15 am.

Sunday, March 11: "Our American Roots" class, Green Room, 1-3 pm.

Tuesday, March 13, The Shawl Ministry group meets from noon to 2 p.m. Please feel free to join us with a project you are working on even if it is not a shawl. Contact Kim Rowe at 606-9531 with questions.

Tuesday, March 13: Board Meeting, Green Room, 6 pm.

Wednesday, March 14: Feminist Film Series, Green Room, 7 pm. Alameda County/Tri-Valley NOW continues the Feminist Film series with the film *Frida* about the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Join us from 7 to 9 pm in the Tot Green Room at UUCiL. We will have light refreshments. Suggested donation to defray room cost is \$5. Due to limited space, please RSVP to Kathy Woofter at (925) 373-7325. See you there!

Friday, March 16: Stargazers, Sanctuary, 7 pm.

Friday, March 16: 70s Movie Night, "Star Wars," Green Room, 7 pm.

Saturday, March 17. Join us for a hike at Lake Chabot at 9:30 am. This is a paved, three-mile round-trip hike. The kids can bring bikes if they like. We will hike to the dam and back and visit a favorite spot for watching the many birds that inhabit the lake. Afterward, those who purchased the picnic at the Service Auction will gather at one of the picnic areas. Contact: Sonya Sukalski.

Sunday, March 18: 1970's Potluck. J-L serves/cleans up.

Sunday, March 18: Stewardship small-group meeting after church.

Sunday, March 18: CPR/First Aid class. Representatives from the Red Cross will be offering this course for us at the reduced rate of \$40/person. The class is open to UUCiL friends and members, and all those who will be taking part in the Hurricane Relief trip next month are strongly encouraged to participate. Contact Rev. Eric for further information or for scholarship assistance.

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Wednesday, March 21: Shawl Ministry meets from 7-8:30 pm.

Wednesday, March 21: Sunday Services committee, 6:30 pm.

Sunday, March 25: Membership Orientation, 11:45-12:15.

Sunday, March 25: OWL meets 12-2.

Sunday, March 25: “Understanding the Relationship Between Breathing and Stress: an Experiential Workshop.” From 2:30-6:30 pm in the Green Room. This workshop will be led by Patrick D. Goonan,

Open to UUCiL and the public, this workshop unravels the mysteries of how breathing reduces stress as illustrated by biofeedback. Learn about the physiological changes that occur in your body when you practice a simple breathing exercise. Increase your breath awareness, and how your breathing affects your overall health and well-being. The workshop includes information about the physiology of breath and presents a variety of healthy breathing techniques. Fee is \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. For more information or to sign up, contact Yvonne Konneker, 925-833-7173 or uucilworkshops@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 31: Our traditional Community Seder will be held at the church starting at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. This is an all-church event including children. Gail Cobe and Reverend Eric Meter will lead this special service, which includes a sumptuous supper at \$20 for adults, \$8 for children. Call the church office **no later than Wednesday, March 28** to reserve your dinner choice (beef brisket, chicken, or vegetarian). If you can help with set-up, clean-up, or food, call or email Jane Staehle.

Coffee Makers and Greeters

“Only a fool keeps doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results.” Benjamin Franklin

Let’s try something new. The responsibilities of making coffee/cleanup and greeting our congregation are simple but important tasks. They are part of our first impression to newcomers and part of the way we care for one another. In the past we have had people sign up for each job each week, and that has proven to be a difficult and confusing.

Please consider taking on one Sunday a month for one of the tasks. This would begin in April and go until the end of March 2008. For example, the Pedersen have offered to do the coffee/cleanup and the Dueltgens have volunteered be the greeters for the 4th Sunday of each month for the next year. Beth Dowling has offered to do coffee one Sunday and is looking for a greeter partner. If you are unable to cover your shift, simply switch Sundays with a friend or call one of our “back-up volunteers.” This system will eliminate confusion, create consistency, and save time spent searching for volunteers. Both jobs are easy and honestly quite fun (sometimes you get to hear the choir rehearse). If you would be willing to take a slot from the list below, call or e-mail me. Thanks for considering it, Laura Pedersen

1 st Sunday Coffee _____	Greeter _____
2 nd Sunday Coffee _____	Greeter _____
*3 rd Sunday Coffee _____	Greeter _____
4 th Sunday Coffee: Pedersens _____	Greeter: Dueltgens _____
**5 th Sunday Coffee _____	Greeter _____

Emergency Back-up Volunteer for Coffee	1. _____	2. _____
Emergency Back-up Volunteer for Greeting	1. _____	2. _____

*Potluck Sunday, so the clean-up crew will do coffee clean up.
**There are only 5 months of with a 5th Sunday, so this is light duty.

Rummage Sale Time Again!

Start cleaning out that "junk" and save it for our 3rd annual UU Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 21. The more stuff you donate, the more stuff gets reused, and the more money goes to our beloved church—so what are you waiting for? This is a wonderful way to help the church, declutter your home, and turn your discards into someone's else's new goods. Call Laura Pedersen at 426-9789.

2007 General Assembly in Portland, OR

The 2007 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be in Portland, OR June 20-24. This four-day-long UU extravaganza includes lectures, worship services, celebrations, music, drama, social activism, covenant groups, and a convention for association business. UUs from all over the U.S. and abroad of many ages, theological bents, and races will be attending.

You can attend, too. Although we can only send three voting delegates, everyone else is encouraged to come for the many other events of interest. There is also programming for children and youth.

For more information, look online at uua.org/ga/. If you are interested in leadership training, the 2nd Annual UU University will be held a day before GA begins. Early-bird hint: If you think you might come, make hotel reservations by March 1 through the GA website — or early elsewhere. Convention activities will be convenient to mass transit.

If you would like to let others at UUCiL know you are going to GA (to coordinate rooms, rides, meals, etc.), let Janice Paquette know (janicepaquette@comcast.net) and she will pass along a list of those who contact her. Also notify Janice if you would like to be one of the church's voting delegates.

PCD Announces Hospitality Workshops

Get ready for the September launch of the multimedia marketing campaign, by attending one of four Hospitality Workshops, in various locations around the Bay Area: March 3 in Oakland, March 17 in Palo Alto, March 31 in Marin, and May 26 in Livermore at UUCiL.

Congregations are asked to send **teams** of Board members, Membership, RE, and Facilities committees, Ushers and Greeters, clergy and web masters. And, of course, all are welcome

Register early at www.pcd-uua.org, to allow for time to complete a pre-work assignment.

Minister: Reverend Eric Meter

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Friday 12:00 to 3:00 pm

or by appointment; 925.447.8747

Intern Minister: Sonya Sukalski

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday 12:00 to 2:30 pm

Thursday 3:00-6:00 pm

Office Administrator: Julie Scharmer

Sunday bulletin announcements are due to the Office

Wednesday by noon

send to: uucil@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor: Julie O'Brien

Newsletter articles are due on the 20th of the month.

Send to: jacobrien@sbcglobal.net



*Unitarian Universalist Church in
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**We are a
Welcoming Congregation**

