

# Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 12, Number 9

November 2007

**Sunday Services, High School & Middle School Youth Group, & Children's Religious Education**

**10:30 am**

### What's Happening at UUCiL

- November 3:  
RE Committee Mtg  
Choir Rehearsal  
Music Reading Workshop
- November 6:  
Caring & Concerns Comm.
- November 7:  
Minds on Fire
- November 8:  
Men's Group
- November 9&10: Shakespeare  
with Oregon Festival Players
- November 10:  
Worship Associate Training  
Music Reading Workshop
- November 11:  
Unplug the Christmas Tree
- November 13:  
Membership Meeting  
Board of Trustees Meeting
- November 15:  
Finance Committee Meeting
- November 17:  
Music Reading Workshop
- November 20:  
Newsletter Deadline
- November 21:  
Evening Shawl Ministry
- November 27:  
Mid-day Shawl Ministry
- November 28:  
Membership Committee
- November Sundays:  
Children's Choir Rehearsal

### In the Coming Months:

- December 15:  
Nutcracker Ballet
- February 15-18:  
Family Snow Trip  
to Bear Valley

### Nov 4, *Making Windows Into Men's Souls* Jean Wilcox, guest speaker

Carolyn Colbert, worship associate  
UUCiL Choir, Dee Wood, Director  
Accompanist Wendy Mason

This morning Jean Wilcox will explore what little we know of William Shakespeare's background with a particular emphasis on the tempestuous religious climate of the time. How did these experiences affect his works, particularly *Hamlet*, generally considered his finest play? However, *Hamlet* will always remain obscure to us without an understanding of the religious forces at work and the conflicts that emerged.

Our guest speaker is currently the Life Span Learning Consultant for the Pacific Central District (PCD) as well as a long time actor. She's worked with our Religious Education program this fall and we are eager to welcome her back in another guise in preparation for Shakespeare at UUCiL coming to our "stage" Friday and Saturday night, Nov. 9 & 10.

### Nov 11 *If You Fall, Who Will Catch You?*

Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister  
Joe Bonfiglio, clarinet  
Pat Mielke, piano  
Our Kid's Choir Sings Today

Ministry is all that we do - together. It's that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity, that beckons forth hidden possibilities, and invites us into deeper, more constant relationship. Ministry is that, and much more. This morning we consider how it is shared. Everybody falls, from time to time. That's why we go hand in hand. Our Caring and Concerns Network will have specific information on how we might be ready to "reach out a hand" from time to time, to each other here in our own congregation

### Nov 18, *Sharing Our Abundance: An Intergenerational Service & New Member Welcome*

Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Worship Associate  
UUCiL Choir, Dee Wood, Director  
Accompanist Wendy Mason

In this season of harvest and thanksgiving we welcome our newest members, share a bread communion playlet, hear a short homily, and learn about the *Guest At Your Table* program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). You are welcome to contribute bread from your countries of origin for the communion table. After the service, at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Potluck we'll break bread together, try out our Thanksgiving recipes and celebrate with our new members. See Page 2 to learn more about becoming a member of UUCiL.

### Nov 25, *Sunday Services Committee*

Come and join us in for this post-Thanksgiving service with our congregation's Sunday Service Committee. We have a special treat in RE today – consult the RE pages for more details.

### Newsletter Submissions & Delivery

The Newsletter is an open forum for our members and friends to communicate among ourselves. We welcome input from everyone. Is there a conversation you would like to start in the congregation? Would you like to advertise meetings or outings? Have you discovered resources you would like to share with your friends at UUCiL? We want to hear from you!

Deadline for submissions: 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to [jacobrien@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacobrien@sbcglobal.net). Please include the full text of your input within the email as well as in an attached file.

You can take delivery of this newsletter either as: paper copy via US Mail, paper copy at the church or electronic copy downloaded from our website: [uucil.net](http://uucil.net).

If you would like to change the way you are currently receiving the newsletter please contact Rennie, our office administrator at: [uucil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uucil@sbcglobal.net) or call 447-8747.

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore is a caring, diverse community of open-minded people.

We provide a supportive non-creedal environment for spiritual and intellectual growth.

We encourage living respectfully and fostering the religious aspect of life through serving the larger community.

## **Weavings from the Web . . .**

The church community is alive with preparations for Settled Ministry. Though it will be almost a year before you welcome your future minister, this interim time gives the congregation a chance to prepare the ground, as master gardeners do in the fall of the year. It is now that old growth is pruned away. The garden is tidied and made ready for new plantings. The tired ground is re-nourished for the rain that will carry food to the roots for new growth waiting just below the surface.

Gardeners know that these tasks can't be neglected or their future garden will not live up to the vision they have worked so hard for, year after year.

Like good gardeners, the members and friends of this place of longed for growth and deeply rooted values, are paying close attention to the work of this interim year.

Your Search Committee, meeting weekly, and working on multiple tasks between meetings, brought a solid and well thought-out proposal to the board that honors the vision of Fair Compensation that will be offered to your next minister on behalf of the congregation. They gave a masterful presentation to the congregation that reflected back to you who you are and what you want. Soon they will be sending out a packet that proudly tells prospective candidates about your beloved church home, its longings and its dreams.

The Membership Team has initiated a Newcomers Series that will be repeated again during this interim year. It is a stimulating and joyful occasion for all involved . . . both

newcomers and your dedicated Membership Team.

A talented and enthusiastic Administrator, Rennie Tomely, has joined our staff. She provides daily coverage of the Church Office, Monday through Friday 9 to noon. She'll help centralize information, handle the requests for available space at the building, and work with your leadership and me to support the program areas. This brings your support staff up to four; Rennie, Rich Partida, RE Director, Dee Wood, Choir Director, and Manuel Flores, Custodian a few hours once a week.

There is a growing recognition that the future of this precious garden you call your religious home, requires many, many gardeners to make it flourish - lay leaders, paid staff, and soon, a called minister.

Many new folks are coming who want to be invited into the life of the congregation. They are eager to participate in the joys of creating their future. It's time to welcome them into the joy of tending our community garden. If you are presently in charge of a patch of this metaphorical garden, ask others to join you so you can work together to make it bloom and flourish. Then, like all the best gardeners, pour through catalogues together, dreaming of the delights you will share as your work, your planning, your learning and your joy creates a bountiful future harvest.

It is good to be together,

*Carolyn,*

The Interim Gardener

## **Shaping Worth: Worship Associates Training,**

*Saturday, November 10, 9 - noon*

Facilitated by Rev. Carolyn Colbert

The Worship Associates Program is designed to give you the tools for planning, creating, and leading Sunday worship. We are offering only one training this year—Saturday, November 10

If you are a UUCiL member, attend services regularly, are interested in developing and enhancing your writing, public speaking, researching, and leadership skills, you are invited to consider being part of this training. You will deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism, and worship theory and practice.

As an Associate, you work closely with the minister, other lay leaders, musicians, and guest speakers to make a valuable contribution to the worship life of our congregation. Associates are asked to make a year's commitment to the program.

Associates meet regularly, to evaluate and improve the Worship Program and practice their skills. These follow up gatherings are usually on a Saturday morning.

Light Breakfast at 8:30

After the training you may join the Worship Associates' team as an Associate—those folks you see up front on Sundays—or as a Worship Anchor—the behind the scenes folks who “hold the room” and make everything run smoothly on Sunday morning. Or both. The Sunday Services Committee will continue their work of providing both home-grown services and guest programs one Sunday a month and the Associates Program may be called on for support and collaboration as needed.

Pick up an information sheet at church. Or speak to Rev. Colbert.

You'll need to pre-register no later than November 8, so we can prepare your materials. You'll find a sign-up sheet at church or you may call Rev. Colbert at 925-371-89259(Home) OR 925-447-8747(Office). There is no cost for the training. Childcare is provided if requested in advance.

**An Invitation to Join the Unitarian Universalist Church In Livermore**

Sunday, November 18

If you have hung out with this congregation long enough to feel it that this is your religious community and your church home you may want to be part of our brief New Member Welcome and Recognition Ceremony, November 18. We think membership is an important decision so we want folks to take their time deciding. But if you feel you're ready to become an official, voting member, we warmly welcome you.

Here are the steps to becoming a member:

- e Have an understanding of the *Purposes and Principles of Unitarian Universalism*.
- e Speak to the minister or a member of the Membership Committee to clarify any questions you may have.
- e Sign the Membership Book.
- e Complete a Pledge card for the six months remaining in this fiscal year; December through

June, 2007.

- e Let us know the names of your children who are part of our Religious Education program so we can include their names with yours in the Order of Service.
- e Call Rev. Colbert at 371-8925 or Lois Dueltgen, Membership Chair, 449-0528 or call the church office, 447-8747.

Note: Membership is a choice. As a member you may vote on congregational decisions, chair a committee, be elected to the Board or Nominating Committee. There are important decisions that the congregation will be making that will shape the future of the group. One of those decisions will be the calling of a new settled minister. However, all are welcome to take part in programs and your gifts of time, talent, and treasure support all we do and are very much appreciated.

**Calling All Bakers to Bring "Breads of The World"**

Sunday, November 18

This special pre-Thanksgiving service celebrates our worldwide connections with a special bread communion. You are invited to bring the breads of your heritage: Russian rye, challah, pita, French bread, Irish Soda bread. You get the idea. We'll tell you a little about our UU Service Committee's justice work, and distribute Guest at Your Table boxes for you to have on your tables during

the holiday season.

We will also be welcoming and recognizing our newest members and celebrating at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Potluck after the service. Bring you favorite jams, jellies, and bread toppings along with a dish to share. Maybe this is a good time to try out that Thanksgiving recipe.

**UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE! Workshop**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1-5

Does thinking about the upcoming winter holidays both fill your heart with anticipation and make your anxiety level rise at the same time? You are not alone. No matter what holidays you celebrate this winter, most of us find ourselves in the *crunch* — the crunch for time, the crunch for togetherness, the crunch on your finances, and the emotional crunch that goes with all of the joy and stress of these times.


Have you ever wondered if the way you celebrate your winter holidays reflects your personal, spiritual, financial, and family values? If you are interested in reviewing and maybe simplifying the way you celebrate your winter holiday, whether it is Hanukkah or Christmas, whether you are a spiritual person, a religious person, or neither, this workshop may be of interest to you.

On Sunday, November 11, Leslie Lemieux, will facilitate a four-hour workshop to help people plan a more rewarding holiday season. Participants will be given a chance to examine their current practices, define their values, create a fantasy Christmas or Hanukkah, then combine all their insights into a workable plan for the

upcoming holiday season. Everyone is welcome.

Join us and you will work alongside other participants to help yourself reduce the stress and increase the enjoyment of your holidays. Reserve your spot by signing up with the Church office at 925-447-8747.

A \$10.00 suggested contribution will help us cover materials costs. Childcare is available, but we must know by November 3. Let the office know when you sign up that you would like childcare and the ages of your child(ren). Class size is limited, so sign up today! Workshop will be held in the Tot Green Conference Room.

This is a *workshop*. You will be taking an inventory of your current celebration-style, determining a priority list for your family and yourself, and making a plan. There is a short break in the middle of the class, but we expect to go the entire four hours. This workshop is based on the book **Unplug the Christmas Machine** by Jo Robinson and Jean C. Staeheli and has been given to over 1000 groups in the US and Canada. 

## This Month's Highlights . . .

All Events at our church welcome you. If you see something here that sparks your interest, please join in. To learn more about any of these events, contact the church office at: 447-8747 or consult our website: [www.uucil.net](http://www.uucil.net).

### Religious Education Committee Sat., Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 am!

In our startup workshop we generated lots of enthusiasm for enhancing our programs, grounds, and resources. We could really use your help! Would you like to see a safer playground? Are you interested in what's going on in the classrooms? What is a *Coming of Age* ceremony? What plans are being made for future parenting workshops, first aid and safety training for teachers and childcare providers? OWL classes, outings, social actions projects? Are you curious about the Religious Emblem program for Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts? Would you like a voice in shaping our priorities? We begin promptly at 8 and finish before the choir begins rehearsing at 9:30. If you plan on bringing children, *no problem!* - just let us know and childcare will be provided.

We will feast on strong coffee and sweet treats as we make plans for an exciting time in this year's religious education program.

### First Sunday Book Group November 4, noon



A book group is beginning to form, meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Our first review will be from each one of you about a favorite book you have read recently, or in the distant past, that you can show to us. Please bring the book/s with you. The most important decision we still have to make is whether we all read the same book, or read and report on different books and exchange them with each other. We will bring a sandwich and meet at noon in the Tot Green Room. (Going out to lunch proved to be too complicated.) We can enjoy talking while we eat our own light lunch. So, join us and hear what's interesting in our diverse community of readers.

### Minds on Fire Wed., Nov. 7, 7:00 to 8:30 pm



*Minds on Fire now meets on WEDNESDAYS!* If you have wanted to join us, but could not come Tuesday evenings, now is your chance to participate. Minds on Fire is an open group. 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](mailto:shelcovey@comcast.net).

### UUCiL Men's Group November 8th

The Men's Group meets twice a month for fellowship and discussion in the Round Table Room, behind the Kitchen. This month marks a permanent change in our meeting schedule to the second and fourth Thursday. If you would like to join us, please contact Craig Fish: [craigbfish@comcast.net](mailto:craigbfish@comcast.net).

### Shakespeare at UUCiL November 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm



Two professional actors from the **Ashland Oregon Shakespeare Festival Players** will present spectacular evening performances. They will perform selections from Shakespeare, plus works from classic and contemporary literature.

Tickets prices are \$20, \$15 for students. For information, call Joan Dickinson, 447-6454. For tickets call Leslie Lemieux, 606-5863. Please plan to attend. Bring your friends and neighbors. This is a FUNdraiser.

We are asking members to bring refreshments to share after the performance.

### Children's Choir Rehearsal Sundays 6:30 pm



That's Right! There is a children's choir at UUCiL and it even includes *boys!* Rehearsals are Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. See below for more information.

### Finance Committee Thurs, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

The UUCiL Finance Committee has reformed and meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month in the Tot Green Building. We will be bringing our various talents to bear on the finances of this congregation and serve in an advisory role to the Treasurer, Board of Trustees, and the Congregation. If you have ideas regarding the finances of this church we would love to hear from you.

The Committee members are John Harcourt, Chuck Hartwig, Julie O'Brien, Ron Dueltgen, and Arlen Rowe.

### Shawl Ministry, Wed., Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm, & Tues., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, Noon



Do you knit? Crochet? Do you want to learn? Come join us! In this group, we work on knitting or crocheting projects for those in need of an extra dose of kindness. You can work on a shawl or on a project you have already started. We meet in the Tot Green building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Call Kim Rowe at 606-9531 if you have questions.

### Music Reading Workshops, Saturdays in November

Saturday, November 3, 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. A brief orientation, outline of sessions, some handouts, an explanation of the basic musical knowledge needed for the workshops, and some homework assignments.

Sessions 1, 2 and 3

Saturday, November 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sessions 4, 5 and 6

Saturday, November 17, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**UUFOfs:****Unitarian Universalists & Friends Outings****The Nutcracker Ballet****December 15, 2 pm**

Come and see the Nutcracker ballet at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore with friends from UUCiL. The dancers are children from the Valley Dance Theatre accompanied by Livermore Symphony members. I bought a block of 20 tickets for Saturday, **December 15<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM** performance. I received \$5 off each ticket by buying 10 or more tickets. Our seats are in the middle, several rows back, which is a good place for watching a ballet. Ticket prices are: \$12 for kids and \$26 for adults. Arrange for tickets with Alyce Rossow, 447-8881 rossow@ieec.org

**Our Almost Annual Snow Trip is Coming Feb 15-18!**

We still have room for ~four families on our snow trip to Bear Valley. We have rented two cabins at Bear Valley Village, a short walk from the cross-country ski facility. Our cabins are also conveniently located near Bear Valley ski shuttle to the downhill slopes where you can downhill ski or snowboard. There are also plenty of opportunities around the cabins for snow play. Alyce and Terry Rossow will lead cross-country skiing. Beginners are

welcome. The Village is about a three hours' drive from Livermore under ideal conditions.

The cost per family for the three-day weekend will be \$450. This will entitle you to a private bedroom for your family.

After consulting your calendar, if you are seriously interested in going on the trip, please let me or Julie O'Brien know. We will need a deposit of \$100. Alyce Rossow (447-8881) rossow@ieec.org

**Jazz It Up At Pops**

Thank you, forty-two members and friends, for attending this event, for your support of the Livermore-Amador Symphony, for bringing food, for joining in the sing-alongs. Wasn't it great to have Wendy Mason as one of the vocalists along with Dale Larsen and Martie Muldoon! Thanks for buying tickets for the various drawings. How nice that Janet Mason won the handmade quilt. (In past years Ralph Moir and Dick Ryon have won the Guest conductor award). Thanks for your applause. Come again next year. Save the date. Friday, November 10, 2008.  
– Marion Stearns

**A Staff Portrait:****RICHARD PARTIDA UUCiL's Director of Religious Education**

There are so many folks among us who have just recently become active in our religious community we thought we'd introduce them to our staff over the next few months. This month we'll offer an introduction to Rich Partida.

Rich joined the UUCiL staff last May when he answered our ad on Craig's list. It was a serendipitous time for both Rich and our congregation. Leslie Lemieux, who had been filling the DRE's position, was ready to move into other areas of leadership as a much valued and knowledgeable volunteer. Rich was leaving his long-term job overseeing the Cultural Arts Programs for the city of Danville. He shepherded all public and private cultural arts programs including theater, kids classes, concerts, and studio tours as well as many recreational programs. But his life was changing and he was looking for something new.

Rich was born in Oakland and moved to Pleasanton in 1971. When he graduated from Foothill High, even though his family was Catholic, he already knew he was "spiritually curious". He happened to wander into a

lecture by Matthew Fox, former Catholic priest and Creation Spirituality theologian. It led him to do his undergraduate work at The University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland where he earned his BA in Cultural Arts.

He's both a carpenter—he inherited his grandfather's carpentry tools—and an artist—he remembers creating sculptures at the tender age of six from illustrations in an encyclopedia. He has been a practicing artist for the last 20 years. Rich met his partner, Jasmine, also an artist, three years ago. They now live in Springtown and are the proud parents of Olivia, who just turned one in November. She has already mastered the art of walking and is working on the arts of guile and mischief.

Rich is finding his work with us refreshing, the journey here an experience of the importance of religious community, and the opportunity to mentor our young people, an honor.

We are glad he is with us!

**President's Message****November 2007**

Coming in November is the PCD Leadership Day. It's November 10 in Palo Alto! There will be a great lunch and we will be sitting at networking tables by the interest groups suggested by the PCD Currents readers:

Adult RE Exchange and How-To, AV Networking , Big Issues for Small Congregations, Community Gardening, Green Sanctuary Work, Greeters, Lay Pulpit Exchange, Musician Exchanges, RE Teachers, Small Group Ministry Leaders, Social Justice Issues, Worship Associates

What a great way to get to know one another a little bit more. Let me know if you're interested in attending!

We've had several exciting and informative events this last month. The choir exchanges were wonderful. The search committee did a great job reporting to the congregation about the congregational survey. Carolyn had a service that focused on the kind of settled minister we want including a workshop afterward. Judy Herr presented a great service about the New Orleans trip and opened our eyes to the great need of the community based around there. The Children's Choir is up and

running thanks to Leanne Macdonnell and Wendy Mason. The finance committee met for the first time in a new configuration. Newcomers have enthusiastically met with Rev. Carolyn and the membership committee four times during October and November for orientation! We are happy to be welcoming several new members to UUCiL on Nov. 18.

This month we have our annual Shakespeare performances, Nov. 9 and 10. Please ask your friends to join us. It's always a wonderful event!

This month is also Thanksgiving. UUCiL has so much to be thankful for! I am thankful for all of you wonderful people and your unending support this past year and a half. It makes the job of being president so much easier. Enjoy your holiday time with your friends and families. I'm going off to Phoenix to spend time with my sister and my children...it'll be a welcome respite!

As always, keep me informed of your thoughts and concerns. Warmly,

Janice Paquette, President  
Board of Trustees

**News and Notes from our Youth Religious Education Program**

As fall makes way for winter, our new understanding of Hinduism has brought us to the doorway of our next lesson on Buddhism.

Here are some highlights from the past few weeks.

In October the sights and sounds of the Hindu tradition surrounded our K-2 class. We listened to Indian music while learning the names of the different Deities. We also learned about the principles of Hinduism through stories and images.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders visited the Hindu Temple on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Respectful of the Hindu tradition, they were asked to take off their shoes and quiet themselves before entering the Temple. As we explore other faiths, it's important that we also experience the rituals associated with these different traditions. The class also enjoyed a RE Halloween Costume Party/Sleepover on October 26,



sponsored by the Pedersen's. Special thanks to Laura and Jess for hosting this event.

Our youth groups are planning to visit the Hindu Temple on November 11<sup>th</sup>, but have already made outings to the Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek, as well as a visit to the pumpkin patch in honor of the season.

All of our teachers are committed to providing a safe and rewarding learning experience for our youth. If your child's class is planning a field trip you will be notified approximately one week in advance, usually via emails. We will let you know all the specifics then. All children participating in outings must have a signed field trip form in order to go along. If you forget your child's permission slip on the day of an outing, the RE director or an RE committee member will have extra copies available for you to sign.

**Our Whole Lives Human Sexuality Education for Children**

At the recent Religious Education Committee, we reviewed the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) program that we currently run at the church. *Our Whole Lives* is a series of sexuality education curricula for various age groups including: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12. (In addition, there is a new *young adult* curriculum about to be released, and a curriculum for adults.) *Our Whole Lives*

helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps

participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality, at times that are developmentally appropriate.

We are planning to offer a Kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> grade *Our Whole Lives* class this winter (after the holidays). If you have children in this age group, we strongly recommend that you consider your child joining us for this program. In addition, we will take children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as well. This program consists of between six and eight 90-minute sessions and will be held at a time that the mentors and families agree on. More information will be

forthcoming.

UUCIL has maintained a strong commitment to this excellent group of curricula and we are always looking for men and women who are interested in becoming "OWL trained." You could train for the k-1/4-6 group, or the 7-9/10-12 groups. The training and the mentoring are very rewarding and the gift that your training brings to the children & youth of this congregation is priceless. We would love to get 2 men and 2 women on the schedule for training. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or want more information, please see Leslie Lemieux.

## Notes from the Choirs

### Children's Choir in Full Swing!



Our new children's choir is off to an exciting start. With a few rehearsals under their belts, these singers are ready to share their enthusiasm with the rest of the church. You'll get to hear them at the service on November 11.


We're a hip, modern choir – not only in our performance but also in our communications. Updates are by e-mail & the kids can download their rehearsal music onto their iPods – how times have changed since we were their age.

New members are still welcome to join us for the holiday season, if they're prepared to do a little extra catch-up practice. We've only begun learning the songs for December.

If your child is interested in joining us, or you have any questions, please call/e-mail Leanne (961-9130/leanne.macdonnell@sbcglobal.net) or Wendy (443-0774/wendyjanemason@gmail.com).



### Adult Choir Notes

The choir exchange with Mission Peak was great, with fourteen UUCIL singers traveling  to Fremont in November.

If you've been waiting for a chance to learn to read music, now's the time to join the choir for November workshops. The first workshop will be on Saturday, November 3, after the regular rehearsal from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This workshop will be a brief orientation with an outline of sessions and some handouts and will go from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.. Dee will explain basic musical knowledge needed for the workshops and give some assignments.

The second workshop will be Saturday, November 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., divided into three sessions. The final workshop will be on Saturday, November 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., also divided into four sessions.

We always welcome new voices! Rehearsals before services will be at 9:30 a.m. on November 4 and 18. The Saturday rehearsal for November will be on November 3. Come sing with us! Susan Harvey

## Searching for Greener Pastors . . .

In late November, the Ministerial Search Committee took to the pulpit to reveal the results of our congregational survey and to share some of our congregation's wonderfully diverse array of opinions. Thank you for your interest! If you want to know more, feel more than free to talk to any of your Ministerial Search Committee members. We've also placed two blue binders at the back of the sanctuary that will show you the results of the survey in summary and in detail.

In other good news, we've completed a Congregational Record: a document that gives searching ministers an overview of our church life, culture, and history. It's been placed online at a UUA-designated site where

## Update from The Ministerial Search Committee

searching ministers may begin looking at our congregation.

With the help of Hank O'Brien, Janice Paquette, and the Board, we have also completed a Ministerial Agreement that outlines the Minister's duties, expectations, and relationship with the congregation. The Agreement has been approved by UUA Boston, which gives us the green light to officially begin our search.

We've nearly finished compiling a Search Packet. A Search Packet is a selection of information that describes our church and community in detail to interested



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prospective ministers. Many thanks to those of you who contributed writing, pictures, and extra help toward the creation of this packet! Ministerial Search Committee member Kim Rowe is in charge of putting this packet together, and she is creating a packet that is truly enticing.

Once our Search Packet has been approved, the Search Committee will be able to begin conversations with prospective ministerial candidates. The groundwork has been laid. Now it's time to start the work of learning

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more about the ministers out there and to begin telling them about the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore.

Your Ministerial Search Committee Members are:

Chilli Barlow, Linda Bissum, Joan Dickinson, Wendy Mason, Pat Mielke, Kim Rowe, and Eric Serdahl, Chair.

Best,  
Wendy Mason

### ***Celebrate 85 years of Bess!***

An open invitation from Bess Platt to her friends:

*It is my pleasure to invite you to  
my 85<sup>th</sup> Memorial/Birthday Celebration!*

*On Saturday November 17, 2007  
from 1-4 pm at the Bess Platt Preschool Center.*

The Bess Platt Preschool Center is located at the back of Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Avenue, Livermore.



Please bring one or more empty aluminum cans. The Center recycles them to buy equipment for the Center.

Note: The furniture is mostly for preschoolers. If you have tired legs, bring a folding chair. Also wear shoes that are good on a playground. Dress as casually as you wish. Bess will be in overalls *Her new High Ceremonial Overalls.*

### ***Support Needed for UU Congregations in the Pacific Southwest District A Special Announcement from the PCD***

You've already seen the images on television and the Internet, and they are tragic. Our help is needed, and isn't it a privilege to be able to step up!

We still don't have the details, but we know we've got congregations throughout the affected area. The website of Chalice Congregation in Escondido is reporting that 80% of their members have been evacuated, and District Executive the Reverend Ken Brown says that number is now 90%. Several have lost their homes. He adds, "As we have found in the past, insurance doesn't cover such devastation, and it can take years to recover."

We know that members from at least seven other congregations have been evacuated, and we will continue to send out more information as it becomes available.

Jim Scott

The Pacific Southwest District has set up a special Fire Relief Fund for those who are able to help. A PSWD Committee has formed to manage this, and all funds will be dispersed to UU congregations, UUs in need, other community groups in relationship with UU congregations, and those most in need. Checks may be sent to

PSWD Fire Relief Fund  
2052 Norma Street  
Oxnard, CA 93036

Donations may also be made online. <http://tinyurl.com/ytfz3f>  
Thank you!

### ***Remember to set your clock back one hour on November 5<sup>th</sup>***

Daylight Saving Time ends in the wee hours of Sunday, November 5. This is a change from previous years, when DST ended on the last Sunday in October.

On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This Act changed the time change dates for Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. Beginning in 2007, DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November.

### ***Castings on . . . UU's on the web***

As I wander through the World Wide Web, I often gather sparkling threads of information. On occasion I come across some that I hope will interest you. And so in this space I will, from time to time, share my finds with you.

I have recently been listening to Unitarian Universalists, ministers and lay people alike, discuss their faith, thanks to the miracle of podcasts. A podcast is like a recorded radio broadcast that is stored on the Internet: one that is downloaded from the Internet and played on a digital music player. When I searched for UU podcasts in iTunes – I was rewarded with nearly 100 different results! Many of these broadcasts are regular Sunday services

from established churches – some large, others quite small. You can listen to podcasts from local congregations: First Unitarian of Oakland, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, Starr King UU church in Hayward, or from churches all over the country and beyond: UU Churches in Los Angeles, Oak Ridge, Lexington (MA), Albuquerque, All Souls Unitarian Church, NYC, and even The Church of the Larger Fellowship – which only exists in cyberspace!

So the next time you find yourself longing for a good listen – consider pointing your Internet browser or *iTunes* to the podcast of like-minded folk. You just might be inspired!

*-JCO'B, ed*



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The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore is a caring, diverse community of open-minded people.

We provide a supportive non-creedal environment for spiritual and intellectual growth.

We encourage living respectfully and fostering the religious aspect of life through serving the larger community.

*We are a Welcoming Congregation*

*The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore is located at 1893 North Vasco Road in Livermore, California. Founded as a Fellowship in 1957, we are proud to have been a voice for liberal religion in the TriValley for the over 50 years. To learn more about our congregation please join us for Sunday Service at 10:30 am and visit our website at: [www.uucil.net](http://www.uucil.net)*