



# Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 13, Number 8

August 2008

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

**10:30 am**

## *What's Happening at UUCiL?*

*Mondays in August:*

*Young Adult Group*

*August 9:*

*RE Meeting*

*August 10:*

*Program Council*

*August 12:*

*Board Meeting*

*August 14 & 28:*

*Men's Group*

*August 17:*

*Pot Luck*

*August 20:*

*PM Shawl Ministry*

*August 21:*

*Finance Meeting*

*August 26:*

*Caring and Concerns Committee*

*AM Shawl Ministry*

*August 31:*

*Labor of Love*

## *UUCiL Staff*

*Interim Minister:*

*Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey  
Administrator: Renness Tomley*

*Dir. of Religious Education:  
Richard Partida*

*Choir Director: Dee Wood*

*Newsletter: Desty Shoemaker*

The UUCiL Newsletter is published 12 times each year. The editor, Desty Shoemaker, welcomes submissions from all sources. Please submit your input to Desty at shoemaker4@llnl.gov. All input must be received by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month to ensure inclusion in the next month's edition.

## **August 3      *Alternate Energy***

*Charles Bennett and Leslie Lemieux*

*Carol Meyers, Service Leader*

*Pat Mielke, Pianist*

We have probably all seen the recent PG&E ad campaign boasting that "the future is clean energy!" But how feasible is alternative energy, and how does this conform with our principles as Unitarian Universalists? Our own Charles Bennett is a patented inventor of solar-thermal systems, and Leslie Lemieux worked in the wind power industry here in Livermore through its ups and downs in the mid-1990's.

## **August 10      *Suffering and Solidarity***

*Alexandra McGee*

*Linda Bissum, Service Leader*

*Pat Mielke, Pianist*

When we act for social justice, how much solidarity can we honestly give?

Alexandra McGee offers insight on embodiment, spiritual practice, and origins of yogic philosophy. Practicing yoga since 1989, she has taught since 1994 in corporations, country clubs, churches, gyms, ecovillages, and a prison. Alex is a 3rd year student at Starr King School for the Ministry, soon to complete her Masters of Divinity with a focus on Sanskrit, chaplaincy, and Hindu theology.

## **August 17      *A Talk About Nothing***

*Linda Bissum*

*Paul Singh, Service Leader*

*Pat Mielke, Pianist*

Our own Linda Bissum became a disciple of the Indian Mystic Osho thirty years ago, and continues to be a practicing meditator to this day. This Sunday she will talk about some of the lessons she has learned and how it has affected her life.

She will also talk about the four years she spent as a member of the Oregon Commune, and how she sees Eastern spirituality intersect with Unitarian Universalism.

## **August 24      *Well, Maybe You Can Go Home Again***

*Dorris Lee*

*Carol Meyers, Service Leader*

*Pat Mielke, Pianist*

Thomas Wolf said you can't go home again. Hericlitus said you can never step into the same river twice. There are also the notions that you should live in the moment, don't dwell in the past, honor your origins, and so on. So, how is it for you? Do you want to re-visit your past? Can you? I recently re-visited my own early origins in time and place and brought back some field notes for you.

Dorris Lee was a committed member of this UU church for 35 years. She moved to Sonoma County nearly four years ago. She's an active member of the Santa Rosa UU congregation, but still loves us as much as ever. Dorris has also been, and is active in the Pacific Central District.

## **August 31      *Labor of Love***

This Sunday we will not be sitting in Church, listening to a sermon. Instead, this Sunday's worship will consist of taking care of our church in the most physical sense, by caring for the buildings and grounds. We will pull weeds, wash windows, and a thousand other tasks much needed. This is an intergenerational event for everybody to participate in, culminating with a catered lunch.

Look for more information throughout the month.

## **Letter To Parents, Teachers and Friends of RE: Regarding Events In Knoxville & Our Responses**

- by Sharon Mendel, Director of Religious Education, UU Church of Birmingham

As many of you may have heard, on July 27<sup>th</sup> during a Sunday morning intergenerational production of *Annie* at the Tennessee Valley UU Church in West Knoxville, TN a tragedy occurred. According to news reports and eyewitness accounts, a gunman entered the church sanctuary and began firing shots into the crowd that was gathered for what was meant to be quite a joyous occasion. A long-time church usher put himself in front of the gunman to protect the congregation. He was killed. Another group of men tackled the gunman, saving many lives according to the police press conference, in which it was stated that the man had a great deal of ammunition. Another woman who was visiting from a neighboring church has now died from her injuries. A number of other congregants are in the hospital, recovering from gunshot wounds and other injuries. While the motive is not yet known, the FBI is investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

### **Initial Responses**

Apparently, Mr. Rogers' mom taught him to always "look for the helpers" in a tragedy. The family and friends of the man who "took the bullet" to protect the congregation consider him a hero. The congregation is extremely grateful for those who tackled the gunman. Many people acted intelligently during the crisis to prevent further loss of life, and to reach out and offer support to each other. The UUA has a Trauma Response Team on site, and the Red Cross was there very quickly offering teddy bears to the young ones, as well as other physical, mental, and emotional support to the adults. Their minister has returned from vacation to be with the congregation during this time. Neighboring churches, including a UU Church in Asheville, North Carolina, are holding vigils. DREs across the country are sending messages of support and coming up with creative ways both to share with the children in our congregations and to offer support to the little ones in Knoxville and their families.

Here is why I write to share this news:

- 1) It is important to be aware of the suffering that is happening in another part of our "UU family," the extended network of which we are a part. Visit [www.wbir.com](http://www.wbir.com) for more information as the story unfolds.
- 2) My experience with other horrific events (for example, living in DC during September 11) tells me that during times like this, people can come together to tend to each other in very beautiful ways. How might we like to come together during this time?
- 3) To provide concrete support to you, as parents, teachers, and friends, as we all work to process our own feelings about the event. Visit <http://pbskids.org/rogers/parentsteachers/special/scarynews-thoughts.html> for gems distilled from Mr. Rogers, an ordained Presbyterian minister who had a way of helping kids deal with all sorts of tragedies, from divorce to war.
- 4) To ask for your participation in making careful choices about what and how we share this with the young people of our church.
- 5) To solicit your input on ways we can move forward to offer our support and love to the Tennessee Valley UU Church. Cards? Paper cranes? Something else?

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Please tell me what y'all would like during this time, and we will work together to craft a response that feels appropriate to our congregation. I need your ideas, input and support. The more I hear from you, the more we can work together help tailor an appropriate response.

Thank you all for being there. We are so very lucky to have each other.

## **Ministerial Search Committee Update: The Survey is Coming!**

This year's Congregational Survey, available at the end of August, has been updated and shortened. It will provide interested ministerial candidates a timely snapshot of who we are, what's important to us in our church, and what we want in a minister. All members and friends of the church will be invited to respond.

Since we have significantly increased our membership and attendance at Sunday services since the last survey, and have also had new experiences with Carolyn Colbert as our interim minister, we want the data about us to be fresh and current and to represent us as accurately as possible.

You will receive a letter in late August with details about the survey and your unique sign-in number. The survey will be available online opening at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 30 and closing at 10 p.m. Sunday, September 7.

We are also beginning to revise the packet we exchange with interested ministers and to plan for our weekend Retreat September 6-7. If you have any questions or concerns, contact any committee member: Eric Serdahl, Chair, or Chilli Barlow, Linda Bissum, Joan Dickinson, Chuck Hartwig, Keith Mielke, or Jane Staehle.



## **Upcoming Events at UUCiL**

### **Sunday August 31- Labor of Love Sunday**

Instead of service today we all come to church to work on getting the church organized and cleaned for the new church year. Committee chairs please send list of chores you would like done to Alicia Hengst at [aliciahengst@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciahengst@yahoo.com). There will be all different type of chores, both inside and outside. Music and Lunch will be provided.

### **Sunday September 21- Committee Fair**

After service, committees will set up tables and be available to answer questions on what they do and how they would like you to become involved. Lois Dueltgen, membership chair, is coordinating this event and will have many surprises. Please plan on attending and find out how you can get involved at UUCIL.

The next monthly Program Council meeting will be August 10 at 9:00 in the Tot Green. Please contact me if you have any questions about Program Council or upcoming events at UUCIL.

*Elona Pertica*  
UUCIL Board  
Vice President

## Religious Education Highlights

The summer program, “*Experiences with the Web of Life*” is up and running. The purpose of this program is to develop awareness of the interdependence of living things and each child’s place within the web of life. There have already been a number of outdoor expeditions to observe the intricate web of life that surrounds us. The summer program will conclude on August 24<sup>th</sup>

### August 3

*Childcare:* Don’t forget, we now have coffee available in the Starr King building for parents picking up their kids.

*Primary School:* This week’s lesson: Experiences with falling leaves.

*Middle/High School:* Roundtable discussion

### August 10

*Childcare:* As the weather warms, we will be utilizing our “outside space.”

*Primary School:* This week’s lesson: Leaves and Composting

*Middle/High School:* Roundtable discussion



## 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sleepover and Welcome Back to Church

Mark your calendars, parents of the middle school group! Our fall sleepover is scheduled for Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> (Friday night this time!) starting at 6:30. We’ll have dinner and fun games and get everyone back in the groove, as well as welcome our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Pickup will be after breakfast (around 10) on Saturday morning.

Questions? Call Leslie Lemieux. Invitations will go out later in the month of August.

### August 17

*Childcare:* Be sure to let the childcare provider know if your child has any special needs.

*Primary School:* This week’s lesson: Experiences with Bulbs and Seeds

*Middle/High School:* Roundtable discussion

### August 24

*Childcare:* Story Time, Craft time today.

*Primary School:* Last Summer Class: time to review and celebrate!

*Middle/High School:* Summer wrap up.

### August 31

*Childcare:* Let the childcare provider know if your child has any special needs.

*No classes:* Labor of Love work party; kids will be helping to support all the good work and workers.

## WANTED!

Male Mentor to help with the Middle School Group this Year! Must be fun-loving, adventurous and ready to meet some great middle school kids! Must enjoy an occasional trip away from church on Sundays and be ready for the fall sleepover in September! Leslie Lemieux is the Female Mentor. Our curriculum this fall is “The Questing Year” and it’s lots of fun! You might even learn something about yourself. If interested, please call or email Leslie: [jlm@pacbell.net](mailto:jlm@pacbell.net), 606-5863. Time commitment is pretty intense and we would like it if you could do a two-year rotation. Starts September 5<sup>th</sup> with our back-to-school overnight!

**Attention Parents of Kindergarteners - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:**  
**“Our Whole Lives” (OWL): Two Classes to be Offered this Fall**

We are pleased and proud to announce that we are holding a kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade “Our Whole Lives” (or OWL, as a lot of us call it!) class this fall, as well as a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade “Our Whole Lives” class! If you have a child in either one of these age groups, you should be receiving a letter shortly with more information.

**Parent Information Meeting**

A Parent Information Meeting will be held **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at noon** in the Tot Green Room. Childcare will be available. We will serve a light lunch for everyone. The meeting will last approximately 90 minutes, and at the end of the meeting you can sign up to enroll your child for the class, if you so desire.

**1.1.1 What Is “Our Whole Lives”?**

“Our Whole Lives” is a positive, comprehensive, and age-appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and helps children build self-esteem. The values underlying the curriculum include:

- All children should be loved and cared for, respected and valued as unique individuals,
- Children learn about sexuality from how people touch them, talk with them and expect them to behave as males and females. The messages that children receive affect their future attitudes, values and behaviors,
- Information about families, human anatomy, sexuality, human development and sexual health should be presented to children in positive, accurate, and developmentally appropriate ways.

The UU Church in Livermore is proud of its long-standing commitment to this important curriculum. The curriculum recognizes that parents are the most important teachers for their children. Talking about sex is difficult for many; “Our Whole Lives” helps. And – the earlier kids get started communicating with parents, the easier it is, and the more likely that communication will continue during the teen years.

**1.1.2 When Are the Our Whole Lives Classes?**

**Classes will start on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**, at approximately 12:15. Each age group will have 8 classes or less. Class meetings are approximately 90 minutes (less time for the younger, k-2 group). You will receive detailed schedule information at the Parent Information Meeting.

All of our mentors have attended training for the “Our Whole Lives” courses. The training involves an entire weekend and encompasses approximately 20 hours. The mentors for the K-2<sup>nd</sup> class are Jody Harcourt and Mark Miller. For the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Stephanie and Craig Fish will be the mentors. If you need more information about OWL, please call or e-mail me. We have many advocates for this educational and valuable, values-based curriculum here at church, and many of us would enjoy sharing more information, as well as our experiences first-hand with the courses.

We look forward to meeting with all of you. I would like to thank in advance our mentor teams who are so supportive and eager to share these programs with our children and youth. “Our Whole Lives” is a great way to help our children as they grow and change. See you at the Parent Meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>!

Warmly,

Leslie Lemieux, Our Whole Lives Coordinator  
 925-606-5863  
 jlmm@pacbell.net

Let us put our minds together and see  
 what life we can make for our children.  
*Sitting Bull*

## UU Camping Trip – August 15 to 17

Thanks to members with the patience to wait in long lines, we have reserved twelve sites at Camp Shelly at Lake Tahoe. I believe that everyone who wanted to go has a site. I have sent information out via e-mail. If you want to join us and have not heard from me, please call me at 784-8736 or e-mail at [mike.ong3@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ong3@gmail.com). Sharing a site between two families is not a problem. I'm looking forward to this camping trip.

*Mike Ong*



## Save the Date!

**12th Annual PCD Men's Retreat  
Friday-Sunday, October 17th-19th**

IT'S ALL ABOUT SHOWING UP!

Come join men from all around the Pacific Central District for a weekend of fun, community building, kinship, singing, workshops and more! We will be gathering once again at the Westminster Center in Alamo (10 miles south of Walnut Creek.)

Our theme this year is "It's All About Showing Up." Through experiential workshops and kinship groups, we will explore the importance of showing up at the retreat and showing up and being fully present in our lives. There will also be free time on Saturday afternoon and the always-popular No-Talent Show on Saturday night.

The cost for the weekend is \$225. Scholarships are available.

For more information and to register - <http://pcd-uua.org/men/frames.htm> or contact Harry J. Mersmann at 209-955-0291 or [pcdmensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:pcdmensretreat@gmail.com)

## Buildings and Grounds Work Party Recap

Everyone was happy about the 70-degree weather and light breeze we had at the Summer Work Party. We spread new wood chips and pebbles in the preschool playground, cleaned out the gutters, edged the walkways, disposed of yard debris, added a layer of weed block and wood chips to the rose circle, pruned the wisteria and blew out the walkways.

Coffee, tea, lemonade and Cliff Bars were served to the thirteen women and men. Work parties are held on a Saturday in the middle of each season; **the next one is October 18**. Bring your gloves and hat and any equipment that may come in handy. Contact Bob Breckenridge to be added to the B&G email list, [bbrecken@hotmail.com](mailto:bbrecken@hotmail.com).

Thanks,  
*Bob*



## **Things to Do This Month**

### **YAG (Young Adult Group) Mondays 8:00 p.m.**

This is a weekly gathering of folks age 18-35. Hang out with us as we continue to alternate Popcorn Theology nights with mellower game and conversation nights. We take turns hosting YAG at our homes, so contact Wendy Mason at [wendyjanemason@gmail.com](mailto:wendyjanemason@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list so you can learn specific location details.

### **UUCiL Men's Group August 14 at 7:00 p.m. August 28 at 11:00 a.m.**

The Men's Group meets twice a month for fellowship and discussion in the Church Office, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact Craig Fish: [craigbfish@comcast.net](mailto:craigbfish@comcast.net).

### **Shawl Ministry**

**July 20, at 7:00 p.m.  
July 26, at 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. Call Kim Rowe at 606-9531 if you have questions.

### **Minds on Fire**

**SUMMER HIATUS**

Minds on Fire will start up again in September with a special pot-luck at the home of Shelley Covey, (1010 Lynn Street, Livermore) on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30 p.m. For more information or directions, call or email Shelley Covey, 449-4669, [shelcovey@comcast.net](mailto:shelcovey@comcast.net).

### **Pot Luck Luncheon Reminder**

Many of us look forward to the potluck after church on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Everyone is welcome, & you're invited to join in the fun even if you're a newcomer or forget to bring a dish to share. Members & friends are reminded that set-up and clean-up chores are shared by everyone according to an established alphabetical rotation schedule.

Each month members whose last names begin with specific letters are encouraged to pitch in setting up tables & chairs, putting food out on serving tables, putting plates, bowls, utensils & napkins out & restocking as needed, bringing dirty serving dishes to the kitchen, putting away tables & chairs, & cleaning up the kitchen.

August 17 potluck volunteers are people with last names A-Z (because it is summer). Looking ahead, September 23 potluck volunteers will be people with last names A-E. Of course, if it is not your month to volunteer and you have time to do so, please feel free to assist.



### **"POPS Goes to the Movies"**

#### **UUFO-UNITARIAN & FRIENDS OUTING**

**Friday, Oct. 10th at the Barn in Livermore,  
Doors open at 7 pm; concert starts at 8.**

Featuring the Livermore-Amador Symphony, vocal soloists including our own WENDY MASON, sing-alongs and more. Marion Stearns will buy a block of seats so we can all sit together. Sign up on the table in the sanctuary no later than August 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$20/seat and you can pay Marion later.

You are asked to bring a potluck item and serving utensils. DO NOT bring beverages, as they will be on sale. Plates, napkins and flatware will be provided.

Costumes in keeping with the theme are much appreciated. Questions? See Marion or call her at 443-5182.

<i><b>August</b></i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
27 10:30 am <i>The Life Impact of a Mystical Experience</i> , Dr. Allan Shaw	28 8:00 pm YAG	29	30	31	1	2
3 10:30 <i>Alternate Energy</i> Charles Bennett & Leslie Lemieux Carol Meyers, Service Leader	4 8:00 pm YAG	5	6	7	8	9 9:00 am RE Committee
10 9:00 am Program Council 10:30 <i>Suffering and Solidarity</i> Alexandra McGee Linda Bissum, Service Leader	11 8:00 pm YAG	12 6:30 pm Board Meeting	13	14 7:30 pm Men's Group	15	16
17 10:30 <i>A Talk About Nothing</i> Linda Bissum Paul Singh, Service Leader 12:00 am Pot Luck Newsletter Input DUE	18 8:00 pm YAG	19	20 7:00 pm Shawl Ministry	21 7:00 pm Finance	22	23
24 10:30 <i>Maybe You Can Go Home Again</i> Dorris Lee Carol Meyers, Service Leader	25 8:00 pm YAG	26 9:45 am Caring and Concerns 12:00 pm Shawl Ministry	27	28 11:00 am Men's Group	29	30
31 10:30 am Labor of Love	1 8:00 pm YAG	2	3	4	5	6

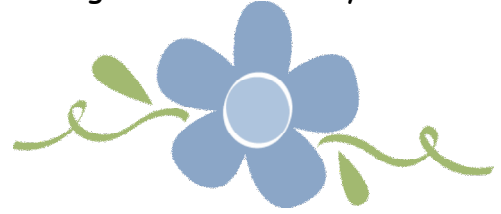
# Labor of Love

**Sunday, August 31**

**8:00 a.m. to noon**

**With a catered lunch served afterward**

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY? TAKE YOUR PICK:**  
Picking weeds, dead-heading flowers, laying weed block and borders, spreading wood chips, planting trees and flowers, pruning bushes, shampooing carpets, waxing floors, hauling, making and distributing lemonade. See you there!!!



*Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore*  
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Livermore, CA 94551-9793  
925.447.8747      [www.uucil.net](http://www.uucil.net)

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*  
*Worshiping Community*

*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)*