



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 13, Number 7

July 2008

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

10:30 am

What's Happening at UUCiL?

Mondays in July:

Young Adult Group

July 8:

Caring and Concerns Committee

Board of Trustees Mtg.

July 10 & 24:

Men's Group

July 12:

e-Waste Recycling

Building & Grounds Work Party

RE Committee Mtg.

July 13

Program Council Mtg.

July 16 & 22:

Shawl Ministry

July 17:

Finance Committee Mtg.

June 20:

Adult Choir Practice

Pot Luck

Newsletter Deadline

UUCiL Summer Office Hours:

Rennie Tomley:

Tuesday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

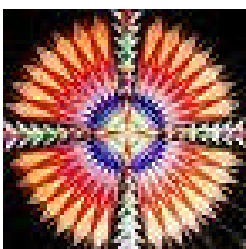
Friday

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Rich Partida:

Monday – Tuesday

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



July 6 Religious Impasse

Rev. Barbara

Meyers

Carol Meyers, Service Leader

Pat Mielke, Pianist

Most people come to a point in life when their inherited faith comes up against their life experience in a way that creates a crisis of faith which can be called religious impasse. In coming to terms with this experience, individuals can become active

July 13 Sufi Dances

SierraLynne

Linda Bissum, Service

Leader

The Dances of Universal Peace are simple, meditative, joyous, multi-cultural circle dances that use sacred phrases, chants, music, and movements from the many traditions of the earth to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. Based on the work begun in the late 60's by Samuel L. Lewis, they promote peace and integration within

individuals and groups worldwide. There are no performers nor audience - new arrivals and old hands form the circle together. And, no prior experience is necessary!

July 20 Growing Up Sikh

Paul Singh

Pat Mielke, Pianist

Our own Paul Singh will talk about his experience growing up in the Sikh tradition.

July 27 The Life Impact of a Mystical Experience

Dr. Allan

Smith

Pat Mielke, Service Leader

Allan Smith, now a retired physician, will be our guest speaker. He will describe the spiritual or mystical experience that occurred spontaneously 32 years ago. This profound experience involved union with the ground of being. Dr Smith will then go on to discuss how this event changed his life.

UUCiL Staff

Interim Minister: Rev. Carolyn Colbert

Administrator: Rensess Tomley

Dir. of Religious Education: Richard Partida

Choir Director: Dee Wood

Newsletter Editor: 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@lml.gov. All input must be received by the 3rd Sunday of the month to ensure inclusion in the next month's edition.

Greetings from Reverend Alicia

First, I want to say how glad I am that I will be with you as your interim minister when the new church year begins. In the first round of placement as interim ministers, we are allowed three congregations on our “A” list and three on our “B” list. Your congregation was the first choice on my “A” list.

Two of the congregations I have served are in Canada. One in Vancouver, British Columbia and one near Toronto, Ontario. I had a lot to learn when I first arrived in Canada, because I had assumed that there would be no noticeable cultural differences between Canada and the United States. It didn't take long to realize that I had no knowledge of Canadian culture, which is not the same as the culture I came from. What I expected as far as my work with the congregation needed to be adapted to their culture. I read what I could, rented movies pertaining to Canadian history, interviewed members, and in the end had to admit to myself that I had almost made a big blunder by arriving with an agenda that would fit any congregation in any location.

When I served a congregation near Toronto, I thought I knew a thing or two about Canadians. Nope. The Province of British Columbia is very different from the Province of Ontario. So, the obvious finally dawned on me. Every congregation is like an individual, with its own personality, its own history its own way of being. It is up to me to arrive as a guest who hopes she can get to know you well enough to be of good service. After I spend time with you, listen to your stories, get a sense of how you relate to one another – then I will have observations I can share with you. Some observations may be

“off” and you can let me know why that is so. Some may be helpful or insightful and worthy of serious consideration. But when all is said and done, the congregation is your congregation and I am responsible to you. Not *for* you, but *to* you.

When I think about my own life I feel grateful for what seems like a thread of continuity that kept me on a path that makes sense and has personal meaning. When I graduated with a Bachelors Degree in philosophy and religion I asked myself why I thought it was a good idea to study something just because I enjoyed it and not because I could use it to find a job. Then it occurred to me that there was a Unitarian Universalist seminary here in Berkeley. I was born into a Unitarian family, so why not continue studying a subject I love and avoid the whole job question for another few years? It fit where I was at that time in my life: frustrated at the fact that I was interested in social change and addressing environmental issues, but lacking the skills I needed to be a leader. After graduating from seminary, I worked for eleven years in the poorest, high crime, drug-infested areas of Oakland and Richmond, using what I had learned to speak for elementary school children who could not speak for themselves. I discovered that if I had passion for what I was trying to accomplish I could stand up and speak at a city council meeting, a gathering of high-powered business leaders, a community development meeting – anyplace where there was an opportunity to advocate for children. I lost my fear of speaking in public. I also gained an understanding of my own privileges, which I had always assumed were a given.

Greetings, cont'd.

Once I worked where I had to be escorted from and to my car, even in broad daylight. Rats dropped out of holes in the ceiling onto my desk. Sitting in a circle with people who lived in this area, I remember asking what we would do if we won the lottery. The response that seemed most popular was putting a high fence around the neighborhood, kicking out the drug dealers, fixing up the houses and finding some peace in a sense of safety. These eleven years radicalized me.

Then, in 1987, I was hit head-on by a drunk taxi driver, driving with four drunk-driving arrests and a revoked license. He owned the cab company. I could hear him in the emergency room where I ended up telling his wife that he had to get back to work. The ambulance driver had told me that the man was so drunk he should have been unconscious. The outcome of this incident for me was a settlement that would allow me to return to school and get a Ph.D. I think of it as straw into gold, as is the case with other seriously negative incidents in my life when I have managed to gain some shred of good, even if unable to feel that everything was set straight in the end.

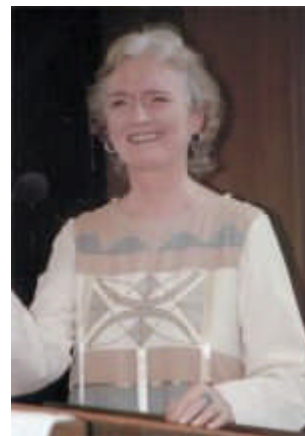


If you would like to know about my teaching, publications, or take advantage of some of the resources I have posted for Unitarian Universalists, go to my website at www.pacificuu.org/fore.

I am on the Doctoral Faculty of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and the Adjunct Faculty of the Humanist Institute. The book I am finishing now is about the relationship between Queen Isabella Sforza Zapolya of Transylvania and Sultan Süleyman of the Ottoman Empire. Isabella (1520 - 1559) was the mother of the only Unitarian King in history. So far!

I look forward to meeting all of you. Until then, my best wishes to you for a restorative, relaxing summer.

Best regards,
Alicia McNary Forsey



President's Report—July 2008

At the last Board meeting, the Board elected its officers for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. They are: **President – Sunil Wijeyesekera** (one year); **Vice President – Elona Pertica**; **Treasurer – Ron Dueltgen**; **Secretary – Charlie Bennett**. We look forward to working with the congregation and with our new interim minister, Reverend Alicia Forsey, in another transition year as we continue preparations for our new settled minister.

The Board is planning a retreat on August 22/23 at which time we will discuss in more detail our plans for the upcoming year. However, a few items that the congregation should be aware of:

- a. Long range planning was brought up at the Annual meeting. The Board will begin discussion on how to start a planning process, understanding that our new settled minister needs to be part of any planning process we implement.
- b. Assessing our staffing needs is part of any long-range planning process. We do not want to short-change this process. However, we can start by focusing on current staff and their needs including fair compensation guidelines. I expect we will be meeting with the fair compensations specialist from the district this year.
- c. There is a limited amount of money available for small capital/ maintenance items. There is a prioritized list maintained by Jes Pederson. Buildings and Grounds helps to compile the list and the Board is involved in prioritization. At the top of our list are items critical to safety and/or legal requirements. This list will be posted on the Bulletin Board once we have the price estimates for each item. Comments are always welcome.
- d. There is ongoing discussion on how best to handle the very large job called treasurer. We are increasingly looking at it as a team effort with the

treasurer as leader. This work started last year under the finance committee and will continue this year.

e. It has been approximately 5 years since we took out our UUA mortgage and our long-term member bonds. In two years, our mortgage will be up for review and the term on our bonds will expire. There are a number of options for how to deal with the member bonds that need to be discussed this year.

f. For the first year since we took out the mortgage, the church budget is running solidly in the black. What this means is that we no longer have to take money out of reserves every year to balance the budget. This is an extremely important milestone: everyone in the congregation should be proud of their contribution.

Finally a big thank you to Reverend Carolyn Colbert for all the work that she did with us to ensure a successful interim year.

Sunil Wijeyesekera

SUGGESTION BOX

The Grounds Committee is looking for suggestions from the congregation. We are looking for a grounds gardener, a building and maintenance person/handyman, heating and air service providers and a fire sprinkler service. If you can suggest anyone that you have used before and were satisfied with, please let Bob Breckenridge know.

Also, Alden Lane Nursery gives "bucks" away with all purchases made in April & May. They are redeemable in August. If you have any Alden Lane Nursery "bucks" that you'd like to contribute to the Grounds committee, please let Bob know that as well. Thanks!

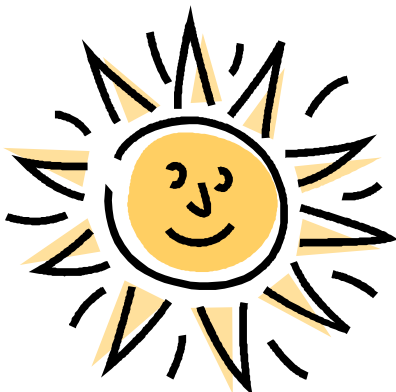


Search Committee Update

Your new Ministerial Search Committee has started its work for the year, beginning to develop an updated and abbreviated congregational survey and a descriptive packet to send to prospective ministers. Since the church had a milestone year in participation, growth, and pledges, we want to update your input in order to find the candidate that best meets our needs.

The all-church survey will be ready for your responses in late summer. We need a snapshot of our church in the fall of 2008, after a very active and lively year culminating in a stunningly successful canvass. Our 13 new members and many new friends will be included, and the survey will again be on-line for convenient response.

We'll keep you updated throughout our search through the newsletters, from the pulpit, and in direct mailings. Your input is invaluable and essential. If you have questions or concerns, contact any committee member: Chilli Barlow, Linda Bissum, Joan Dickinson, Chuck Hartwig, Keith Mielke, Eric Serdahl, or Jane Staehle.



Hot Fun in the Summertime – It's As Easy As 1-2-3

1

Buildings and Grounds will host the Summer Work Party Extravaganza, Saturday, July 12, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. We'll be spreading the remaining wood chips, filling in the remaining ditches and shampooing carpets and lots of other fun things. There will be a raffle, prizes, childcare, games, a jump house, horses, water slide, a keg of beer and live rock band (ok, maybe not). But there will be coffee, tea and cocoa. Snacks welcome. Bring your gloves, work clothes, hat and sunblock. We've got tools but extra spades, trowels and shovels are always handy.

2

'Tis the season for warm summer nights, watermelon, camaraderie, and movies galore. Our Young Adult Group (YAG), a weekly gathering of folks age 18-35, will continue to meet every Monday night from 8:00pm-10:00pm. We take turns hosting YAG at our homes, so contact Wendy Mason at wendyjanemason@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list so you can learn specific location details. Hang out with us as we continue to alternate Popcorn Theology nights with mellow game and conversation nights. We'd love to have you.

3

We've reserved sites at Camp Shelly at Lake Tahoe for the weekend of August 15th. The campground is well maintained & has hot showers. The cost is \$25 per night. There will be organized activities in the evenings and a Saturday trip to Lake Angora for swimming, boat rowing and lunch. If you are interested in coming, please see Mike Ong, or call 784-8736 or e-mail at mike.ong3@gmail.com.

Religious Education Highlights

HELP WANTED!

It's not too late to sign up to teach! We are still in need of teachers for the summer program. Can you give one or two of your Sunday mornings to help make this summer a rewarding one for our kids?

The summer program is *Experiences with the Web of Life*. 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. The summer program runs from June 22nd to August 31st. please contact Rich Partida, Director of religious Education for more information.

July 6

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

Primary School, Middle School, and High School:
"Fun in the Sun"

July 13

Childcare: As the weather warms, we will be utilizing our "outside space."

Primary School, Middle School, and High School:
Summer Sessions

July 20

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

Primary School, Middle School, and High School:
Summer Sessions

July 27

Childcare: Story Time, Craft time today.

Primary School, Middle School, and High School:
Summer sessions continue.

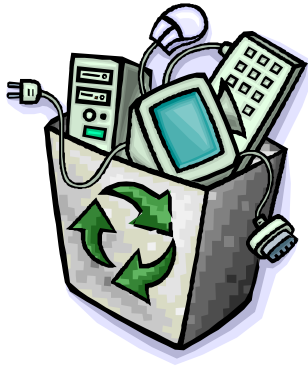
Keep me away from the wisdom
which does not cry, the philosophy
which does not laugh and the
greatness which does not bow before
children.

Kahlil Gibran

Kid's Potluck

We will be trying out a slight twist at the next potluck, July 20th. There will be a separate potluck table with kid-friendly food followed by games for kids from pre-school to pre-teen.





e-Waste Recycling Event Repeats at UUCiL

We are sponsoring a second e-waste recycling event at UUCiL on Saturday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot. This is a perfect time to get rid of unused electronics items in your home or business. Our partners, C&T Recycling, accept TVs, computer monitors, laptops, flat screens, cell phones and inkjet cartridges for free, and charge \$5 per item for all other electronics, including computers, telephones, copiers, printers, DVD players, fax machines, etc.

This is a fund-raising event for our church as well as an opportunity to help the environment by keeping these items out of the landfill. We will receive a portion of the cash collected plus payment based on total weight for all waste collected. All items are recycled and processed in the United States – no shipments to China or India.

Please let your friends and neighbors and co-workers know about this event. Questions? Contact Ron Dueltgen at 925-449-0528 or ron@dueltgen.net.

Rip Snortin' Rummage Sale Success

WoW! That was a lot of treasures you all donated this year, and it sure paid off. We made \$1670 plus another \$1400 for the sale of a car generously donated by the Rossows, so that's a total \$3070! This wouldn't be possible without your generous donations, we really appreciate all that you gave. I hope you found it convenient and enjoyable to donate, and please keep UUCiL in mind when you have a large ticket item like a working car you would like to donate. It may please you to know that all the leftovers went to local charities in the area (Shepherds Gate, Haven of Peace, and Goodwill).

When you see these friends at church, please thank them for the hard work and time they put in that made this year's Rummage Sale such a success:

Kim Hunt and Michael, Laura Johnson, Claire Nelson, Melissa Hodous, Adele Irvin, Dorothy Jantzen, Eric Serdahl, the Rowe Family, the Rossows, Ann Parker, Joan Dickinson, the Lemieuxs, Judy Mc Murry, Janice Paquette, Louise Gray, Hildy Pehrson, Beth Dowling, Alice Bennert, and Carolyn Colbert. Cheers to a fantastic team!

Gratefully,
Laura Pedersen



Choir Notes



As I write this, we've just finished our choir's last service of the year, and it's been a good year, culminating with an excellent retreat. Dee found an excellent clinician for us, Elizabeth Emigh, who began by leading us through a series of fun and voice-expanding warm-up exercises. She then rehearsed our pieces with us, asking for – and eventually receiving – a level of attention to detail, pronunciation, and musicianship that our choir hasn't achieved before.

Of course, being an excellent choir director herself, Dee had mentioned many of these things in past rehearsals, but this longer, focussed session was an opportunity to really drive these points home and increase our understanding of their importance. Also, as Dee said, it helps to have an outside expert provide reinforcement. (Maybe that's kind of like when kids don't really believe things until someone other than their parents tells them.)

I hope you'll make plans to join us when we start up again in September. It's not a big commitment – just one Saturday morning a month plus coming early before the service two Sundays per month. We have a lot of fun & get to sing a wide variety of music. Dee does a great job of finding songs that connect with the theme of the service – if she can't find something, she just comes up with new lyrics for an old song to make it fit. Everyone's welcome. I look forward to singing with you soon!

On a personal note:

Dee suggested that I mention some exciting news that I received recently. Two choir pieces I composed or arranged were selected for the "reading sessions" at the UU Musicians Network conference this August. One of the pieces was "Thula Klizeo," which I arranged from our hymnal "Singing the Journey" and which was first performed by our Young Singers last fall! That means these pieces will be published and musicians from throughout the UUA will be trying out these songs at the conference and maybe taking them home to sing with their choirs. I'm thrilled and grateful for the opportunities and encouragement this church and its music team have given me to create and share music. Thank you.

Leanne Macdonnell

Plan Now for October UUFO

UUFO-Unitarian and Friends Outing--Fri. Oct. 10. 2008--"POPS Goes to the Movies" at the Barn in Lvrmr. -Featuring the Livermore-Amador Symphony, vocal soloists including 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. Pay Marion later (\$20.00 per seat.) You are asked to bring food as in potluck, and serving utensils. DO NOT bring beverages. Beverages are on sale. Plates, napkins and flatware will be provided. Costumes in keeping with the theme are much appreciated. Doors open at 7:00. Concert starts at 8:00p.m. Questions? See Marion or call her at 443-5182.



Where They Are Now. . . UU Style

Former Minister Moves to Columbus, OH

Rev. Eric Meter, our minister from 1997 to 2007 will be moving from Rochester, New York where he has been the Interim at the First Universalist Church, to Columbus Ohio's First UU Church, as their Consulting Assistant Minister. He'll be working with Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister, who many of us know from his long ministry in Hayward.

News of Former Intern Minister

Sonya Sukalski finished as UUCiL's Intern Minister in June of 2007. She went on to do hospice chaplaincy part time with Vitas Hospice based in Newark from October 2007-March 2008. This was her final requirement to complete for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She saw the MFC in Chicago in March, and received a "1" which admitted her to preliminary fellowship with the UUA.

An opportunity arose to fill in for a colleague on sabbatical, so Sonya has worked part time at the First Unitarian Church in San Jose on Religious Education from January 2008-June 2008. She has enjoyed working with the parent's group who meet while their middle schoolers attend Our Whole Lives (OWL - Sexuality curriculum), as well as leading worship, teaching a UU Intensive (adult history and theology course), working with the youth group, and visiting neighboring faiths with the 5th graders. In the future Sonya plans to be a chaplain for the Western UU Karmic Youth camp (WUUKY) in Mendocino, as well as joining the UU Legislative Ministry's Young Adult Water Justice Tour (August 1st-10th). She will be in search for a job combining her interests in parish ministry, adult education, and advocacy for social justice issues of our time, in the coming year.

Over the summer, she'll be celebrating her 20th

anniversary and enjoying some camping trips with her family. She sends her thanks to UUCiL for serving as her teaching congregation, particularly her Interim Committee; Beth Dowling, John Lemieux, Wendy Mason, Mike Ong, Jane Staehle, & of course, Rev. Eric.

Carolyn Sends a Five-Fold Thank You

I want to thank you all for your generosity and your caring. Your gifts to me have been many and I am grateful. You have been a delightful congregation to serve during this exciting transition year. While I will no longer be at services, know that I am thinking of all of you as you continue your journey. The coming year holds much promise for you as you welcome and work with Alicia. Enjoy your time together. It is important to the process of including your new Interim that you work in deep partnership with her as your minister for this pivotal year. For that reason, I will be following our UU Ministerial Guidelines and will not be available for any ministerial duties after June 30.

During the next couple of weeks I'll be finishing up a few behind the scenes projects, then turning my attention to moving. I will be holding you all in my heart and cheering for your Search Team.

Again, thank you for your generous gift toward my retirement fund and all the beautiful notes you gave me tucked into a very classy leather bound book. Many thanks to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class who created splendid hangings for me using symbols from the world's religions. Perhaps your biggest gift to me, however, is the deepening, the enthusiasm, and the care you have lavished on your beloved community.

Keep up the good work! You deserve it.

Carolyn

Your Former Temp

Things to Do This Month

UUCiL Men's Group July 10 & 24, at 7:00 pm

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.

Minds on Fire SUMMER HIATUS

We're taking the summer off as we have for many years. We'll start up again in September with a special Minds on Fire pot-luck at the home of Shelley Covey, 1010 Lynn Street, Livermore. We meet Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30, and will have our conversation over dinner. This event is open to all who are interested, so if you have ever come to a Minds on Fire discussion, or if you just want to check us out for the first time, we hope to see you. For more information or directions, call or email Shelley Covey, 449-4669, shelcovey@comcast.net.

Book Group

Book Group will skip July, August and September and meet again the first Sunday in October (the 5th.) Most of us will be gone one or more of the months, then in September we have Labor of Love on the first Sunday. We have decided we like having a book we all read and discuss every once in a while, as we did with *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

We hope all will read great books this summer and tell us about them at our meetings next fall. Hildy Pehrson and Alyce Rossow.

Shawl Ministry

July 16, at 7:00 p.m.

July 22, 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.

Get Involved!
Get Involved!



New Newsletter Deadline

We're going to try a new deadline for UUCiL members to submit articles to our newsletter: **the 3rd Sunday of each month** is the date and the address to send contributions to is shoemaker4@llnl.gov. Hope to hear from you!

July						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
30 10:30 am <i>The Changing Face of Christianity</i>	31 8:00 pm YAG	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Program Council 10:30 <i>Religious Impasse</i> Rev. Barbara Meyers, Service Leader	7 8:00 pm YAG	8 9:45 am Caring and Concerns 6:30 pm UUCIL Board Mtg	9 1:00 pm Membership Committee	10 7:00 pm Men's Group	11	12 9:00 am e-Waste Recycling 9:30 am RE Committee
13 9:00 am Program Council 10:30 <i>Suji Dance</i> SierraLynne, Service Leader	14 8:00 pm YAG	15	16 7:00 pm Shawl Ministry	17 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	18	19
20 10:30 <i>Growing Up Sikh</i> Paul Singh, Service Leader 11:30 am Pot Luck Newsletter Input DUE	21 8:00 pm YAG	22 12:00 pm Shawl Ministry	23	24 7:00 pm Men's Group	25	26
27 10:30 <i>The Life Impact of a Mystical Experience</i> Dr. Allan Shaw, Service Leader,	28 8:00 pm YAG	29	30	31	1	2



Summer Work Party Extravaganza

Saturday, July 12

8:00 a.m. to noon.



*Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore
1893 N. Vasco Road
Livermore, CA 94551-9793
925.447.8747 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
Welcoming 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*