



# Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 13, Number 5

May 2008

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

**10:30 am**

## What's Happening at UUCiL

### May Sundays:

*Young Singers Choir Rehearsal*

May 14, 21, 28

*Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality*

May 3:

*RE Comm Mtg.*

*Adult Choir Rehearsal*

*Worship Associates*

May 4:

*Stewardship Sunday Celebration*

May 8 & 22:

*Men's Group*

May 7:

*Minds on Fire*

May 10:

*UUCiL Rummage Sale*

May 11:

*Program Council*

*UUCiL Band*

*Book Group*

May 13:

*Caring & Concerns Comm.*

*Board of Trustees Mtg.*

May 15:

*Finance Committee Mtg.*

May 18:

*Committee Fair*

May 20:

*Membership Comm. Mtg.*

*Newsletter Deadline*

May 21:

*PM Shawl Ministry*

May 27:

*Noon Shawl Ministry*



## May 4<sup>th</sup> - Celebration Sunday

We gather today to celebrate our religious community. There'll be special music, lots of singing, time to consider and make your yearly pledges so that we can "Light Up Our Dreams" for the exciting year ahead and, of course, some surprises!

Come Celebrate with Rev. Colbert, adult Choirs, Joe Bonfiglio on clarinet, Linda Bissum on drums, Wendy Mason and Pat Mielke on piano, the Stewardship Team; and stay for the All-Church Brunch, with special activities for our kids. All are welcome.

*See the special flyer inside this newsletter for more information.*



### May 11 **Mama, Mommy, Mother, Mom**

*Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister*

*The UUCiL Choir*

*The Children's Choir*

*Wendy Mason, Accompanist*

Story for All Ages and a Naming and Dedication Ceremony for infants and young children. See article on pg. 2 for information.

"All human life on the planet," writes poet Adrienne Rich, "is born of a woman. The one unifying, incontrovertible experience shared by all women and all men is that months long period we spent unfolding inside a woman's body." Then we began a lifelong, complicated relationship with that woman. We carry the imprint of that relationship all our lives.

### May 18

### **The Almost Church**

*Rev. Carolyn Colbert, Interim Minister*

*The Children's Choir,*

*Wendy Mason and Pat Mielke, Accompanists*

In defiance of conventional wisdom, since my time with you, and this Interim Year, is ending very soon, I want to talk with you about some things that may prod, upend, upset, inspire, and instigate some ideas for you to ponder. Those of you who care about the future of Unitarian Universalism and particularly the future of your congregation, may want to hear what I want to tell you.

### May 25 **But What About the Catcher?**

*Adele Irvin & Jane Staehle Presenters*

*Pat Mielke, Accompanist*

*Lena & Taylor Lane, Special Music*

*Art Langborst remembers WWII*

A Sunday Services Program. Last fall, Rev. Carolyn Colbert gave a sermon titled, "If You Fall, Who Will Catch You?" This morning we'll explore the do-good/feel-good connection, biological altruism, and the catcher's role.

## UUCiL Staff

*Interim Minister: Rev Carolyn Colbert Administrator: Renness Tomley*

*Director of Religious Education: Richard Partida*

*Choir Director: Dee Wood Newsletter Editor: Desty Shoemaker*

The UUCiL Newsletter is published 11 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to ensure inclusion in the next month's edition.

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

Celebration Sunday is about what you are growing here in this valley. What you are growing here deserves your joyful, generous support. This liberal, positive, realistic, exciting religious vision needs to be strong and expansive and available to more and more people. This vital, growing congregation deserves the best you have to give it. Period. Celebration Sunday is your chance.

When you walk through our front doors bringing your hopes and dreams, your longing for a place to send down roots, you are drawing on years of tending by people who came before you. People who lavished their love and their care that you might be here feeding your souls and, in your own time, returning nourishment that will ensure season after season of new growth for those who would interweave their lives with yours.

New babies, young children, arrive in the arms of their parents to be welcomed and cherished and supported to grow their spirits deep and strong and true so that someday they can fling themselves into the world in showers of brilliant light and color.

How could there be any hesitation? It is clear that everything depends on our giving. That *everything* includes the spiritual lift that comes from generosity. Celebration Sunday is a chance to really enjoy giving. When you come to church on May 4th, come prepared to make your pledge as generous as possible. Talk it over with your family, your partner, and your own heart before you come.

Consider how you will make the life of this church bloom into a new year of growth. Know that your generosity makes all we do here in this place of hope and healing, justice and joy, possible.

Enjoy the Celebration Brunch. Enjoy seeing our kids participating in a special activity called "Planting Our Future, Leaving Our Footprints." (Didn't I tell you there'd be surprises?) Enjoy being with your community and sharing in the mutual joy of supporting it. Linger after the delicious brunch to whoop and holler and applaud as you hear how your gift, combined with so many others, has become so much larger.

Wander around our gardens, in full bloom right now. Check out the bearded Iris in the Memorial Garden, the roses out front, the bright geraniums and the tumbling climbing rose hidden behind the Founder's building before you help clean up -- that's just karmically correct -- and head for home feeling pleased with yourselves for all you have and all you offer to

each other and the world.

If you can't be here on May 4th, not to worry, you'll receive an invitation in the mail to be part of all the good feelings. We'll send you your pledge card and you can mail it back to the church and you'll know you've added your blessings to the future of your religious home.

See you in church,  
Carolyn, Your Temp

### ***Child Dedication Ceremony – May 11<sup>th</sup>***

In Unitarian Universalism, the naming and dedication of infants and young children celebrates and welcomes each child into our religious community. It recognizes the whole congregation's commitment to the ongoing religious formation of our children and our support for the important work of parenting. It is a lovely ceremony that includes naming the child, and affirming the hopes parents have for their child. The child is symbolically blessed with earth, air, fire and water. The water used is what was brought from all over the world when we returned from our travels in the fall of each year. Each child receives a plant as a symbol of their future growing. If you are a member who would like more information about this UU version of a christening, or if you would like to have your child/children included, please call Rev. Colbert for more information. Try her first at her home number: 371-8925 or leave a message at the church office: 447-8747, *no later than Tuesday, May 13.*

### ***Doctors of Durability Honored***

On April 20<sup>th</sup> ten members of UUCiL were honored as Doctors of Durability. They are only some of our long term members who have, over many decades, contributed their talents, their time, their loyalty and their wisdom. They deserve a great deal more than a few minutes of appreciation and a nice certificate. It is my hope that their true reward is their deep satisfaction in seeing their beloved community continue to grow and to flourish.

Our Doctors of Durability are:  
Khabira & Chuck Hartwig, Susan & Brian Mayall, Claire Nelson, Jane Staehle, Alyce & Terry Rossow, and Marion & Bob Stearns.

Because they wanted a strong liberal voice in the Tri Valley, we are here now, ready to go on welcoming the many people who are also looking for a place to grow their souls, raise their families, and channel their need to serve. When you see our "Docs", let them know how much they are appreciated!

### **Stewardship Moment**

*This testimonial is from Kathy whose daughters, Taylor (18, now at Harvard) and Lena (15), have been part of our RE program.*

The process of becoming a UU has taken years, but I knew I was in the right place from the beginning. After the birth of our daughters I felt that we needed a community in which to raise them and a faith tradition that would foster their and our spiritual growth; and if nothing else, give them a tradition to diverge from, build on or question in their future lives. To not have this seemed like a form of impoverishment. Where but in a church do you celebrate the births, honor the dead, tend to the sick?

An additional reason for me was the life I lead because of the work I do. As an artist, free-lance illustrator, I worked alone in a studio all day. The people I shared a society with tended to pooh-pooh organized religion and indeed, spiritual faith, as some sort of trap that less worthy minds fall prey to. The atheist, nihilist, cynic was not part of my world view. So by joining the UU world I was in excellent company: a society of thinkers, doers, givers, creatives of all stripes. A place of sharing and laughter. A place where it's cool to care.

Now we can look at our grown children and marvel at their confident sense of themselves as UUs. A world view they can live by and a faith worth believing. Me? I'm still working on it but enjoying every minute.

-Katherine Mahoney

### **Stewardship Moment**

*This testimonial from Maureen is on why she is a UU member: Place, People and Philosophy*

I had a connection with the UUCiL long before I became a member. I was part of the local National Organization for Women Chapter and several of my feminist sisters belonged to the church. One, Claire Nelson, suggested that my partner and I use the church for our wedding in 1997 when I was looking for a venue that would be accepting of same-gender couple festivities. The church grounds were a welcoming place for us that day.

When the church wanted to take the steps to become an official Welcoming Congregation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, Claire invited me to join the task force. Although I didn't attend the church, she thought it would be important to have members of the LGBT

community involved. I stayed on the task force for more than a year.

I realized that, as a non-member, I would not be able to vote for the church to become a Welcoming Congregation. I liked the people I had been working with on the task force and it was the first time I had ever felt comfortable at a church, so I decided to become a member. I explained to Eric, the then minister of UUCiL, that I had survived Catholicism and not to expect me to be there every Sunday! He laughed and now I realize it showed how much I still had to learn about being a UU.

Now that I have been a member for a few years, I am beginning to understand UU philosophy and spirituality, and how it fits and augments my own believe system. I have served on some committees, worked on projects and attended some very good workshops. I have met some great people.

So I came to the church first because of the place itself, joined because of the people and have stayed because of them and the philosophy. Above all, I am still learning and seeking. This is a good place to do that.

-Maureen Hamm

### **4 Spirit of Life Workshops Coming in May**

We are continuing our exploration of various approaches to Unitarian Universalist spirituality based on each line of the hymn, *Spirit of Life*, written by Carolyn McDade. There are four Wednesday evening workshops left before we conclude this popular series led by Rev. Colbert. The group meets from 7 to 9 in the church sanctuary. New people are still welcome to join the group. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for all three sessions to cover the cost of materials. Childcare is available if you call the office at 447-8747 to request it by the Tuesday before the sessions you are coming to.

**The upcoming workshop themes and dates are:**

**April 30, Move in the Hand;**

*Living Our Spirituality in Our Everyday Lives*

**May 14, Giving Life the Shape of Justice;**

*Loving Your Neighbor & Yourself.*

**May 21, Roots Hold Me Close;**

*Teachers, & Spiritual Formation*

**May 28, Wings Set Me Free;**

*Hopes, Dreams, & Expanding Vision*

**President's Report****May 2008**

As most of you know, we are forming another ministerial search committee for the 08-09 search for a settled minister. This search committee will work with the congregation to find the best candidate possible. The 07-08 search committee did excellent work and I am so pleased that 5 out of the 7 people on that committee have chosen to continue if the congregation blesses this. Members will have a chance to vote on this slate at the June 1st congregational meeting along with new candidates for the board, nominating committee and audit committee, which will be announced later this month.

In the meantime, the fine team of Monty Herr, Alyce Rossow and Elona Pertica are serving as your interim search committee. They have requested the Board's input on UUCiL's goals for the interim year. We told them that we wanted an interim minister to maintain, and build upon the strong Sunday Services, provide important assistance to Children's RE, and sustain the enthusiasm by partnering with the Church in Shared Ministry and church leadership. We also stated that we wanted pastoral care sustained, including expanding the Adult RE program to help ensure that there is continued spiritual growth and inner development.

May 4 will be Celebration Sunday. As is detailed in other parts of the newsletter, we will use this Sunday to celebrate our community during the church service and afterwards with a FREE picnic brunch. This is your chance to fully commit a percentage of your monetary resources to UUCiL. I know how much this church means to me and am looking to increase my own pledge in a significant way. I hope those of you who are able will do the same. There are some exciting programs we'd like to start and/or broaden, such as paying our employees fair compensation, expanding both our children's and adult religious education programs, and continuing the search for a settled minister. The sky's the limit...we can light up the future if we only dream!!

As always, let me know your questions and concerns.

Warmly,  
Janice Paquette, President,  
Board of Trustees

**Learning is the best of all wealth; it is easy to carry, thieves cannot steal it and tyrants cannot seize it.; neither fire nor water can destroy it; and far from decreasing, it increases by giving.**  
*The Naladiyar*

**Religious Education Highlights**

We are currently looking for teachers for the Summer program. This 10-week summer program will cover 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 will run from June 22nd to August 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Rich Partida, Director of religious Education.

**May 4**

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

*Primary Grades: As our fall semester comes to a close, we look back at the religions that were studied this school year.*

*Middle School: End of semester World Religious review.*

*High School: Sign Project: Continued work on community service Sign project.*

**May 11**

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

*Primary School: World Religion Review*

*Middle School: World Religion Review*

*High School: Continued work on community service Sign project.*

**May 18**

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

*Primary School: World Religion Review*

*Middle School: World Religion Review*

*High School: Continued work on community service Sign project.*

**May 25**

*Childcare: Story Time, Craft time today.*

*Primary School: World Religion Review*

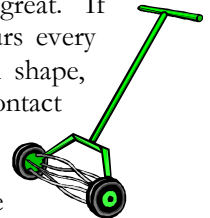
*Middle School: World Religion Review*

*High School: Continued work on community service Sign project.*

**Coming: Teacher Appreciation  
June 1st**

**Join the Mowing Team**

Spring is here, and the grass is growing. Unfortunately, it needs to be cut to keep UUCiL looking great. If you're willing to volunteer 1 to 1 1/2 hours every two or three months to help keep us in shape, consider joining the mowing team. Contact Building and Grounds co-chairs, Bob Breckenridge at 925-461-3374 or Maureen Hamm at 925-373-7325 for more information if you're interested in helping us.



***It's Time for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rummage Sale!***

When: Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>,  
8:00 am – 12 noon

Where: The Pedersen's  
3233 Gulfstream St., Pleasanton

What: Bring your donated treasures to be sold to the church or to the Pedersen's home.

Why: It's a great way to bring financial support for the church.

We will need helpers on Friday night and mainly on Saturday morning from 7:30 am to 10:00 am.

If you help you will get:

- Pre-shopping privileges
- Good Karma
- And our Sincere Thanks!



Please find the sign-up sheet located on the table in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please call Laura Pedersen at 426-9789.

***Choir to Hold 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retreat***

The UUCiL choir will meet on May 31 for a whole day of rehearsal, workshops and planning with clinician and workshop leader Elizabeth Emigh. The main focus will be toward improving vocal production individually and maintaining a balanced and blended ensemble sound.

Elizabeth has a Master's Degree in music from the San Francisco Conservatory. She teaches voice, is a High School choir director, and has performed extensively in the Bay Area.

All choir members are encouraged to attend and the afternoon sessions can be audited by non-choir personnel. See choir director, Dee Wood to confirm attendance.

Hold each moment sacred. Give each clarity and meaning, each the weight of your awareness, each its true and due fulfillment.

*Thomas Mann*

***UU Camping – August 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>***

We have reserved sites at Camp Shelly at Lake Tahoe for the weekend starting Friday, Aug 15, 2008. The campground belongs to the City of Livermore, is well maintained and has hot showers. The cost is \$25 per night, or \$50 for the two nights. The rangers are friendly and helpful, and they organize activities in the evenings like ice cream making and volleyball. Maybe the bears will visit us - oh no! On Saturday, most of us go out to Lake Angora for swimming, boat rowing and lunch. Children really enjoy the experience and talk about it for years. If you are interested in coming, please see Mike Ong, or call 784-8736 or e-mail at [mike.ong3@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ong3@gmail.com). Please make your commitment early.



***Women and Religion PCD Coming to UUCiL***

*Women & Religion PCD* meets Saturday, May 17, 10:30:30, Tot Green Room at UUCiL. All women of the church are invited!

Schedule for the day:

10:30 12:00 - Program: "Art Reflects Life." Bring an art object in any medium: visual, musical, written, that is especially meaningful to you.

12:00 - Pot luck lunch. Bring some food to share.

1:00 2:30 - Business discussion. Report on March retreat, future plans. Adjourn.

*Women & Religion PCD* is an affiliate organization of the UUA. Come and get acquainted with your sister PCD UUs! Questions? Call June Schaefer at 925-447-2356.

***Committee Meetings this Month***

There are many committees that meet regularly to do the work of this church. You are welcome to attend all regularly scheduled committee meetings. The meeting schedule for May is:

<i>RE Committee</i>	<i>May 3, 8:00 am</i>
<i>Program Council</i>	<i>May 11, 9:00 am</i>
<i>UUCiL Board of Trustees</i>	<i>May 13, 6:30 pm,</i>
<i>Finance Committee</i>	<i>May 15, 7 pm</i>
<i>Membership Committee</i>	<i>May 20, 1 pm</i>

## ***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). To add your event to our monthly list contact Desty Shoemaker, newsletter editor, at [shoemaker4@ltnl.gov](mailto:shoemaker4@ltnl.gov).

### ***UUCiL Men's Group***                      ***May 8 & 22, 7:30 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](mailto:craigbfish@comcast.net).

### ***Minds on Fire***                                      ***May 7, 7:00 pm***

Minds on Fire: Meets Wednesday, May 7, 7:00-8:30 pm at the home of Helen Meier.

*Minds on Fire* is an open group. We welcome new members. Please join us for these interesting discussions. For more information, please call Shelley Covey or send her an email at [shelcovey@comcast.net](mailto:shelcovey@comcast.net).

### ***UUCiL Band Practice***                      ***May 11 & 25, 12:00 pm***



The UUCiL Band meets twice a month for a jam session in the sanctuary. If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Bissum: [linda@bissum.com](mailto:linda@bissum.com).

### ***Book group***                                      ***May 11, at 12:00 pm***

in the Tot Green Room. Call Hildy Pehrson or Alyce Rossow if you have questions.

### ***Shawl Ministry,***                                      ***May 21, 7 pm,*** ***May 27, 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 usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Call Kim Rowe at 606-9531 if you have questions.



***Young Singers Rehearsal***                      ***Sundays 6:30 pm***  
For information, contact Leanne MacDonnell, director, at 961-9130 or Wendy Mason, co-director, at 443-0774.

## ***Starting a New Activity at UUCiL***

Are you interested in starting a new activity? If so, members of the Program Council (Board Vice President and existing committee chairs) have identified an intentional planning process that can assure your success. These steps can be applied to special interest groups, committees, task forces, and adult education classes whether they are one-time events or ongoing activities. The steps are as follows:

**Identify leader(s)** of the activity

**Define the group's purpose** –topic to be studied, tasks to be undertaken

**Identify timeframe** – ongoing, time limited, anticipated schedule (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday evening, every Saturday, etc.) - contact the office to check for calendar conflicts and to add something to the church calendar

**Identify space requirements** – check with the office to avoid conflicts with other established groups

**Remember to offer childcare so parents of young children can participate** – must be paid for by group planning this activity

**Identify costs and how those will be covered** – materials fee, contributions, budget request to Board for following year

**Identify how the new activity will be publicized** – newsletter, website, sign-up table, newspaper, UUCiL Sampler of Activities and Opportunities, flyer - check with the office for deadlines and who to contact

Contact Sunil Wijeyesekera, Vice President of the Board, to bring your ideas to the Program Council and benefit from the combined wisdom of other lay leaders. Program Council members may be able to identify synergies and potential pitfalls that can be helpful in launching a new activity. Note: Sunil will be returning from China mid-May and can be contacted at 426-8454.

## May

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
27 <b>PCD District Assembly, Fremont</b> 10:30 <i>The Paper Bag Princess Risks It All</i> , Rev. Colbert 12:00 pm Playground Task Force Mtg 6:30 pm Young Singers, Green Rm & Sanctuary	28	29	30 7:00 pm Spirit of Life: <i>Living Our Spirituality in our Daily Lives</i>	1	2	3 8:00 am RE Committee 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 12:00 pm Worship Associates
4 10:30 <i>Celebration Sunday</i> Rev. Colbert, Choir sings 12:00 pm Stewardship Sunday Celebration 6:30 pm Young Singers, Green Rm & Sanctuary	5	6	7 7:00 pm <i>Minds on Fire</i> , Helen Meier's	8 7:30 pm Men's Group	9	10 8:00 a.m. UUCiL Rummage Sale Jes and Laura Pedersen's
11 9:00 am Program Council 10:30 <i>Mommy, Mama, Mother, Mom</i> , Rev. Colbert, UUCiL and Youth Choirs sing 12:00 pm UUCiL Band Practice 12:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Young Singers, Green Rm & Sanctuary	12	13 9:45 am Caring & Concerns 6:30 pm UUCiL Board Meeting	14 7:00 pm Spirit of Life: <i>Loving Your Neighbor &amp; Yourself</i>	15 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	16	17 10:00 am Women and Religion Meeting
18 10:30 <i>The Almost Church</i> Rev. Colbert, Youth Choir sings 11:30 am Pot Luck Sunday 12:00 pm Committee Fair 6:30 pm Young Singers, Green Rm & Sanctuary	19	20 1:00 pm Membership Newsletter Input DUE	21 7:00 pm Spirit of Life: <i>Teachers &amp; Spiritual Formation</i> 7:00 pm Shawl Ministry	22 7:30 pm Men's Group	23	24
25 10:30 <i>A Sunday Services Program</i> 12:00 pm UUCiL Band Practice 6:30 pm Young Singers, Green Rm & Sanctuary	26	27 12:00 pm Shawl Ministry	28 7:00 pm Spirit of Life: <i>Hopes, Dreams &amp; Expanding Vision</i>	29	30	31 9:30 am Choir Retreat 12:00 pm Choir Retreat

You Are Invited To  
Light Up Our Dreams On  
**CELEBRATION SUNDAY**



May 4<sup>th</sup>  
Special Service at 10:30  
Followed by  
A Festive Brunch

Green Salad, Fruit Salad, Quiche, Mac & Cheese, Brownies  
& Ice Cream!

Plus Some Awesome  
Fun Activities for Kids



Make Your Reservations  
Just Sign Up at Church  
or Call the Church Office  
925-447-8747



Tell us how many adults & kids  
Are coming so we can plan

# Celebration Sunday May 4

**Make your Brunch  
Reservation Today**

**Call 447-8747  
and tell us how many  
adults and kids  
you are bringing**

**Service 10:30 am**

**Brunch at noon**



*Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore  
1893 N. Vasco Road  
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  
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)*