



# Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 14, Number 1

January 2009

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

**10:30 am**

## What's Happening at UUCiL?

### Mondays in January

Young Adult Group

January 3:

Choir Rehearsal

January 4:

Book Group

January 6:

Sunday Service Committee

January 7:

Minds on Fire

January 11:

Program Council

January 13:

Caring and Concerns Committee

UUCiL Board Meeting

Men's Group

January 15:

Finance Committee

January 17:

Building & Grounds Work Party

January 18:

Choir Rehearsal

Ministerial Search Committee

Pot Luck (S-Z)

RE Committee Meeting

January 20:

Membership Committee

Men's Group

January 21: *Shawl Ministry*

January 23:

Welcoming Committee Meeting

January 24:

Pacific Central District Conference

January 27:

Shawl Ministry

Men's Group

January 31:

Choir Rehearsal

Service Auction

January 4 **The Gift of Time**

Reverend Alicia McNary Forsey

UUCiL Choir

Wendy Mason, Accompanist

How do we understand time? Do we own our time, or does time run our lives?

January 11 **UU Initiative:**

**Health Care**

Betty Jean Reuters-Ward

Wendy Mason, Soloist

Pat Meilke, Accompanist

A Sunday Services Program.

January 18 **The Sphinx**

Reverend Alicia McNary Forsey

UUCiL Choir

Wendy Mason, Accompanist

There are ancient civilizations who built highly advanced monuments that leave us wondering to this day how they were constructed. The Sphinx, the Pyramids, the giant statues on Easter Island, and more leave us wondering about modern ideas of "progress" at the exclusion of what was accomplished thousands of years ago.

January 25

**UU Women Achievements**

Pat Mielke, Accompanist

A Sunday with Rev. and Rev. Nada in Dialogue. Note: This is not an intergenerational service.

## Greetings from Reverend Alicia

During my brief time here at UUCiL, I have noticed (among other things) that there seem to be a number of busy people. Planning a meeting is extremely difficult if you want everyone on a committee or an ad hoc group to show up. Some are set for the same time every month & are generally well-attended, but adding any activity to the schedule is a stretch.

This isn't uncommon, but I think it's more noticeable in this church because, aside from a regularly scheduled meeting & Sunday mornings, the building is empty – Rennie, our office administrator, works about half time; Nada, our Acting Director of Religious Education, works

*Continued on page 2*

## UUCiL Staff

Interim Minister: Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey

Administrator: Renness Tomley

Director of Religious Education: Nada Velimirovic

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](mailto: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.

## **Greetings ...continued**

one full day here plus Sundays; & I am at the church 3 afternoons & 2 evenings a week plus Sundays & attendance at various meetings.

Being alone in the building for several hours feels strange. I'm accustomed to people coming & going day & night. While several UUCiL meetings do meet at the church, the space here could be used a lot more. If your group needs something that isn't at the church in order to make meetings work, or to be more comfortable, please let me know & I will pass your input on to the Board.

I urge any groups that meet regularly off-site to consider making use of the church whenever possible. On Monday, Tuesday & other weekdays after 2:00 the office is usually available, and offers a nice oval table for a group meeting. Just ask Rennie to put your group on the calendar. The sanctuary is almost always empty, the Tot Green Room is available, & there are other spaces too.

New members who may be interested in joining a committee will be more likely to do so if they know meetings are at the church. The church is our home base – the place where we all know we can find our way. UUCiL belongs to everybody equally, & lively participation throughout the week makes for a more vital church community.

My understanding is that UUCiL is still paying off loans for the building. All the more reason to make the most use of it!

Sure, meet off-site when you feel that is appropriate, but if you aren't meeting at the

church because you need something that isn't presently available, or for any other reason that can be addressed, please let me know – or pass your concerns on to the Board. I think UUCiL is on a beautiful site. If you have ideas for what it would take to draw everybody here like a magnet, let me know! If you came here for a meeting & other activities were taking place at the same time, the sense of community would be enhanced. My last congregation was so active that I could meeting-hop, & that is how I got to know most of the congregation, though they were about twice the size of UUCiL. There are members at UUCiL I have never met, which is partly my fault, but also due to the off-site activities.

Perhaps it doesn't seem very important that an Interim Minister meet everyone, but your new Settled Minister is going to want to get to know you all, & that is definitely important. As it is now, your new minister will need to leave the church to find everybody. The homes I've visited for various meetings are lovely, & the host/hostess has always been more than gracious. And I have been a guest in someone else's home. If I was your Settled Minister, UUCiL would be my home, & I would be the one to welcome you with graciousness. If there were any disagreements among committee members, we would be on neutral turf if we met at the church.

I would love to see UUCiL's parking lot being utilized more often, & if the building could talk, it would say the same, I know.

- Reverend Forsey

## **Ministerial Search Committee Report**

In December, the Search Committee continued to exchange informational packets with ministers and to hold phone conversations via a phone bridge with those who seemed most likely to fit our congregation. The phone bridge allowed all of us to ask questions and to hear the ministers' responses at the same time.

January brings us to a particularly exciting part of the job: hearing our pre-candidating choices in neutral pulpits, i.e., UU pulpits other than our own. Why not just bring the speakers to UUCiL and let everyone hear them? Here's an excerpt from the *UUA Ministerial Settlement Handbook* that tells why.

“Confidentiality is not secrecy. The committee must publicize the process it is following and how far along it is at every point. At the same time, the committee must keep confidential both the names and the locations of the ministers under consideration and the details of committee business. There are several reasons for the rule of confidentiality:

“Ministers settled in a congregation may not have told their present parishioners that they are contemplating a move. These parishioners are entitled to hear the news from their own minister at the appropriate time. To “leak” a minister’s name can undermine his or her ability to serve the present congregation, and will almost certainly damage a committee's chances of attracting that potential candidate.

“When the identities of unsuccessful applicants are known, it heightens the competitive aspect of the search process.

This hurts collegial feeling among ministers and (when neighboring congregations compete for the same minister) also can create hard feelings among congregations.

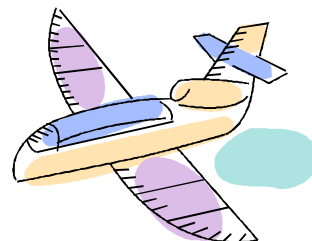
“It is harder to resolve differences among the members of a search committee when factions of the congregation are looking over its shoulders. It is better to resolve differences in private.”

For questions about the ministerial search, contact any committee member: Eric Serdahl, Chair, or Chilli Barlow, Linda Bissum, Joan Dickinson, Chuck Hartwig, Keith Mielke, or Jane Staehle.

### **Flyer Miles Out There???**

The Ministerial Search Committee is now at the stage of hosting potential candidates for a whole weekend. This will allow us to hear them preach in a neutral pulpit and carry out more extensive conversations so that we can discern the best match for our church. In several cases this means flying the candidate out from other parts of the country.

The MSC would appreciate it if anyone in the congregation had frequent flyer miles to donate for this purpose. Please email Eric Serdahl ([drserdahl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drserdahl@sbcglobal.net)) if you can help. Thank you in advance for your generous response.



## ***RE Highlights***

I hope this New Year has begun well for you. My focus this month with you with your children, youth, teachers, and other R.E. volunteers will be "Sorting Our Priorities." As I have plunged into the life of this congregation, the numbers of folks who care about and share their time with the children and youth increasingly impresses me. The lists of projects and programs are a bit dizzying.

Therefore, I am very much looking forward to our Religious Education Committee Meeting on Sunday, January 18 at 12:15. (We chose the time so that we can all partake of the potluck before our gathering!) This meeting is open to all: it is a time for newly curious and long-time volunteers to sit down together and really look at the plans and programs for the coming months and sort out our priorities together. I hope that this gathering can also begin to outline formative ideas for future plans as well. Right now, the priority is on making the most of our spring together.

Please contact me if you have ideas but cannot make the meeting. If you need childcare in order to attend, please let me know via e-mail ([nadavel@yahoo.com](mailto:nadavel@yahoo.com)) by January 14.

With gratitude for all that you do,

Nada

Reverend Nada Velimirović  
Acting Director of Religious Education  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Livermore  
[nadavel@yahoo.com](mailto:nadavel@yahoo.com)

P.S.: If you missed the honor roll of R.E. TEACHERS on December 21, look for its posting on a sanctuary wall near you. Moreover, if you are a TEACHER who did not yet receive your holiday treat, please find me to collect it!



Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us hovering, averting their eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.

*Garrison Keillor*



## ***Adult Religious Education Classes***

The week of January 26, we will start the New Year with learning more about Unitarian and Universalist history! You'll get to know members you may not know well, through an ongoing thread of conversation in this online, skillfully planned course. It's the first of its kind, with improvements made every year over ten years.

Used as a course credit at two seminaries, you'll have the opportunity to study at the level you are most comfortable, with an entire week for each unit. Check out a demonstration unit (Transcendentalism) on Reverend Alicia's website: [www.pacificuu.org/fore](http://www.pacificuu.org/fore).

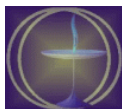
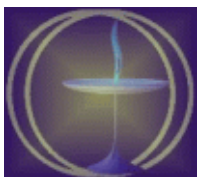
There are a few requests made of you prior to officially joining the class. You'll be notified of these via e-mail if you have indicated your interest in taking the course. If you're interested, but haven't filled out a green Adult Religious Education form on the sign-up table, **please do so before January 19<sup>th</sup>**.



The *Building Your Own Theology* course will begin early in April. There was not enough interest in the other offerings (*Evensong or Dream Work*) to make up a class, but those of you who signed up might be interested in switching to *Building Your Own Theology*.

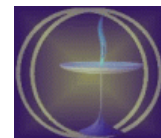


Save Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> for a sermon followed by a workshop with internationally well-known dreamworker Jeremy Taylor, pioneer in the field, author of several books and Unitarian Universalist minister. There's a possibility that a short course in dreamwork will be offered after April 26<sup>th</sup> if there is increased interest after meeting Dr. Taylor.



The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed.

*Albert Einstein*



## COMBATTING CABIN FEVER

### Winter Work Party Date Set

There will be a Buildings and Grounds Winter Work Party on Saturday, January 17 from 8:00 AM to noon. Lunch will be provided. Bring a hat & gloves.

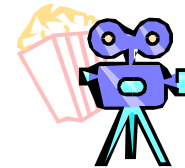
Contact Bob Breckenridge, at [bbrecken@hotmail.com](mailto:bbrecken@hotmail.com), to add items to the list.



### Film Night at UUCiL

The Bible has been used to condemn gay, lesbian & transgender people, but what does it really say? The Welcoming Congregation Committee will show the award-winning film, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, which shows the experiences of 5 Christian families as they handle the realization that their child is gay or lesbian. The film will be shown on Friday, January 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at UUCiL in the Tot Green Room.

It will be preceded by the short comedy film, *Gaydar*. Popcorn will be provided. Contact Maureen Hamm (925-373-7325) for more information.



### Service Auction – January 31, 2009

It is time to be thinking of our annual Service Auction. Please offer a special skill or service for the Auction. There are many members in need of handyman work, yard work, trips to the airport, or just a night out for a meal or a game, or both. Young families may be in need of childcare for a night or weekend. Use your imagination and offer a helpful or fun activity. Or, if you are in need of a service, please let us know so that we can try to obtain that service for you. Also, your help in staging this event would be appreciated. (Call Joan Dickinson.)



Plan to attend and bid for a service(s.) We will have a complimentary dinner with wine (donations accepted) starting at 6:00 pm and the auction at 7:00 pm.

Reminder: If you haven't fulfilled your last year's obligation, please try to complete your service before January 31<sup>st</sup>.

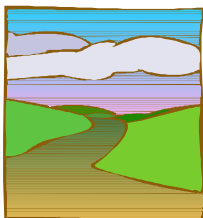
## ***UUCiL Music Committee Survey Coming Soon***

The Music Committee would like to announce that a survey regarding the music program at UUCiL will be posted on-line around mid-January. This survey will give UUCiL members and friends an opportunity to provide the Committee with valuable feedback. Please watch your e-mail inbox for a message with a link to the survey; take a few minutes to answer the questions; and provide us with your personal opinions about music at UUCiL. The survey will also be available by request as a hard copy, for those without Internet access.

*Cyndy Salmon,  
UUCiL Music Committee Chair*

## ***Remembering Michael Read***

Michael Read, husband of Mary Kulla and father to Ben and Adam, took his life on December 13th of last year. The Read family joined UUCiL in November, 2007, and Michael was a teacher in the K-2 RE class where Ben participates. Adam also attends RE in the day care. Michael will be missed by all who knew him, and the family greatly appreciates the support given thus far by our church community. Please join us in continuing this support over the coming months as the family copes with this tragedy. You can provide financial support by donating to the Valley Montessori School in Ben and Adam's name to help with their tuition. The address is 1273 North Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA 94551.



## ***"GENERATIONS OF WOMEN, Past, Present and Future" March 6 – 8, 2009***

The Annual Spring Retreat sponsored by Women and Religion - PCD UUA (Pacific Central District of the Unitarian Universalist Association) is being held Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, March 6-8, 2009 at Enchanted Hills Camp, Napa, CA. (Enchanted Hills Camp stipulates that the retreat is open to those who are 18 years or older.)

There will be workshops, large group gatherings, small affinity circles and shared worship, all of which will be provided by retreat participants. There will be time for solitude, meditation, singing, dancing, yoga, tai chi, games, a boutique, book swap, silent auction, and more! Participation in all activities is voluntary.

Sleeping accommodations are in heated cabins and rooms in the lodge that sleep 2 to 4 per room. The registrar will take your special needs into account when assigning rooms. Bedding is provided. Staff will provide a varied menu of homemade healthy family-style meals. Early bird cost by Feb. 2 is \$230; otherwise \$250.

Special food needs can be accommodated if requested in advance. Onsite transportation will be available for those who need help up and down the hill. To learn more, check out <http://www.uccr.org/ehc.htm>.

Questions? Call Jean Nickell (925-977-1652) or e-mail [nejaros@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nejaros@sbcglobal.net) for a registration form.

## **ASILOMAR AWAITS**

### ***NCUUCC (formerly PCD) SPRING THING AT ASILOMAR (April 17 - April 19, 2009)***



Come to a weekend in the beautiful seaside setting of the Asilomar Conference Grounds on the tip of the Monterey Peninsula. It is a relatively unstructured gathering of about 40 UUs and friends. The days are free for your own activities, exploring the Monterey area, with conversation and games in a friendly atmosphere in the evenings. Cost is \$230 per person, double occupancy, for 3 days / 2 nights, 6 meals, maid service, and use of the Asilomar amenities, including jitney service. Children (3-17 yrs.) - \$170, under 3 yrs. - free. Registration deadline is January 12, 2009. Contact Registrar Ursula Gobets for a registration form at 408-739-2787, 1155 Tucson Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089, e-mail: [augobets@pacbell.net](mailto:augobets@pacbell.net). You can also call Kathi or Murray Bullis at 925-829-4419 for more information.

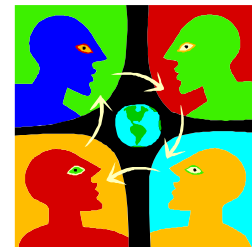
### ***Stebbins at Asilomar 2009***

### ***LET'S CELEBRATE!***

***Sunday, July 26 – Friday, July 31, 2009***

2009 will celebrate many decades of wonderful Unitarian Universalist Summer Conferences at Asilomar. All good things must come to an end and Stebbins has been unable to attract and keep enough younger leadership to continue meeting. This will be the last planned Stebbins and we want to spend time to honor long-time attendees and remember wonderful times together while still providing another great program for new people.

They only have rooms for 70 people. If you want to guarantee your space, please complete the pre-registration form available in the church office or on the web at [www.serve.com/stebbins](http://www.serve.com/stebbins) and return with your \$100 deposit. More information on the program is also available on the website, or you can call Kathi or Murray Bullis at 925-829-4419 for more information.



## Office Hours

If you would like to meet with Rev. Forsey, please call or e-mail her at the office on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons, or Thursday between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to make an appointment. Her e-mail is [revalicia@sbcglogal.net](mailto:revalicia@sbcglogal.net). She is available for appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and after church on the Sundays she is at UUCiL. If you need an urgent appointment, another time can be arranged. Her local phone number is 925-292-0157.

Nada Velimirović's hours are Wednesday's from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment.

Office hours for Rennie Tomley, Office Administrator, are Wednesday through Friday, 9:00a.m. until 2:00p.m.

## Recycle Holiday Cards in January

There will be a box on the Sanctuary table for your cards. Chili Barlow and Marion Stearns will take them to Pleasanton schools for the students to use to make gift cards for next year.



Many of us look forward to the potluck after church on the third Sunday of the month. Everyone is welcome, and you are invited to join in the fun even if you are a newcomer or forget to bring a dish to share. Members and friends are reminded that the 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 by setting up tables and chairs, putting food on serving tables, putting plates, bowls, utensils and napkins out and restocking as needed, bringing dirty serving dishes to the kitchen, putting away tables and chairs, and cleaning up the kitchen.

January 18<sup>th</sup> potluck volunteers are people with last names of S-Z. Looking ahead, February 15 potluck volunteers will be people with last names of A-E. Of course, if it's not your month to volunteer and you have time to do so, please feel to help.

## Circle Dinners, 2009

New Circle Dinner groups will be forming in January. New participants are welcome! If you'd like to join in, please place your name on the sign-up sheet on the table in the Sanctuary. Anyone who is now in a group and would like to opt out of the next sessions, please let Kathy Mahoney know at [kth.mahoney@gmail.com](mailto:kth.mahoney@gmail.com)

## **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 [wendyjane@comcast.net](mailto:wendyjane@comcast.net) to be added to our mailing list so you can learn specific location details.

### **Book Group January 4 at noon**

Sunday, January 4, 2009, the Book Group will meet in the High School classroom at 12 noon. This will be our first whole group discussion this year on the book we have all read: *Water for Elephants*.

We welcome anyone to join us. Bring something for your own lunch or snack and your enthusiasm for this wonderful story.

*Hildy Pebrson and Alyce Rosson*



### **Minds on Fire**

**January 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

Minds on Fire will meet at the home of Helen Meier on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30. We are an open group and welcome newcomers. This small group meets monthly to discuss various topics regarding religion, spirituality, world affairs and current events. Call or email Shelley Covey: [shelcovey@comcast.net](mailto:shelcovey@comcast.net), for details and directions.

### **Men's Group**

**January 13 & 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

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

### **Shawl Ministry**

**January 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

**January 27 at noon**

Do you knit? Crochet? Do you want to learn? Come join us! In this group, we 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.



## **Newsletter Goes Green!**

The Newsletter is available online and a hard copy can also be picked up at the church. In an effort to become more green, we are limiting the mailing of the newsletter to just those people who did not pick up their December newsletter in the back of the sanctuary last month. If you are still receiving the newsletter via regular mail and would like to discontinue it, or if you would like to be added to the list of people who do receive the newsletter via regular mail each month, please contact Rennie by phone at 925-447-8747 or email [uucil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uucil@sbcglobal.net).



| <i>January</i>  |                   |   |                              |                                 |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Sunday</i>   | <i>Monday</i>     | <i>Tuesday</i>  | <i>Wednesday</i>             | <i>Thursday</i>                 | <i>Friday</i>                             | <i>Saturday</i>  |
| 28<br>10:30 <i>Beginnings and Endings</i><br>Sunday Services Committee  | 29<br>8:00 pm YAG | 30<br>12:00 pm Shawl Ministry   | 31                           | 1                               | 2   | 3<br>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal                               |
| 4<br>9:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal<br>10:30 <i>The Gift of Time</i><br>Reverend Alicia McNary Forsey<br>UUGIL Choir<br>12:00 pm Book Group   | 5<br>8:00 pm YAG  | 6<br>6:30 pm Sunday Services Committee  | 7<br>7:00 pm Minds on Fire   | 8                               | 9   | 10   |
| 11<br>9:00 am Program Council<br>10:30 <i>UU Initiative: Health Care</i><br>Betty Jane Reuters-Ward   | 12<br>8:00 pm YAG | 13<br>9:45 am Caring and Concerns<br>6:30 pm Board Meeting<br>7:30 pm Men's Group | 14                           | 15<br>7:00 pm Finance Committee | 16  | 17<br>Building and Grounds Work Party (8:00 am – 12:30 pm) |
| 18<br>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:30 <i>The Sphinx</i><br>Reverend Alicia McNary Forsey<br>UUGIL Choir<br>12:00 pm Ministerial Search Committee<br>12:00 pm Pot Luck (S-Z)<br>12:15 pm RE Committee | 19<br>8:00 pm YAG | 20<br>1:30 pm Membership Committee  | 21<br>7:00 pm Shawl Ministry | 22                              | 23<br>7:00 pm Welcoming Committee Meeting | 24<br>9:00 am Pacific Central District Conference          |
| 25<br>10:30 <i>UU Women Achievements</i><br>Rev. Nada and Rev. Alicia in Dialogue   | 26                | 27<br>12:00 pm Shawl Ministry<br>7:30 pm Men's Group                              | 28                           | 29                              | 30  | 31<br>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00 pm Service Auction   |

**SOLD!!!**

# ***SERVICE AUCTION***

**Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
6:00 p.m.**

**Childcare and pizza will be provided.**



*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)*