



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 15, Number 8

August 2010

Sunday Services, High School & Middle School Youth Group, & Children's Religious Education at 10:30 am

What's Happening at UUCiL?

Mondays in August

Young Adult Group

August 3:

Sunday Services Committee

August 4:

Shawl Ministry

August 8:

Program Council

August 10:

Board Meeting

Men's Group

August 12:

Caring and Concerns Committee

August 14:

Meditation Workshop

August 15:

Choir Practice

Potluck (all helpers)

August 19:

Finance Committee

Choir Practice

August 20:

Stargazers

July 24:

Shawl Ministry

Men's Group

August 28::

Mediation Workshop

UUCiL Staff

Minister: Reverend Lucas Hergert
(Office Hrs: W-F 10:00 a.m.—noon
& by appt.)

Director of Religious Education:
Reness Tomley

Administrator: Jennifer Neff

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

August 1

Sawing Down a Pillar: Emerson

Rev. Lucas Hergert, preaching

Dora O'Brien & Pat Mielke - Piano Soloists

Pat Mielke - Accompanist

Ralph Waldo Emerson is a thinker that all Unitarians have to wrestle with. Anti-social justice and anti-community, he exemplifies some of the worst excesses of contemporary American individualism. And he is also a profound theologian. Rev. Lucas will discuss the Emersonian pillars we should uphold, and those we need to saw down.

August 8

The After Life

Rev. Jane Ramsey

Chris Waltz - Celtic Soloist

Pat Mielke - Accompanist

Rev. Jane Ramsey felt called to ministry after retiring from a nursing career. She has a B.S.N., P.H.N and M. Div. She is a Community Minister affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley specializing in areas of aging and dying. Rev. Ramsey works as a hospice chaplain on a part time basis and leads Transitions: Aging & Beyond (a support group for elders at UUCB) & volunteers for Circle of Care, a community organization offering counseling to families with children who are facing the loss of a parent. She has a certificate in Grief & Loss from University of California Extension & is working on Certification in Thanatology from the Association of Death Educators & Counseling.

Sunday the 8th Rev. Ramsey will be talking about the Afterlife: Is there Life after death? Why do we even need to ask? Why do we care? What makes us think that given the entire universe, we as human beings living on this miniscule planet, get to continue our existence unfettered after our biological selves cease to function? These are some issues that arise and give us pause and will be the topic of this sermon.

August 15

Cherish Your Doubts

Keith Mielke

Dee Wood, Wendy Mason, Shelley Covey- Duets

Pat Mielke - Accompanist

This sermon is based on a sermon by Albuquerque, NM UU minister Reverend Christine Robinson, who says: "There are good reasons to be a doubter! About six good reasons and one theology."

August 22

Water Justice

Rev. Sonya Sukalski

Wendy Mason and Pat Mielke - Piano Duets

Pat Mielke - Accompanist

"Water is essential for life and holds spiritual meaning for many." Our former ministerial Intern speak on UU guiding principles as they pertain to water justice.

August 29

Imag(e)ining the Divine

Marcus Liefert

Leanne Macdonnell - Piano Soloist

Pat Mielke, Accompanist

There is a long history of controversy and strife in almost every religious tradition surrounding images of the divine. What is the role of the image and of the imagination in experiencing the holy? How has this controversy shown up in our own faith, and how might we use images and art to express and experience the divine more fully?

Marcus Liefert grew up in Berkeley attending the UU church in Oakland. His experiences of holy community as a youth and young adult in our tradition inspired him to pursue ministry by attending Starr King School, the Unitarian Universalist seminary in Berkeley. He brings a background in experiential education and experimental theater to his passion for nurturing and developing transformational spiritual communities.

**WATCH REV. LUCAS'
SERMONS ONLINE:**

www.uucil.net

Minister's Corner:**"What Is General Assembly"**

Every year thousands of Unitarian Universalists gather to decide the direction of our religious movement. The meeting is called General Assembly, and is held in a different city each year. At the yearly meetings we vote on important business, decide which items of conscience and concern to engage, take part in a social witness event, and attend workshops related to congregational growth and vitality.

This year the event was held in Minneapolis. I attended, along with Ron and Lois Dueltgen—our Board President and Social Justice Chair, respectively. There are a few highlights that stand out to me. First, the Minneapolis Pride Festival was happening the week that we were there. As our act of social witness, the delegates flooded out of the Minneapolis convention center to stand up for equal marriage. Thousands of Unitarian Universalists went to the festival, making us the largest faith community that day to bear witness to love and justice.

We also decided to make Immigration as a Moral Issue our next major denominational study. How can we best create more justice around immigration policies? What is the best direction for our country at this time? The General Assembly delegates decided that this issue deserves more attention by our congregations.

If you would like to learn more about the General Assembly, and what issues were being discussed, I encourage you to visit <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>. We will also be talking about GA in an upcoming service, so stay tuned!

Yours,
Rev. Lucas Hergert

**Ron's Report**

Board officers were elected at the July meeting: I will continue as President, per the Bylaws; Tim Bradley was elected Vice President & will have the important duty of chairing the Program Council; Julie O'Brien will serve a second year as Treasurer (with the heartfelt gratitude of all of us); & Charlie Bennett will continue as Secretary. The At-Large Board members are our alphabetical triplets: Maureen Hamm, Khabira Hartwig and Alicia Hengst (who will be providing assistance to Julie). I am honored to be serving with these hard-working, dedicated & savvy people.

The Finance Committee has been hard at work developing scenarios for dealing with the imminent maturity of the seven-year bonds issued to members to help finance the building campaign in 2003. These must be paid off by October 1, 2010. The Committee is discussing ways of handling the debt that are in keeping with our values & satisfy the Board's fiduciary responsibilities. This will be the subject of a congregational meeting in September; watch for that announcement as well as considerable information regarding the bonds from the Board.

I'm pleased to announce the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee, charged with developing recommendations to the Board during the coming year that will ensure long-term viability & growth of UUCiL. Areas of study include our Mission and Mission Statement; growth issues such as physical space & overcrowding; staffing; & financial health. Committee members are Brian Mayall, Jean Moran, Jes Pedersen, Joyce Taylor & Sunil Wijeyesekera. They will be seeking considerable congregational input, & look forward to your enthusiastic participation. We all appreciate the willingness of these folks to continue to serve our congregation.

BUT –it's the heart of the summer! Go camping, go fishing, ride your bikes, go swimming, barbeque something delicious. Enjoy it all, & don't forget there's a church service every Sunday for you to come back to for renewal & reconnection.

In peace and fellowship –
Ron

Religious Education News

For High School Group Members and Their Parents:

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP CHANGING FORMAT THIS FALL!

If you are a member of our High School Youth Group (9th-12th grade) or a parent, please take note: This year, following a Youth Advisor Training which many of us attended, we are going to try changing the format of the HS Youth Group from every Sunday to the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. We will also increase the group's meeting time from 1 hour to 2 hours.

We will have our traditional start-up sleepover on Saturday night, September 11th. Come prepared for a few changes this year! Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group will start up on Sunday September 12th at 10:30 and run until 12:30 that morning. Then, we will meet again, Sunday September 26th from 10:30 until 12:30.

We are looking for 4 members of the High School Youth Group who would be willing to serve on a Youth-Adult Committee. This group would meet with the Youth Advisors 1 to 2-times monthly to help plan for the group's activities, discussions and sessions. If you are interested in serving the group in this way, please email Rev. Lucas or Rennie.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 12th.

For 9th and 10th Graders and Their Parents:

Pacific Central District Coming of Age Program:

Parents of 9th and 10th Graders: The PCD is holding the Coming of Age Program this year and your 9th and 10th Graders are eligible to attend. Rev. Lucas and I will be hosting an informal informational meeting for youth and their parents. We would really like to send a group this year. This is a great process for our youth to take part in.

Come join us for food and discussion, Friday night August 27th at 7 PM at the church. The Coming of Age Program helps youth deepen their relationship with Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. It consists of 4 activities throughout the year and working with a mentor from our congregation during this time as well. We hope you'll be interested in your youth attending this year. For more information on the activities and when they are scheduled, please see the PCD calendar at pcd.uua.org. Please RSVP to Leslie Lemieux at ilmm@pacbell.net. Hope to see you then.

Book Review: Acts of Faith by Eboo Patel

By Sonya Sukalski, UULMCA Consulting Minister for Young Leaders Project

“What should I do if the church I go to doesn't interest my children?” In *Acts of Faith*, the founder of the Interfaith Youth Core explores both what keeps young people engage with their faith, as well as what could happen if progressives were as organized and well-funded as more fundamentalist faiths in engaging their youth. This is also a coming of age story where a young Muslim man discovers his family's liberal faith tradition of offering sanctuary after being sent by a Catholic priest to ask the Dalai Lama for his blessing. It is hands down the best way to find out what kind of stories and justice making engages Unitarian Universalist young adults – every person who has found this easy and engaging read has told me it is their favorite.

General Assembly Overview

A report from Lois Dueltgen

Things Learned From Workshops And Business Meetings

The **Standing on the Side of Love** campaign has been very effective in it's first year. Groups have been at rallies and demonstrations across the country supporting marriage equality, immigration reform, and health care reform. We are beginning to be known as the love people in the yellow shirts.

We, at UUCiL are **under-users** of the many resources available to us from the UUA.

The highly energized and growing UU communities are daring to **Live Boldly**.

Immigration as a Moral Issue was chosen as the Congregational Study/Action Item for the years 2010 – 2014. There will be many resources available to help us learn more about the issue and then advocate for change based on our principles and purposes.

GA Is About More Than Sitting In Meetings

Local Service Project – This year Hope Community in Minneapolis was the beneficiary.

People gave *time* doing painting and gardening and *money* to help with renovations and repairs to facilities.

Public Witness Event – This year nearly 1000 UU's (most in yellow shirts) walked together to the Minneapolis Pride Festival to join in the local Interfaith Public Witness Event to Stand on the Side of Love for Marriage Equality.

Celebration of Being Together – it is good to be with nearly 4000 UU's who share many interests and concerns. The opening celebration always starts with a banner parade where all attending congregations are represented – this year that meant 581 banners. After the parade these are hung around the Convention Center for the remainder of GA. Ron and Lucas carried our beautiful banner made by Chilli but unfortunately didn't make the video coverage.

Ware Lecture – Always a dynamic speaker who challenges our thinking.

This year it was Winona LaDuke, Native American activist, environmentalist, writer, former Green Party VP candidate and much more.

Daily Worship Services – Sunday morning service is open to the general public so there were well over 4000 people in the room.

Decision Made To Hold General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix

Some delegates thought we should boycott Arizona because of its new law that may allow racial profiling against immigrants. Others thought we should go but do visible public witness affirming the worth and dignity of every person. In the end, the delegates unanimously approved a resolution that calls for the 2012 GA to be held in Phoenix but for it to be a different kind of gathering – one focused on immigrant justice in everything we do there. Routine business of the UUA will be held to a minimum. Stay tuned for more details.

Web Addresses for Random GA Coverage

Event Coverage for General Assembly 2010

<http://uaa.org/events/generalassembly/2010/index.shtml>

Opening Celebration including Banner Parade:

<http://uaa.org/events/generalassembly/2010/ga2010/165845.shtml>

MN Secretary of State Mark Ritchie (local UU) welcoming GA Attendees to Minneapolis

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2JzakKlh6w>

MN Rep Keith Ellison (first Muslim in U.S. House of Representatives)

welcoming GA Attendees to Minneapolis

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUzYzKqMrl0>

MN Senator Al Franken welcoming GA Attendees and Talking About Religion:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsmUwYVuHMw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vt4w8v-4jA>

Immigration Reform as a Moral Issue:

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/168672.shtml>

Annual Pacific Central District Men's Retreat: Friday – Sunday, October 15 – 17

Come join UU men for a weekend of fun, kinship, workshops and more! Location: Westminster Retreat Center, Alamo (near Walnut Creek). Registration: www.pcd-uaa.org/ and click on link under "PCD Men's Retreat."

Contact: Gordon Smith pcdmensretreat@gmail.com or call 408-393-6182



Since summer month attendance tends to be less than usual, helpers for potluck on August 15th will be anyone who can assist. Helpers for September 19th will be those with last names beginning with S-Z.

If you would be interested in helping set up and put away tables & chairs, please call Kathi or Murray Bullis at 925-829-4419.

All religions, arts and sciences are
branches of the same tree.

Albert Einstein

UFO Spotted (on November Calendar)

For many years UUCiL has held a UFO -- OUTING for UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST AND FRIENDS--at our local Livermore-Amador Symphony Pops concerts. While these have been held at the BARN, this year will be different. TGIPOPS will be held on Friday, November 5, at the Cresta Blanca Room in the RLCC-Robert Livermore Community Center. 4444 East Avenue Doors open at 7:00 p.m, You may bring food ala potluck, but don't bring beverages. The Symphony Guild will be selling beverages. Concert will commence at 8:00 p.m. You will hear vocal and instrumental soloists, light symphonic music, all in a charming, delightful entertaining way. Tickets at \$30.00 each. or \$210.00 for eight. There will be a sign-up sheet in the main room of the church so you can indicate your interest in attending. Do not pay until after September 1st. Marion Stearns will accept checks made out to her so that she can then buy the proper number of tickets for our group sitting together.

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 & conversation nights. We take turns hosting YAG at our homes, so contact Wendy Mason at wendyjanemason@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list to learn specific location details.

Book Group on Hiatus until October

Minds on Fire on hiatus until September

See You in September

Annual Labor of Love Service

Sunday September 5th, 8am – noon

Rev. Lucas will lead a short service at 10:30.

This service will bring our community together for maintenance and beautification projects including but not limited to scrubbing, weeding, organizing things, repairs, construction and possibly painting. Our children will make stepping stones for our gardens.

There will be something for everyone.

Men's Group August 10 & 24 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.

Shawl Ministry August 4 at 7:00 p.m. August 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Do you knit? Crochet? Do you want to learn? Come join us! In this group, we work on projects for those in need of an extra dose of kindness. You can work on a shawl, chemo caps 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.

Meditation Workshop- August 14&28 @ 10a.m.

Linda Bissum is leading the meditation workshop. She has been meditating for the last thirty years, and will be sharing various meditation methods as well as her experiences and what she has learned from her mistakes.



~~Save the Dates~~ UU Adult Labor Day Camp ~~ Save the Dates~~

UU Adult Labor Day Camp, A weekend for Adults age 18 and up

at Camp 2 of the Mendocino Woodlands from **September 3-6, 2010** (optional day on September 2)

After a long summer of entertaining kids, hectic travels, summer doldrums, heat exhaustion or simply in anticipation of the Fall, come join us in the grandeur of the glorious redwoods. Allow the crisp air and serene setting to refresh your spirit. Indulge yourself with adult conversations, solitude along the creek, or fellowship in the lodge. Your vitality will be restored with activities such as music, hiking, fireside chats, dancing, beading, round singing or other spontaneous fun with fellow campers. Bernadette Burns & Marty Hoffman are the Deans again this year. They will personally make sure you have a great time!!!!

Games ~ Music ~ Dance ~ Hiking ~ Reading ~ Crafts

Hanging out with old friends and making new ones!

All this and a glorious setting too! Who could ask for anything more?

For more info and a registration flyer, contact: **Bernadette Burns** drbearsong@aol.com

August						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 10:30 a.m. <i>Sawing Down a Pillar:</i> <i>Emerson</i> Reverend Lucas Hergert	2 8:00 pm YAG*	3 7:00 p.m. Sunday Services Committee	4 7:00 p.m. Shawl Ministry	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Program Council 10:30 a.m. <i>The After Life</i> Reverend Jane Ramsey	9 8:00 pm YAG*	10 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Men's Group	11	12 12:00 p.m. Caring and Concerns Committee	13	14 10:00 a.m. Meditation Workshop
15 10:30 a.m. <i>Cherish Your Doubts</i> Keith Mielke 11:30 a.m. Choir Practice 12:00 p.m. Potluck (all helpers)	16 8:00 pm YAG*	17	18	19 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	20 7:00 p.m. Stargazers	21 Marriage Equality Curriculum Training – Laguna Beach
22 10:30 a.m. <i>Water Justice</i> Reverend Sonya Sukalski	23 8:00 pm YAG*	24 2:00 p.m. Shawl Ministry 7:30 p.m. Men's Group	25	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. Meditation Workshop
29 10:30 a.m. <i>Imag(e)ining the Divine</i> Marcus Liefert	30 8:00 pm YAG*	31	1	2	3	4

*Not held at UUCiL. Please check with organizer for location.

Dogmatism and skepticism are both, in a sense, absolute philosophies; one is certain of knowing, the other of not knowing. What philosophy should dissipate is certainty, whether of knowledge or ignorance.

Bertrand Russell

Caring & Concerns Committee Meeting

**Thursday, August 12th
at noon**

Bring a bag lunch



*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 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*