

*Growing together in spirit,  
reason, fellowship and justice*



This history is dedicated to the wonderful, creative people who have made the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore their religious and spiritual home over the last sixty years. For their hard work, caring attention, spirited outreach, and prophetic witness, we dedicate this labor of love chronicling their fabulous efforts.

— Reverend Dr. Stephen H. Furrer, 2017-2018 Interim Minister



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## Celebrating 60 Years



Livermore Unitarian Fellowship  
1957-1987

Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore  
1987-2017

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### Who We Are

Our church is a liberal religious community that honors spiritual growth and service to the wider community.

We celebrate unfolding truths known to teachers, prophets, and leaders throughout the ages and in many different traditions.

We seek to act as a moral force in the world, believing that ethical living is the deepest witness of religion.

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The dates, names and events are accurate to the best of our knowledge and acknowledge that they may be in error and that many persons not named have been a part of our history and have made contributions.

Thank you to the many members, past and present, of LUF and UUCiL, for contributing your knowledge in compiling this archive.



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## Mission Statements

**1992:** The UUCiL provides a religious environment of trust, caring, and security for the free exchange of ideas and for spiritual growth. We encourage individuals to explore personal religious, spiritual, and social questions. We provide a community of acceptance for all people of differing viewpoints, life styles, incomes, and beliefs. In the congregation and in the wider community, we provide a model of religious freedom and education, and we encourage community involvement promoting human values.

**1998:**

\* To further the Principles and Practices of the Unitarian Universalist Association

\* To provide a religious environment of trust, caring and security for the free exchange of ideas.

\* To promote spiritual growth.

\*To encourage personal exploration of religious, spiritual, ethical and social issues

\*To provide a community of acceptance for all people of differing viewpoints, life styles, incomes, and beliefs.

\*To provide, for the congregation as well as for the wider community, a model of religious freedom and education

\*To encourage the congregation, as well as the wider community, to become involved in community activities that promote humane values.

**2001:** UUCiL is a caring, intergenerational community of open-minded people. We provide a supportive environment for spiritual and intellectual growth. We encourage living responsibly and serving the larger community.

**2006-2009:** UUCiL 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.

**2010-present:** Growing together in spirit, reason, fellowship and justice.



## UUCiL Covenant

Love is the doctrine of this church,  
Our faith in each other is its sacrament,  
Working for justice and living with compassion  
is its prayer.  
Reverently we covenant together to stand on  
the side of love, to heal and not to harm, and  
to share hope with each other and the world.



# History of the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore 1957 to 2017

by Alyce Rossow

In the spring of 1956 the Livermore Ministerial Association conducted a survey of religious preferences. Several people indicated Unitarian. The Brins obtained this list and called a meeting in December 1956. Rosemary Matson, from the Pacific Central District, attended to help the group organize. The story has been told that the Brins wanted to adopt a child and were anxious to establish a Unitarian group in town. Twelve people came to this first meeting. They began holding monthly meetings, and by Spring 1957 there were 28 members. The first annual meeting was held in May 1957.

The Sunday School was organized in the summer of 1957 with Dee Wilson as the first director. At first they met at the Wilson's with 28 children. A major effort of the early Fellowship was to provide a liberal religious education for its children.

The adults also met at members' homes. As their numbers grew they

rented facilities. The adults met at Foresters Hall, and the children occupied the Creamery across the street. Then they rented both halves of a duplex on North K Street, and Stuart Stone cut through a closet so they could go from the adult meeting to the children's Sunday School without getting wet. At that point the Fellowship started using Mary's Nursery School for the children under four years of age, of which there were more than a dozen.

Claire Nelson remembers when annual meetings and potlucks were held in Dania Hall. LUF rented the Ballet Studio which was upstairs in the Schenone Building on 1st street, near the flagpole, for Sunday meetings. This later became the first offices of *The Independent*.

One Sunday of each month, instead of a morning service, LUF held an evening meeting to let those folks teaching children have a break and join with the other adults in the group. Outside speakers like Alan

Watts were often invited and advertised to the larger community, which attracted several visitors.

After about four years of a nomadic existence, the Fellowship grew tired of rented quarters and began looking for a permanent facility.

Claire also recalls that early members were extremely conservative about money, never spent beyond what was available and haggled about spending for hours in the annual meetings.

Ultimately the Fellowship purchased the Spurlock property at 4260 East First Street in February 1962, which had an older, two-story, Spanish-style house suitable for adult meetings and Sunday School classrooms. It took the members nearly a year to bring this older house up to County Code for use by a group. They had to sheetrock the basement, line the pipes, completely rewire, and put in more bathrooms. The first meeting in the new LUF house was in January 1963, and Rosemary Matson was invited as the speaker. This house served the Fellowship for the next 15 years.

After LUF moved into the house on First Street, they conducted adult services in the living room. Children's services were held in the three bedrooms, the sun porch, the dining room and the breakfast room. It was very tight at times. At one time nearly 100 children were enrolled in Sunday School and it was worried that they might all show up on the same day.

The Fellowship did not have a minister. Sunday services were planned and conducted by members, by guest ministers, by student ministers from Starr King School for the Ministry, and by special guest speakers. The Program Chairman was in charge of arranging programs. Roger Bardsley once said, "One of the problems of the Program Chairman was....is the speaker going to show up?" He used to carry a sample sermon from



## Milestones

by Alyce Rossow

Spring 1956	Livermore Ministerial Association survey of religious preferences: Several people indicated Unitarian
May 1957	First annual meeting, 28 members
January 1963	First meeting in First Street house
Fall 1969	Rev. Bill Charleton, Presbyterian minister (Half time for one and a half years)
October 1974	Vanguard Committee Report (Future visioning, Harold Wiesner, Chairman)
Fall 1977	Moved into present building (Susan Mayall, President)
April 1980	Ministerial Search Committee
June 1981	Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones First UU Minister, half time for fifteen years
May 1987	Voted to become a church
August 1996	Rev. Amy McKenzie Quinn Full time Interim Minister for one year
August 1997	Rev. Eric Meter - Second Minister for ten years
August 2007	Rev. Carolyn Colbert - Interim Minister for one year
August 2008	Rev. Alicia Forsey - Interim Minister for one year
August 2009	Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert - Minister for eight years
August 2017	Rev. Dr. Stephen Furrer - Interim Minister for one year





Livermore Unitarian Fellowship First Street House Dedication, January 18, 1963.

Beacon Street just in case.

Jim Crockett, who managed a Livermore bookstore, was Program Chairman one year and secured for us some very interesting and controversial programs: Kathleen Cleaver, Anton LaVey, Howard Pease and Muriel James. They attracted a lot of newcomers. For a while two services each Sunday were conducted to accommodate all the people attracted by those programs.

The year Chilli Barlow was the Social Action chair was exciting because she wanted to produce a debate on the Viet Nam War. At a lively board meeting, her proposal was turned down, but Valley Covenant Ministries took up the sponsorship, and packed the East Avenue School

auditorium. Two months later LUF sponsored Patricia McGinnis talking about making abortion legal.

Work parties were the order of the day. Whole families turned out to help. The 25-year-old tile roof was expensive, dangerous, and hard to maintain. The plumbing needed constant attention. Windows, paint and wallpaper, and floors had to be maintained. The east end of the living room (adult worship room) had a foundation problem and sank several inches during the rainy season. It was the focus of more than one lengthy annual meeting.

Sunday School teachers had to maintain their own rooms. Many came out on Saturdays to clean and prepare, and all families were

expected to serve some time in the religious education program. Teachers served for half a year, and every family provided a teacher once every two years. Sophia Fahs wrote most of the material that we used: *Martin and Judy, Beginnings, Egyptians, Jesus the Carpenter's Son*, and *Church Across the Street*. Our first Starr King student minister told us that it was okay to use the word *God* in Sunday School.

When the Fellowship became aware it was the second-best sex educator (after parents), it purchased the new UUA curriculum entitled *About Your Sexuality*. Several members attended the UUA weekend training session. After trying it out on an adult group, and then requiring that parents come to preview the materials, it was used for the junior high students.

There was an active program for high school students, then called Liberal Religious Youth (LRY). This group also welcomed young people who did not attend the Fellowship. They produced programs for the Fellowship and had car washes to make money to pay for trips to Death Valley, Santa Cruz, etc. We even had a Junior LRY for several years.

The Fellowship held memorial services. Thea Stone did a wonderful job providing the setting, music and activity that helped us share our grief. Often so many people attended that they had to sit in another room, unable to see the speaker, listening to the service.

UFOs (Unitarian and Friends Outings) had their beginnings in these years. Dolores Hiskes had many

December ? 1956

Meeting held at the Brins  
 Pat Brin introduced Rosemary Thompson who conducted an open discussion regarding the organization of a Livermore Unitarian Fellowship.  
 Next meeting set for January 13 1957 for the purpose of planning an open meeting in Livermore

Approximately 12 people present including  
 Mr and Mrs Whitmore, Mr and Mrs. Brin, Mr and Mrs Marsh, Mr and Mrs Winslow, Mr and Mrs Taylor, Mrs Erlich, Mrs Telesky, Miss Thompson



## Milestones

First Service: April 21, 1957, by Rosemary Thompson.

First Annual Meeting May 17, 1957

First LUF Letter published, September 1957

Incorporation filed March 24, 1959

First Invited Speaker: Dr. Arnold Crompton (Oakland Church)

First semi-permanent home: 242 North K St.



creative ideas for these activities. In fact one of these, our annual trip to Camp Shelly, is still a tradition today.

LUF's first part-time minister was Rev. Bill Charleton, an ordained Presbyterian minister who also served as a counselor for the Interchurch Counseling Service doing drug and alcohol counseling for adolescents. Bill changed the focus of Sunday morning programs from presenter-centered to member-centered. He would ask members to break up into small groups and discuss the meaning of life or how folks would survive a nuclear holocaust. He began a Sunday night encounter group that met at Dorris Lee's house. This was a touchy-feely era. People loved him or were disturbed by him — or both. Bill served for a year and a half.

Eventually the Fellowship outgrew its building. Some services had so many attending that some people had to listen to the service in another room.

In the summer of 1974, the Vanguard Committee was formed. They attended a retreat at the Berkeley Unitarian Church with a professional leader to ponder the future of the Fellowship. Some major ideas which emerged were that the Fellowship might want to hire a professional minister, they would soon need a new building, and they MIGHT want to consider canvassing the members to raise money each year.

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LUF could see that their future development depended on hiring a minister.

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The members began to seriously consider adding on to the LUF House or building a whole new worship room on that site. The county would not allow them to expand the septic tank, and it would have cost \$60,000 to hook up to the city sewer by going under First Street. That was as much as a new building would have cost.

About that time Rick Pond noticed that the Greenville Mission Trinity Baptist Church at 1893 North Vasco



*Livermore Unitarian Fellowship on First Street, circa 1977.*

Road was for sale. That congregation had been a satellite of Livermore's Trinity Baptist Church, which was consolidated back into their main church when TBC built a new facility on Olivina Avenue.

The Greenville Mission was on 2-1/2 acres of land and had a separate Sunday School building. It was available and within the Fellowship's means. After many long meetings, a decision was made to sell the LUF House and buy the Baptist Church. In the fall of 1977 LUF moved in, remodeled, and made the building theirs.

Still LUF could see that their future development depended on hiring a minister. After a many-months search, Elizabeth Selle Jones became the permanent minister in 1981. She became the impetus for growth and change from a fellowship to a full-fledged church. The Livermore Unitarian Fellowship became the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore at the May Annual Meeting of 1987. Elizabeth served as part-time minister until she retired in

June of 1996.

A ministerial search committee was appointed that spring, and by late summer they secured the services of Rev. Amy McKenzie Quinn, who served as interim minister for a year.

Another search committee was formed to find a full-time minister. They conducted a survey, produced a thick packet to send to ministerial candidates; then reviewed incoming packets and applications, and ultimately found Rev. Eric Meter. Eric was UUCiL's minister for ten years from August 1997 until June 2007.

An interim search committee found Rev. Carolyn Colbert, who served from August 2007 until June 2008. A search committee for a settled minister did not find a minister. Therefore another interim search committee found Rev. Alicia McNarry Forsey. A new search committee found Rev. Lucas Hergert as a permanent minister. Lucas began in August 2009 and left in August 2017. Rev. Dr. Stephen Furrer began in August 2017 and served one year as an interim minister. ⊕



C O P Y I N P A R T

LETTER OF APPLICATION  
for membership in the American Unitarian Association

Rev. Walter D. Kring Secretary  
Board of Directors  
American Unitarian Association  
25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

May 28, 1957

Dear Mr. Kring:

On May 26, 1957, the Unitarian Fellowship of Livermore was organized, with <sup>see below</sup> members; the enclosed set of bylaws was adopted, and the following persons have been elected as officers:

Mr. Paul E. Whitmore  
960 Rincon Ave.

Mr. George Milburn  
1190 Hillcrest Court

Mrs. Jane Taylor  
9 910 Princeton Way

Mrs. L. T. Brin  
2023 Aaron

Associate Sec. Mrs. Bertha Erlich  
989 Hillcrest Court

*Send this info  
later*

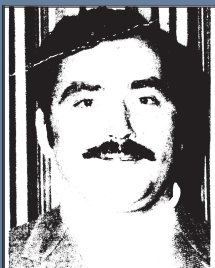
Note: Our membership register has not yet been completed. I will send this information to you at a later date.

We plan to hold meetings of the Fellowship 4 times monthly, on Sunday (day of the week), at 7:45p.m.(hour) at homes of members (place).

It is expected that most of the meetings will be of the following type: We are planning a balanced program of the following (Worship, discussion, guest speakers, etc.)



## Interim Ministers



**The Reverend  
Bill Charleton**

1969-1970  
(half-time)

First minister at  
LUF.



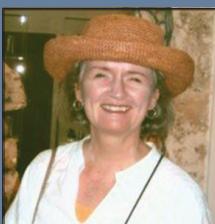
**The Reverend  
Amy McKenzie  
Quinn**

1996 (full-time)



**The Reverend  
Carolyn  
Colbert**

2007-08 (full-time)



**The Reverend  
Alicia McNary  
Forsey**

2008-09 (full-time)



**The Reverend  
Stephen Furrer**

2017-18 (full-time)



## Ministerial Interns



**Sonya Sukalski**

2006-07



**Becky Leyser**

2015-16



**The Reverend  
Elizabeth Selle Jones**

1981-1996 (half-time)

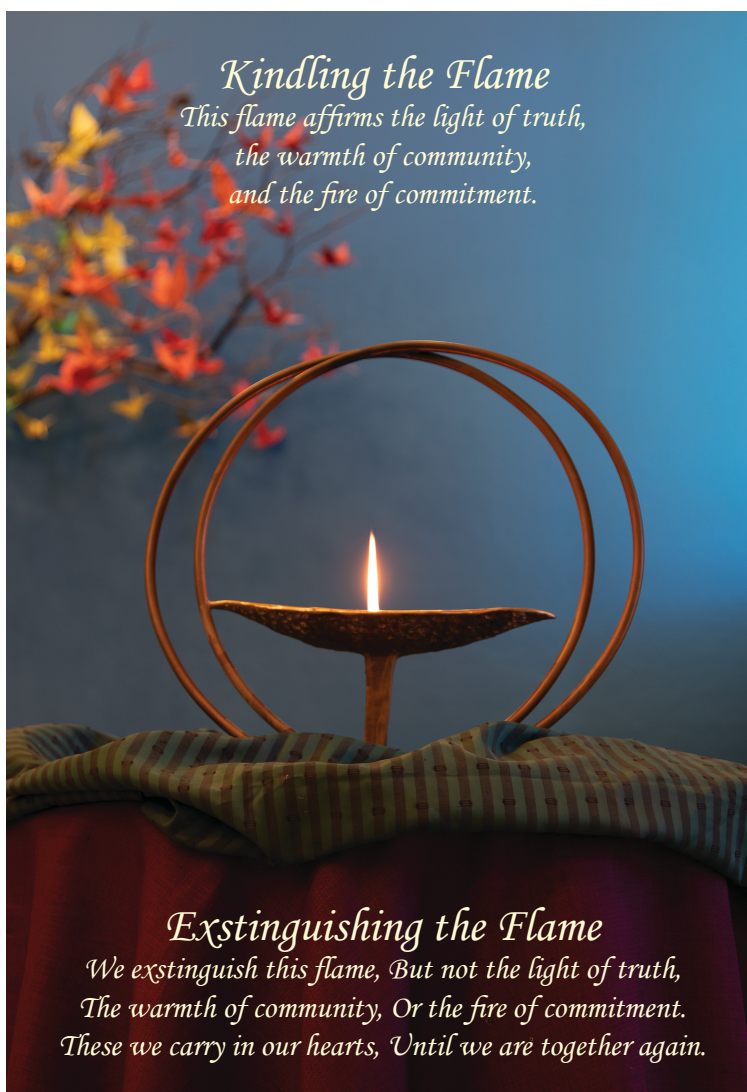
Reverend Elizabeth Selle Jones was LUF's first UU minister. Her first sermon at LUF was *Let It Be a Dance* on September 13, 1981. She crafted our chalice lighting and extinguishing words, below. Among her many contributions, Elizabeth helped to found the Open Heart Kitchen in Livermore, served

on the board of the Starr King School for the Ministry, and served as a national Good Offices representative for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Elizabeth retired from UUCiL in 1996 and remained in the area, with the exception of a few years in Boise, Idaho, and passed away in April 2006. ☺

### *Kindling the Flame*

*This flame affirms the light of truth,  
the warmth of community,  
and the fire of commitment.*



### *Exstinguishing the Flame*

*We exstinguish this flame, But not the light of truth,  
The warmth of community, Or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts, Until we are together again.*





# LGBTQ

## Welcoming Congregation

by Maureen Hamm

Churches have often not been welcoming or even safe places for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender people. Historically, some LGBT people have been rejected by their home churches and families for just being who they are.

In 2005, The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, at the urging of its congregants, began taking steps to become an official Welcoming Congregation. Shelley Covey headed a committee of members of the congregation and the LGBT community. Guided by Unitarian Universalist Association recommendations, the process to challenge and educate the congregation began. The church reached out to the LGBT community and created a visibly welcoming space. After this yearlong process, members of the UUCiL voted unanimously to become an official Welcoming Congregation.

According to the Unitarian Universalist Association, a Welcoming Congregation works toward “radical inclusion”. We continue to work for inclusion and proudly display the rainbow flag.



## The Reverend Eric H. Meter

1997-2007 (full-time)

Reverend Eric Meter completed his Masters of Divinity at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley in 1995 and then served a ministerial internship under the late Rev. Dan O’Neal at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa. Eric was the Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, California from 1997 to 2007 and was ordained in 1998.

Under Eric’s ministry, he formed the Crisis and Concerns Committee, which later morphed into Caring and Concerns. He also led the congregation in becoming a UUA Welcoming Congregation.

During his tenure in Livermore Eric was president of the local

Interfaith Council and co-chaired a marketing campaign of 17 UU congregations in the San Francisco Bay area. Other highlights of his ministry included travelling twice to visit our congregation’s partner church in Transylvania, leading a youth service trip to New Orleans to help in the post-Katrina rebuilding efforts and preaching in Soweto during a sabbatical month in South Africa.

In 2007 Eric received the Distinguished Service Award from the Pacific Central District of the UUA. In 2008, he became the Associate Minister with First UU Church of Columbus, Ohio, where he serves at the time of this writing. ☺

## UUCiL and Its Transylvanian Connection

by Gail Cobe

One of the earliest Unitarian Milestones can be traced back to the mid- 1500s when Francis David preached against the doctrine of the Trinity in Transylvania.

As far back as February of 1992, our connection to a partner church is mentioned in newsletters. At that time members of our church were writing letters about their life activities that were then translated and mailed to Romania. Our connection appears to have become more formalized with Süketdemeterfalva, (pronounced hOO-ket-deh-meh-ter-FAWL-vuh), a church in the Mures district of Romania in late 1999 and 2000.

In May of 2000

Joan (Tot) Green hosted Rev. Mihaly Kiss, his wife and daughter, who were visiting from Transylvania. On the 28th of that month, Reverends Eric Meter and Mihaly shared the pulpit. Mihaly delivered the morning message *Faith and Partnership*.

At the September 13, 2001 Board Meeting, Eric announced that “Generosity Felt Good” as he reported that UUCiL had raised \$1800 for cattle/cows to be bought and sent to the village where Süketdemeterfalva church continues although that small church is now part of two other churches. ☺



# The Reverend Dr. Lucas Hergert

2009-2017 (full-time)

Reverend Dr. Lucas Hergert is a second-generation Unitarian Universalist from Cincinnati, Ohio. He decided to pursue the ministry in high school, and has since served Unitarian Universalism in several capacities. One of his passions is discovering how we can share our liberal-religious message with the wider community.

Lucas earned a Bachelor's in Religion and Philosophy from Miami University of Ohio, a Master's of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, and a Doctorate from Pacific School of Religion. At Harvard he was a Williams Fellow, an honorary designation awarded for academic merit.

The recipient of awards in moral philosophy and comparative religion, Lucas has presented papers on race, sexuality, and religion at academic conferences. Interested in the intersection of theology and ministry, his thesis at Harvard focused on Unitarian Universalist responses to violence and trauma.

In seminary, Lucas did an internship at the First Parish in Needham, Massachusetts. The Rev. John Buehrens, former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, was his supervisor.

The summer of 2009, Lucas

graduated from Harvard and was ordained at the Cincinnati church where he grew up. UUCiL called him to serve as the full-time minister, and was the first parish he served. He spent eight years at UUCiL, where the Church grew in members, programs, and spirit.

While at UUCiL, Lucas received news that he had been granted Final Fellowship in Ministry with the UUA, essentially the end of a seven-year process of seeking fellowship with the denomination. As it was then stated:

*"Lucas, both UUCiL and the Pacific Central District are extremely fortunate to have such an energetic and accomplished minister involved in the work of our movement. You have developed a vibrant, multifaceted congregation. We wish you all the best in your pursuit of the Doctor of Ministry. We also look forward to how you will manifest your enhanced leadership skills in service to Unitarian Universalism. Welcome to Final Fellowship and best wishes on a fulfilling career in ministry."*

Lucas grew up in a Unitarian Universalist Congregation and there he learned a distinctive theological position that has deeply shaped his views of the world. He defines the theology of Unitarian Universalism



as "one source, many names, no one left behind." ⊕

*The Reverend Dr. Lucas Hergert is now at the North Shore Unitarian Church Deerfield, Illinois.*

## One source, many names, no one left behind

by The Reverend Lucas Hergert, October 6, 2013

I believe that humanity shares a common sacred source, a beautiful and breathtaking origin that makes us all 'stardust to stardust' as one poet put it.

I also believe that we need lots of names and lots of stories for exploring this sacred source, and I personally draw inspiration from many of the world's traditions.

This is part of the brilliance of our faith — that we do not need to assert an absolute or exclusive truth but instead can find richness in plurality and diversity. Finally, I believe that Unitarian Universalism calls us to leave no one behind. There is no hell that will forever exclude some people, nor should there be political and social structures that exclude people in this life. So, one source, many names, no one left behind. This is the essence of my theology, a theology whose big heart can make a difference in our world."

## Are You a Fan?

Excerpt from The Reverend Lucas Hergert's Sermon November 15, 2015

All this is to say that fans are human and sometimes they disagree or behave badly. But through my journey into what it means to be a fan, I have come to appreciate the communities that they construct.

Here's why. Our world is being ripped open by the terror of religious and political fanatics. And in that context, I think we need more communities that offer a belonging that is not premised on violence. The world of fans—with all of its campiness and triviality—can look like a refreshing democratic alternative. It's in that sense that the experience of being a fan is a worthy one.

Perhaps the historical dismissal of the fan—that stepchild of the fanatic, that marginal community with its common and seemingly trivial enthusiasm—can give way to an appreciation for the imaginative democracy it is creating.

I hope so.



# Sunday Services Committee

by Adele Irvin



When I stepped in as chair of the Sunday Services Committee, I had no idea what I was doing. I wanted to make a difference, but I didn't know exactly where to start. For me it was pretty much...let's throw it in the wa-

ter and see if it floats!

Unlike many people who found a spiritual home with UUCil after experiencing a different religion, I had no experience with any religion. My father was an atheist (more of a humanist), and my mom taught us that everything has a spirit in the ways of the Native Americans.

One of the most innovative suggestions brought to the committee during my time as chair was Sermon in a Box. Rev. Alicia McNarry Forsey introduced us to this online subscription. It is a matter of researching titles of sermons and services that spoke to us, and running with it.

What I learned as chair of this committee:

✠ It's only once a month until summer.

✠ No one is going to judge you on your performance.

✠ This community is willing to try anything.

✠ I can speak in front of a large group of people and enjoy it.

✠ Each Sunday we share a space of love and acceptance.

I want to thank the members of this community for allowing me to grow and try new things. I want to thank each member of my committee for volunteering with open hearts, a love for the community, and a willingness to participate.

I feel the key to my success as chair was recruiting smart and creative people. I am grateful to the members of UUCil and especially the individual members of my committee for letting me introduce you to my Native

American ways and for the opportunity to bring hip-hop into the sanctuary! ✚



Stephanie Fish and Rachel Leeman-Monk.

by Stephanie Fish

I joined the Sunday Services Committee while it was still under Adele Irvin's leadership in 2009. My time began with the new ministry of Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert.

Under Lucas' guidance, the Sunday Services Committee became more focused on the role and partnership between the minister and the worship associate. Lucas assigned a few books to us over the first couple of years and led us in workshops each year that were designed to give us the tools and confidence to be an integral part of the ministry at UUCil. During this time, I feel we clarified what the purpose of the time during Sunday Service was about: creating a welcoming space for the mission of our congregation to be fulfilled.

As we headed into the summer of 2010, Adele let us know she needed to step down in chairing the committee. We decided we would share the responsibility over the summer and divide up leading the worship associate team during those months. I'm not sure exactly what happened, but once it landed with me it just never rotated again! I think people appreciated my efficiency in running meetings and staying focused on the job at hand.

Membership on the worship associate team has stayed pretty consistent over the last several years. Paul Singh, Michael Cooke and I were all on the committee together from the start of this time period. We added

Pat Thorne and Carroll Dickinson in 2011 or 12. Carroll Dickinson had to step down as she needed to be more available to care for her mother, but we had Chuck Hartwig join us as well as Eric Serdahl right around that time frame. This year, Rachel Leeman-Munk will be joining us.

I think our greatest accomplishment is to be less reliant on reciting sermons written by other UU ministers on Sundays when the Sunday Services Committee is responsible for leading worship. We have grown enormously in our confidence to create, write and deliver meaningful sermons ourselves and we have encouraged other members in our congregation to do the same, either as part of a panel or on their own. I am incredibly proud of the work the whole team does to make Sundays such a vital part of our faith community. ✚

*Thank you to Gerald Nordley for creating a spreadsheet of service elements to track our weekly sermons.*



## Traditions Sunday Services

### Sundays:

Chalice Lighting  
Affirmation  
Joys and Sorrows / Milestones  
Sermon  
Closing Hymn: *We Give Thanks*

### Annual Events and Activities:

Coming of Age  
Youth-Led Service  
Bridging  
Naming/Blessing  
Flower Communion (June)  
Labor of Love — Labor Day Weekend  
Water Communion (September)  
Christmas/Holiday Pageant  
Christmas Eve Service

# Musical History of UUCiL

by Pat Mielke

During the early years of LUF, meetings were held in people's homes. Any music was ad hoc, with some *a capella* singing, and with some folk songs accompanied by guitar with words distributed on printed sheets. By 1963, when LUF moved into the house on First Street, music was still very limited, and eventually a stereo system was purchased. It sat on a shelf and Roger Bardsley sat next to the shelves and raised and lowered the needle on records to play music at appropriate times in the service. Sometime during these early years, a piano was acquired. Roger continued his responsibility for the music.

Jane Staehle joined the church in 1974 and became the song leader. There were about 30-40 congregants and about 15 of them formed a choir with Jane as their director.

Sometimes the Fellowship conducted activities outdoors with amplified speakers strung up in the trees. The choir became organized at First Steet, but there weren't many formal performances at the farmhouse church. Every year there was a Christmas program put on at a school on East Avenue.

In 1978 Jane Staehle was Sunday Services chair. Her sister, who was

the choir director in the Wichita, Kansas UU church, sent her a copy of the e. e. cummings "Mass," including not only text and music but also production items like costumes, props, wall hangings, etc. And it called for a choir. An ad hoc group was formed and, following the production, they wanted to keep going. This choir was the original of the choir we have today. Current congregants Louise

services through 1998 into 2002. Marion Stearns would also play piano at times, as well as violin. In 1998, my husband Keith and I joined the church, and I began playing for services as well. Marion Stearns wrote new lyrics for a favorite hymn, *Look to the Hillside*.

Dee Wood became Choir Director in 1998 under Rev. Eric Meter. She continued in that role for 15 years, including the first years of Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert's ministry. During Eric's tenure, at Dee's suggestion, a music committee was formed. The choir performed twice monthly and on the alternate Sundays special music was needed. I joined the music committee in 1999 and became the music coordinator to



Jane Staehle conducting the choir, circa 1981.

Gray, Chilli Barlow, and Chuck Hartwig were original choir members and Chuck has continued to this day in 2017.

With the move to Vasco, there came more room for a good piano and there was room for a limited number of choir chairs on the risers.

Around 1980 Steve Morgan began playing the piano for church. When Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones was hired part-time in 1981, she wanted the choir to perform more often. So they sang every other week. Steve continued playing for church

arrange for music, including playing the piano, for the non-choir services. Since the choir did not perform in July and August, that meant planning special music for all summer services. I also served as the liaison to the Sunday Services Committee to ensure that music was appropriate for the service. Many members of the congregation had musical talent, so congregants performed solos, duets, instrumental numbers, and ensemble performances. When a small honorarium budget was established, outside performers were sometimes

## Look at the Hillside

Words by Marion Stearns, 1993 Music: Bunéssan, Gaelic melody



Look at the hillside  
look at the mountain,  
look at the colors,  
red, green and gold.  
Look at the maples,  
look at the birches,  
look at the oak trees,  
look and behold.

Think of the springtime,  
think of the summer,  
think of the winter,  
soon to be here.  
But this is autumn,  
glorious autumn,  
beautiful autumn,  
best of the year.

Each tree is special,  
each leaf is lovely,  
each season needed,  
each has a goal.  
So are you special,  
so are you lovely,  
so are you needed,  
part of the whole.



hired. A special repeating performer was the clarinetist Joe Bonfiglio, who donated his solo work, and I was his accompanist. I served as the Music Coordinator until May 2015, when I retired. I continue to play the piano for church on as as-needed basis, especially during the summer when the Music Director is not active.

Members who served on the music committee over the years included

Cyndy Salmon, Marion Stearns, Toni Derion, Chuck Hartwig, Leanne Macdonnell, Wendy Fisher, Dee Wood, Rev. Eric Meter, and Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert. In 2014-2015 the name of the committee was changed to the Music Leadership Team, usually consisting of the minister, the choir director, me, and occasional other interested members.

During my tenure as Music Coordinator, I arranged several concerts, with the help of the music committee and other members. (A list can be found on the next page.)

In 2011, I spearheaded the purchase of our grand piano. The purchase was funded by a substantial donation from a congregant, monies that my husband and I had been

donating for a grand piano fund, and a solicitation to the choir members and music committee members. This was not approached originally through the board, with the thinking that the piano was to be a gift to the congregation. Some congregates objected to the process because it was not established as an all-church fundraiser. A congregational meeting was held, and the board was able to satisfy the congregation and approve the purchase of the piano. A dedicatory concert was held on Sunday, June 26, 2011, with Mark Anderson, a noted pianist, and Joe Bonfiglio on clarinet. Mark and Joe performed one of the great works for a piano and clarinet duo: the *F minor Sonata for Piano and Clarinet* by Johannes Brahms. Other works were performed by Wendy Fisher as a vocal soloist, and me on the piano.

The piano has become a beloved part of the music program. ⊕

PHOTO: COURTESY PAT MIELKE



Pat Mielke tickles the ivories on a newly acquired Yamaha grand piano with her husband Keith by her side.

## The Choir 1998-2013

PHOTO: JEANNINE SCHEFF



by Dee Wood,  
Conductor

My tenure as the UUCiL Choir Director began in early 1998 and continued through mid-2013, a little over 15 years. It spanned nearly 10 years of Rev. Eric Meter's ministry, two years of interim ministers (Rev. Carolyn Colbert and Rev. Alicia Forsey), plus four years with Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert. The bulk of my tenure falls into the 2000 decade.

My overall goals for the choir were to improve the reading and vocal skills and encourage good listening habits. To this end, we established a more regular and longer rehearsal schedule, and requested a line item in the budget for purchasing new music of a higher level of difficulty and broader selection of styles and content.

We also began arranging occasional day-long choral workshops led

by local choral/voice experts, which gave choir members the opportunity to learn from other perspectives. In the later years, we had our choir anthems recorded and spent part of our rehearsal time listening/watching those performances with a goal of improving not only our sound but also our appearance while singing.

During my time as choir director we were first invited to participate in the Interfaith Service held annually at the LDS Church, and have done so every year since.

Some may remember my time as the era of the parody songs for pledge Sunday. There were those who insisted every year that I come up with one, and probably just as many who would be happy to see the tradition end. I also

Dee Wood conducting the choir, circa 2010.

organized a talent show which was very well received.

The annual UU Musicians Network (UUMN) conferences were of enormous help to me as opportunities to mingle with other UU church musicians, read new works, take classes and share ideas over a period of several days. I attended seven of those in my 15 years, but also attended many other choral conferences locally and elsewhere in order to bring as much knowledge and experience as I could back to the UUCiL choir and our congregation. ⊕





## Concerts

by Pat Mielke

**May 15, 2005**  
**Pacific Boy Choir**  
**(Cantori Choir),**  
**Andrew Brown, Director**

Concert organized by Patricia Mielke. This concert took place during the regular morning church service. The sanctuary was reoriented to face the long wall with windows, with the choir risers placed there for the choir to stand. The congregants sat in a semi-circle in front of the choir. The concert and service was oriented around songs and prayers for peace from 12 major religions of the world.

**February 25, 2007**  
**Sunday Afternoon**  
**Musical, 4:00 pm**

The concert featured Joe Bonfiglio on clarinet, Patricia Mielke on piano, and Cyndy Salmon on clarinet.

**May 19, 2007**  
**Ira Stein Trio, 7:30 pm**

Ira Stein, piano, Joseph Hebert on cello, and Dann Zinn on soprano saxophone. Special focus on jazz versions of Bach chorales.

**August 2, 2009**  
**Chris Waltz, Celtic and**  
**World Music, 3:00 pm**

Chris Waltz, guitar. Sponsored by the Music Committee. Net proceeds of \$344 were to go to the piano fund.

**June 26, 2011**  
**Dedicatory Concert for the**  
**Grand Piano – 2:00 pm**

"A Grand Afternoon of Music" Mark Anderson on piano, Joe Bonfiglio on clarinet, Patricia Mielke on piano, Dee Wood soprano and Wendy Fisher alto. Brought in over \$1,000.

**May 12, 2013 - UUCiL**  
**presents The Bonfiglio-**  
**Bedrossian-Anderson Trio**

Mother's Day concert at 2:00 pm. Proceeds went to UUCiL's Youth Program. Sponsored by the Music Leadership Team.

## Wendy's History at UUCiL

by Wendy (Mason) Fisher

PHOTO: PUSHPA DALAL



I was four years old when I first arrived at UUCiL; my mother signed the guestbook in August of 1984. I attended regularly throughout childhood and became a member in 1994. I left in 1998 to attend a vocational technical school for professional musicians: The Phil Mattson School for Music Vocations in Creston, Iowa. When I returned home, I saw a flyer hanging on the back sanctuary wall: the UUCiL choir needed an accompanist.

"No way," I said. "I'm not working here."

That flyer haunted me. For months, it burned a hole in the back of my head. I resisted, until, one day, I caved. "Fine. All right. Okay," I thought, "I'll try this." I arranged an audition with Dee Wood: I would play the piano during one choir rehearsal and she would assess my skills.

"Well," she said, at the end of that audition. "I think I can work with you." That began my ten-year career as the choir accompanist at UUCiL. During that time, Dee became my beloved mentor. As we worked together month in and month out, sometimes I felt that we could read each other's minds. I also worked closely with our Music Coordinator, Pat Mielke, whose meticulous standards and loving, bold, and unwavering work with the music community enriched our services. It was right around that time that I began teaching piano and voice lessons.

While I was the choir accompanist, I developed as a pianist, singer, song leader, director, and composer. Pat and Keith Mielke founded our vocal Octet, which I directed. (The Octet is still going strong, but we call it the Chamber Ensemble now.) Soon after, we began our vocal Quartet (which we now call our Treble Ensemble).

After nine years accompanying the UUCiL choir, I applied to the Music Leadership Certification Program, which is three-year program offered

through the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network. During my time with the MLCP, I claimed my role as a religious professional, learned about church systems, and absorbed music ministry management practices. I was embraced by a loving community of UU music leaders.

I was a year into that program when Dee Wood retired as choir director. I organized a surprise choir to send her off on her last day, a larger-than-usual group that included former choir members and ministers. I also applied to become UUCiL's next choir director. To my joy, I was hired!

Our choir has since been served by three pianists: J.V. Ellorin, Tristan Ellorin, and Kai Lieth. Each of these three pianists brought unique skills and musicality to the role.

When Pat Mielke retired as Music Coordinator, I took on that role as well, and eventually worked with the board



PHOTO: COURTESY PAT MIELKE

to formally consolidate my two roles — Choir Director and Music Coordinator — into one new role: Director of Music.

Now it's time to put a new flyer on the back sanctuary wall. The UUCiL choir is in need of a pianist. Is it you, maybe?

Our music ministry at UUCiL is loving and vibrant. The goal of our music ministry is to provide opportunities (for both music creator and music recipient) for spiritual transformation, emotional release, and theological formation. ☺

*Wendy composed "Growing Together" to commemorate our 60th Anniversary. Words can be found in the back of this book, in the article about our 60th Anniversary. Wendy retired as Music Director at the end of December 2017.*



## Religious Education at LUF

by Alice Rossow

A major effort of the Fellowship was to provide a religious education for their children. The first Sunday School was organized in 1957 with Dee Wilson as the director, meeting in the Wilson's home with 28 children.

After the Fellowship secured permanent quarters in 1963, Sunday School was held in the two-story house on First Street. Classes were held in the three bedrooms, the sun porch, the dining room and the breakfast room. At one time there were almost 100 kids enrolled. Thank goodness they didn't all come at one time!

When the Fellowship moved into the present building, the younger children met in the Starr King Building. The older children were tucked into the office and the minister's office. The church soon realized it would be necessary to add more space. After the two new buildings were built, the preschoolers met in the Starr King Building, grades 1-4 met in one side of the Founders Building and grades 5-6 met in the other side. Middle schoolers met to the left of the Tot Green Room and high school met in the back room. The configuration changed depending upon the number of children. ⊕

## Religious Education at UUCiL

by Bob Miess

UUCiL has a long history of offering programs for children and youth, along with educational opportunities for adults. These are just a few of the offerings in recent years.

### Nursery, Pre-School, and Kindergarten

*Starr King Building*

Children are welcome in the sanctuary with their families at all times, but we also offer supervised play time, building relationships with one another, and reinforcing Unitarian Universalist values, growing together in spirit, reason, fellowship and justice.

### Monthly Worship with Adults

Once each month, usually the first Sunday of the month, our children and youth will join with adults in the Sanctuary for opening worship. After the Children's lesson, often presented by our Children and Youth Coordinator, the children in Grades 1-5 go to their class(es). The older youth usually stay in worship for the entire service.

### Opening Circle

Most Sundays (other than the

first Sunday of the month) the children and youth have their own separate worship in the Opening Circle in the Tot Green Room, Room 3A. They form a circle around an altar, on which we place a chalice, a chalice lighting candle, a column of water with colored pebbles, and sometimes floral or other arrangements related to the topic of the day.

Their order of service begins with welcoming music and lighting the "starter candle" (by one of the kids). Then they sing an opening song related to the theme of the day, sometimes including motions or gestures. A different honored child/youth lights the chalice and we say the church's traditional chalice lighting words and our own gestures:

*This flame affirms the light of truth (hands flashing like headlights), the warmth of love (arms crossed in a light hug), and the fire of commitment (fingers rustling in the air).*



### Milestone

First RE Class: October 6, 1957 in Forester's Hall. RE teachers were: Margo Kirkewoog, Peggy Kinst, Shirley Fairbrother, Jo Jones, Jim Wilson, and Thea Stone.

## Religious Education Directors or Coordinators

by Alyce Rossow

LUF

1957	Shirley Maxwell
1957-58	Dee Wilson
1958-59	Thea Stone
1962-63	Rita Langhorst
1965-66	Alyce Watson and Liz Lokke
1966-67	Doris Ryon
1967-68	Dee Wilson and Barbara Kurtz
1968-69	Thea Stone / Margo Kirkewoog
1969-70	Walt Webster
1970-71	Liz Moir / Alyce Watson (Rossow)
1971-72	Alyce Watson (Rossow)
1972-74	Enid Holck
1974-75	Neda Latham / Val Long
1976-77	Elizabeth Costantino
1977-78	Claire Nelson
1979-80	Dorothy Dennis
1980-81	Lynn Morrison / Eileen Contento
1981-82	Rin (Khabira) & Chuck Hartwig
1982-83	Mary Ellen Kordas / Marc Costantino
1983-84	Rin (Khabira) Hartwig
1984-85	Chuck & Khabira Hartwig

UUCiL

1987-88	Leandra Martin 4-8yrs., Tasia Florey and Cyndy Salmon 8-12 yrs.
1988-89	Cyndy & Thad Salmon
1990-91	Tasia Florey & Chilli Barlow
1991-92	John Schmit & Janine Scheff
1992-94	John Schmit
1994-95	Kim Schmit
1995-97	Mark Miller
1997-98	Theresa Storey (paid)
1998-99	Cyndy Salmon
1999-00	Carol Fellman & Alice Mayall
2000-01	Jean Moran & Eric Serdahl
2001-02	Elona Pertica & Diana Madden
2002-03	Elona Pertica & Kim Rowe
2003-05	Lynn Hansen
2005-08	Leslie Lemieux
2008	Rich Partida
2009-10	Nada Velimrovic
2010-13	Rennie Tomley
2014-15	KC Slack, Student Minister for Religious Education
2016-17	Bob Miess



They then hear a story, watch a video, or have a short activity around the theme of the day. This is followed with the children (and teachers) individually expressing personal joys and sorrows while dropping colored pebbles into the column of water.

We close with UUCiL's traditional closing hymn, "*We Give Thanks*." The children and teachers grasp hands with their right palms facing up (symbolizing that we all receive from one another) and their left palms facing down (symbolizing that we all give to one another). We sing in unison first, and then we sing it antiphonally.

Finally, we all extinguish our candle together (sometimes joking that we "blew it"), and the teachers and children and youth go to their classes.

### Religious Education Classes

Our Religious Education Classes are taught by volunteers (and sometimes by our Children and Youth Coordinator). Currently, all of the

classes are based on the Soul Matters curriculum, a theme-based curriculum for children, youth, and young adult Religious Education, Small Group Ministry, and Worship. Usually our classes are age-separated, but sometimes they are combined.

Our classrooms were completely redesigned under the leadership of Margaret Cooke in 2015. Grades 1-5 meet in Room 3B in the Tot Green Building. Brightly colored and set up for activities with adjustable height tables, it is appropriately situated right next to our craft supplies closet. Grades 6-8 (Middle School) meet in Room 3C in the Tot Green Building. This room is a cozy conversation space, well suited to Middle School youth. Grades 9-12 (High School) meet in Room 2A in the Founders Building. It is set up with couches and bean bag chairs and a game table, well suited for High School youth.

### High School Youth Group

On the first and third Sunday evenings, our High School youth gather for dinner and other fun activities! Throughout the year we play games, have discussions, work on projects, and sometimes invite guests to come and talk with the group. We also take field trips to see movies, have activities like skating, hiking, water parties, and sometimes attend workshops and presentations at other churches. We also have overnights at our church, at other UU churches in our district, and in a cabin in the Sierra Mountains. A Youth Program Council periodically meets to plan these activities.

### Youth-Led Services

About once per year youth lead us in worship using a youth-style order of service. The youth are quite creative in bringing a worship service that puts us in touch with our humanity and divinity through word, music, motion, and interaction. Sometimes



Colorful brick mural created by RE classes under the direction of Rennie Tomley.



Middle School Holi Celebration, March 2017. Sofia Warnock, Sierra Aasen, Chantel Gerow, Imoen Bradley, Miranda Schuyler, Grady Roffey.



there is no sermon, just a flow that engages us spiritually.

## UUA National and District Activities

Our youth sometimes participate in General Assemblies of the UUA. Churches from all over the country send delegates and other members for the General Assembly. There are programs designed for Children and Youth so the whole family can attend. Most recently, our youth were present in 2015 and 2017.

Our youth also participate, and sometimes help lead, district Middle School UU Gatherings (MUUGs) and District High School weekend retreats.

## Coming of Age

The Coming of Age Program is a mentored school-year-long journey of the spirit, mind, and body for youth in grades 8-10. The youth:

- ✚ Meet with their mentors one or two times per month
- ✚ Participate in a discussion group on youth issues and personal faith formation
- ✚ Attend three retreats sponsored by the Pacific Central District:
  - ✚ Practice team building
  - ✚ Spend a day on the streets of San Francisco (monitored), sponsored by Faithful Fools Ministry
  - ✚ Spend a day alone in the wilderness (monitored)
- ✚ Develop a personal credo (statement of what they believe)

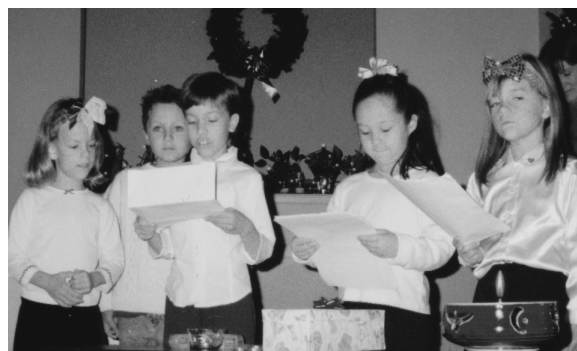
- ✚ Present their credo in the end-of-year Coming of Age worship service.

## Library

To take advantage of the many books we have around our facilities, we have begun putting them into an electronic catalog. ⊕



April 1975.



Children's Choir, circa early 2000s.



Grades 1-3 class with instructor Mark Miller. Circa 2007.



Pre-school and nursery class. Circa 2007.

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## About Your Sexuality

by Alyce Rossow

Somewhere around 1969 I was appointed to the Livermore School Board's committee for Family Life Education to study and recommend how sex education should be taught in Livermore schools' health education classes. There were representatives from many churches on the committee including Mormons and Catholics. I soon realized there was no way sexuality could be taught honestly and openly the way I wanted my children to learn. They did not even want kids to know that Planned Parenthood existed!

In 1970 I became the chairman for religious education for the Fellowship. I noticed that the Unitarian Universalist Association offered a program called *About Your Sexuality*. It offered a course for middle school that promised to "awaken young people's morality and critical thinking in new and creative ways." It promised to address "young people's curiosity about sex with honest

discussions and depictions."

The curriculum contained a boxed kit with filmstrips, phonograph records, field trips, art projects, role-plays, and more. The filmstrips showed anatomy and sexual behaviors in a very frank manner. At the time a prominent newspaper *The National Observer* described *About Your Sexuality* as "the most comprehensive, explicit, and possibly controversial set of materials ever assembled for use in a classroom." A group of us signed up to take a class to prepare us to teach *About Your Sexuality*. Chilli Barlow, Hal Short and I were among that small group. I thought it was just the class for our teens to foster honest discussions about sexual behaviors. We decided to try it out on adults in the Fellowship first. It led to some great discussions.

The first class for middle schoolers was in the fall of 1970. There were ten or twelve participants including my son, Jim Watson. Chilli Barlow and Hal Short facilitated the class. When

Chilli and Hal invited two male homosexuals to the class, one boy said, "If you invite those queers to class, I'm not coming!" To which Chilli replied "I'm sorry you feel that way, but they will be coming next Sunday." The boy did come to class, and the men stayed for our potluck that day.

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"...the most comprehensive, explicit, and possibly controversial set of materials ever assembled for use in a classroom."

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I recently asked my son what he remembered about the class; he thought it was tremendous sex education. He said he learned about female anatomy and credits it with his having a healthy sex life. My daughter, Cathy Watson, took the class four years later. She told me that that was the best class in sexuality she ever had, including medical school! ⊕



## Our Whole Lives at UUCiL

by Jody Harcourt

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of sexuality education curricula that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about sexual health.

OWL has been attended by many youth at UUCiL since 2001 in all school grade levels including K-2, 4-6, middle school and high school students. An adult was responsible for building registration and inviting youth in and outside our congregation. If there were not enough youth to teach a program at UUCiL, some of our youth would attend at another church in the area. Since this program was to be taught to youth by someone other than ones parents/caregiver, many adults in

the congregation attended trainings, spent time preparing lessons and teaching outside church hours. We did not use Religious Education Sunday morning's time for OWL lessons and usually held them after lunch on Sundays. At the conclusion of each course there was always a party to celebrate with family members and participants.

On a personal note, my three girls all attended OWL in several grade levels and I taught as well. So I spoke to my youngest daughter, now an adult, just yesterday and asked about her impression of the program. She said that adding an account of OWL to our time capsule was "cool" and thinks that this is one of the things that make Unitarian Universalism unique. As a teenager she

remembers talking to friends outside her church family and being surprised by how little they knew about their sexual physiology and felt proud to impart her wisdom learned in OWL. Attending OWL also built bonds between students and adults that might not otherwise have had the chance to connect. ⊕



K-2 OWL class, 2002.



# Social Justice History

by Lois Dueltgen and  
Sally Marone

In 1967 a Social Action Committee was proposed to the board and approved. There is no description of the activities LUF was involved with. Board minutes in 1988 again reflect the creation of a Social Action Committee, which began meeting in February of that year. In 2009, our social justice program was once again redefined, as explained in more detail on the next page.

From the time the Fellowship was established, individual members have been involved in organizations and activities supporting the needs of people in the community. Several members served on startup Non-Profit boards in 50's-70's.

† **Interfaith Housing/Livermore Senior Housing** started when Fran and Harold Wiesner saw a need 50 years ago and worked with eight congregations and synagogues to start this program. UUCiL Board members have been Rita Langhorst, Ralph Moir, Karen Crosley, Helen Meier, and Jocelyn Combs.

† **The Wiesner Memorial Fund** is available to Seniors age 60 and older who need financial assistance in the event of an emergency.

† **Tri-Valley Haven** started in the 1970's as one of the early shelters of its kind in the United States, and its first location was the Nelsons' home. Claire Nelson was a Founding Mother and Helen Meier was the third paid director. Current staff includes Carolyn Staehle, Maureen Hamm, and Lynn Menon.

† **Open Heart Kitchen** began in the 1980's. Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones was one of the founders. Jane Staehle was involved for five years as a member of the Board and chose the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for UUCiL; we continue to work on these days in 2017. Joan Dickinson followed Jane Staehle as the coordinator of volunteers.

† **C.A.P.E. (Community Association for PreSchool Education)** was started in Livermore by Elizabeth

(Bess) Platt in the 60's. Chilli Barlow and Joyce Taylor have volunteered there in a variety of ways. CAPE brought about Child Care Links, the first federally funded day care to Livermore, and Claire Nelson served as director.

† **Community Forums** were promoted by Chilli Barlow as Social Justice Chair in the 60's and 70's.

† **Abortion Access:** Chilli Barlow and Shirley Fairbrother arranged transportation to clinics, and they, Gerald Nordley, Gayle Wiesner, and Claire Nelson have provided escort services for patients at Planned Parenthood facilities over the years.

† **Supporting the LGBTQ Community:** Members participated in diversity fairs in Livermore with PFLAG members, completed requirements to receive the UUA's Welcoming Congregation designation, and advocated for same-sex marriage laws.

† **Livermore Housing Authority:** Maureen Hamm is currently serving on the Board of Commissioners representing low-cost housing interests.

† **National Organization for Women (NOW):** At most times since it was established, UUCiL members have been active in the local chapter. A founding member was Dorris Lee, other members include Chilli Barlow, Claire Nelson, Maureen Hamm, and Kathy Woofter.

† Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones publicly expressed sympathy and supported the establishment of the **Hindu Temple in Livermore** in the mid-70's. She wrote letters to the editor and spoke on their behalf at City Council meetings.

† Members and friends held a parking lot demonstration against the Iraq war in early 2000's.

† UUCiL housed and fed homeless individuals and families for two weeks as they moved from church to church in Livermore during the rainy season in the early 2000's.



## Community Involvement

For a small religious group, we had a huge impact on the community through individual participation. Here are some of the programs members of LUF/UUCiL participated in:

Livermore Rotary  
Friends of the Library  
Friends of Tesla Park  
Del Valle Fine Arts  
Livermore Heritage Guild  
Tri-Valley Conservancy  
Friends of Livermore  
LARP Senior Services  
Good News Bears  
Hope Hospice  
Shakespeare Associates  
Rae Dorrough Speaker Series  
Twin Valley Learning Center  
Tri-Valley League of Women Voters  
Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild  
Livermore Cultural Arts Council  
Livermore Public Library Literacy Program  
Livermore School Board  
Pleasanton School Board  
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center  
Sister City organizations – Livermore, Pleasanton  
Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley  
Valley Autism Spectrum Treatment Foundation  
East Bay Regional Park Board of Directors

† **Hope Hospice and Axis Community Clinic** Physician Volunteer – Pushpa Dalal.

† **Livermore Tree Sweater Project:** Joan Dickinson, Janice Paquette, Judy McMurry, Kim Rowe, Susan Harvey, Disa Zaplatosch, and Sally Marone. ⊕

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## Social Justice Ministry 2009-present

by Lois Dueltgen and Sally Marone

After Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert began his ministry in the fall of 2009, he partnered with Lois Dueltgen to roll out a redesigned, comprehensive new social justice program that would attempt to bring all UUCiL members and friends together to address social justice issues in our community and beyond. Components of the new Social Justice Ministry were as follows: Direct Service, Education, Fundraising, and Public Witness. All members and friends were encouraged to engage in a variety of ways within their areas of interest.

### Direct Service

- ✚ Working with Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) and Open Heart Kitchen (OHK).
- ✚ Volunteering at Jackson Avenue School by reading with students, helping individual students and teachers in the classroom setting, and helping with their annual fundraiser.
- ✚ Partnering with Tri-Valley

Community Services to help young adult immigrants brought to the U.S. as children apply for protected status under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

- ✚ Helping renovate a Habitat for Humanity East Bay home in Livermore for veteran family.
- ✚ Cleaning up designated area in Zone 7 Adopt a Creek.
- ✚ Assembling Blessing Bags for homeless people.
- ✚ Partnering with Asbury Methodist to establish a Laundry Ministry (contributing money for startup and volunteers for ongoing supervision on laundry days).
- ✚ Knitting for others through Shawl Ministry.
- ✚ Participating in Partners for Change by partnering with Asbury Methodist in program to support low-income individuals and families working toward financial security.

## MARLA

by Gail Cobe

In March 1992, UUCiL formed the Mary A Rice Livermore Association (MARLA), a UUCiL Social Concerns Committee. Mary Ashton Rice Livermore was a famous American suffragist and social reformer who was married to a Unitarian Minister. She dedicated her life to helping others and raising awareness about those in need. The committee chose her name as a symbol of social consciousness. MARLA's mission was to make a reality of the belief in the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" and members committed themselves and the church to "replacing despair with joy and ... giving to others." Following are some of the projects they worked on during their first months.

- ✚ Family Crisis Center/Shelter:

Each month they planned an activity for the children staying at the shelter and supplied backpacks for the school age children.

- ✚ Veteran's Hospital: They handed out holiday cards made by children in RE and helped wheelchair-using vets get around.
- ✚ Livermore Senior Center: They arranged rides for seniors to get to the Easter dinner.

In addition to collecting non-perishable foods, the committee raised funds through recycling, encouraging the use of coupons at grocery stores that donated to local daycares, and hosting a Sadie Hawkins fundraiser party.

Founding committee members were Janis Kate, Dorris Lee, David and Leslie Nilson, Chris Petzoldt, Art and Rita Langhorst, Bess Platt, and Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones. ⊕

### Education:

- ✚ Offering monthly Forums on social justice issues for UUCiL members and the larger community (topics including prison reform, immigration, reducing waste and recycling, treatment of women, perspectives on gun tragedies, healthcare reform, climate change, homelessness and options for low income housing, living with less water, racial inequality, economic inequality and corporate power, ballot measure discussions before elections and evaluating election results as they relate to the common good)
- ✚ Studying Immigration as a Moral Issue with a community read (*The Death of Josseline*) and discussion
- ✚ Viewing and discussing *9500 Liberty* (immigration issues examined)
- ✚ Book Club reading and discussing several books on homelessness and one on water (*Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*)

### Fundraising and In-Kind Contributions

Tithing an increasing percentage from the loose cash in the Sunday basket. Recipients have been: Open Heart Kitchen, Axis Health Care, Senior Support Services/Pleasanton, Livermore Homeless Refuge, Planned Parenthood, Hope Hospice, Habitat for Humanity East Bay, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California (UUJMCA), Tri-Valley Haven, Paws in Need, The Community Water Center, Anthropos, Laundry Ministry, The Stride Center, Jacqui Stratton Memorial Fund at Anthropos.

- ✚ Contributing from Social Justice budget for Open Heart Kitchen, Livermore Homeless Refuge, Abode Services, Anthropos, LARPD (scholarships for summer activities).
- ✚ Contributing clothing, holiday gifts, and school supplies to Tri-Valley Haven.
- ✚ Contributing luggage to foster children.
- ✚ RE trick-or-treating for food items



- to give to Tri-Valley Haven food pantry.
- ✚ Participating in Pace for Peace fundraiser for Tri-Valley Haven.
  - ✚ Raising money for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) by participating in Guest at Your Table.

### Public Witness

- ✚ Coordinating with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California (UULMCA) while advocating for Health Care Reform, Marriage Equality, Immigration Reform, and Water Justice.

- ✚ Standing on the side of young adults frequently referred to as “Dreamers” and their families by registering young people for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).
- ✚ Attending rallies in San Francisco demanding Health Care Reform and in Bakersfield supporting Immigration Reform with path to citizenship for undocumented individuals.
- ✚ Being involved with Interfaith Interconnect to bring 14 religious communities together to understand each others beliefs and find

- shared values (chats, picnics, mock weddings, Thanksgiving Service).
- ✚ Participating in Witness our Welcome as East Bay churches celebrate inclusion of LGBT persons and allies.
- ✚ Advocating for homeless people in response to Livermore’s new camping ordinance.
- ✚ Advocating for affordable housing to be given more attention in the Livermore Housing Element document.
- ✚ Participating in Oakland Women’s March and Livermore’s March for Science. ⊕



**INTERFAITH  
HOUSING**

*Affordable Senior Communities in Livermore*

## Interfaith Housing

*by Helen Meier*

In the late 1960s eight religious congregations located in Livermore came together for the purpose of building and managing low-cost housing for seniors. They formed Interfaith Housing (IFH), a non-profit organization. LUF was one of the founding organizations with Rita Langhorst and Dick Ryon our representatives. Later Harold Wiesner took Dick Ryon’s place.

Each religious group agreed to donate a certain sum each month. That plus a loan from First Presbyterian Church of Livermore allowed IFH to purchase a plot of land on Hillcrest Avenue. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) monies were obtained for construction and in 1972 Hillcrest Gardens became the first IFH senior community providing fifty-four studio apartments in a lovely garden setting.

In 1984 Ralph Moir took over Dick Ryon’s seat on the board, serving for 30 years including two years as VP and four years as President. Karen Crosley filled Rita Langhorst’s spot in 1998 and served for eighteen years, including two years as President.

The IFH board did not rest on their laurels and continued to develop additional properties. In 1980 Vineyard Village, located on Pacific Avenue, was opened with 74 one-bedroom

apartments, and in 1998 Arbor Vista on South Livermore Avenue added another 79 one-bedroom apartments to IFH’s offerings for low-income seniors.

In early 2000 an IFH board member who was an architect proposed adding 60 sq. ft. to each of the Hillcrest Garden apartments. The successful completion of that renovation allowed tenants at Hillcrest Garden to enjoy one-bedroom units instead of studio apartments.

IFH now has three properties with a total of 207 apartments. In 2017, the waiting list has 950+ eligible seniors on it. The average waitlist time is 4–5 years!

In recognition of the huge need for affordable senior housing, the IFH board has been researching the possibility of building a fourth property. Land is scarce and HUD money is no longer available for construction.

The good news is that as of the date this article is being written the Stockmen’s Association of Livermore has committed a 2+-acre parcel of land on Pacific Avenue for senior housing and IFH just selected a non-profit property developer to obtain funding and develop 75-100 units for low-income seniors.

Jocelyn Combs and Helen Meier are currently our representatives on the IFH board. ⊕

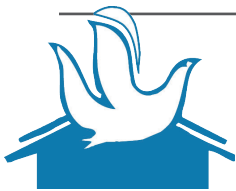


*by Mary Bunch*

In 2012 Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert organized an interfaith group of clergy in the Tri-Valley area, Interfaith Interconnect. The organization’s mission statement is “To enrich, inform, and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley.”

UUCiL has been a powerful supporter of this mission statement by the attendance at the monthly meetings. Those attending have enriched their lives by listening and learning from other faith communities of the Valley. This understanding is then a part of UUCiL.

UUCiL hosts the monthly meeting about once a year sharing our space with other faith communities. Lucas was one of three clergy who spearheaded the yearly Thanksgiving Service, which included many faiths joining to give thanks together. UUCiL was a part of the Three Weddings. This gave examples of three mock weddings from three very different traditions. The members of UUCiL through attendance and participation have aided themselves and UUCiL as they learn of the great diversity in our valley. ⊕



## Tri-Valley Haven

by Gail Cobe

It was LUF's very own Claire Nelson who was one of the Founding Mothers of the Tri-Valley Haven, organized in 1976 and began operations in 1977, as a crisis hotline that was located in the garage of another community leader.

Now forty years later, the Haven's crisis line receives 3000 to 4000 calls a year. And this grass roots endeavor now serves adults and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or homelessness. Among its services are counseling, legal advice, a food pantry, classes and shelter.

During the Haven's forty years, UUCiL has been a great supporter and advocate. Many of our members served on the board, including Diane Jeronimo. Some were volunteers and others were and are employed. Helen Meier was executive director during a large growth period and spearheaded the construction of the building used



Pace for Peace, a semi-annual Tri-Valley Haven fundraiser 5K walk/run. Harry Nelson, Vicki Thompson (TVH), Maureen Hamm, Michael Ducey (TVH), Lois Dueltgen, Judy McMurray, Kathleen Hedges, Ron Dueltgen, Ellen Hedges, Kathy Woofter, Gail Cobe, Katherine Dunn.

to house long-term residents and the community building on Pacific Avenue. Presently Maureen Hamm, Carolyn Staehle and Lynne Menon are employed at the Haven. Our members have helped in the food pantry, donated clothing, donated and sorted gifts for the annual holiday drive,

baked gingerbread cookies, collected school supplies and filled backpacks for local children, and have run or walked the Pace for Peace 5K/10K.

We are committed to continuing our support to those in need and to those organizations that meet those needs. ⊕



## Open Heart Kitchen

*Feeding the Hungry of the Tri-Valley*

by Joan Dickinson

Open Heart Kitchen is a community group that feeds the homeless, low income, and elders free hot meals. It was founded by Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones in 1995 in an interfaith effort. In 2016 they served over 345,000 hot meals.

Jane Staehle was on the Board of Open Heart Kitchen for several years and they were having difficulties getting volunteers. She put the call out to UUCiL members to help, and have been helping ever since. In 2005, UUCiL started staffing the Open Heart Kitchen on the 5th Tuesday of a month for the last shift of four hours. This turns out to be about four or five times in a year. Jane Staehle recruited members to work in the "old" kitchen at the Asbury Methodist Church.

For a time we moved to Holy Cross Lutheran Church while Asbury built a new state-of-the-art kitchen.

UUCiL staffs OHK by serving, chopping, cooking, washing pots and pans, and cleaning up at the end of the shift.

UUCiL is lucky to have many willing volunteers; enough to staff the shift with eight volunteers twice, so everyone works two hours. We wear our yellow aprons proclaiming we are UU's and stand on the side of love. Although this is manual labor, all volunteers receive benefits from putting in a shift, besides making friendships. ⊕

Jane Staehle, top, recruited UUCiL to volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen in 2005. Bottom: Chilli Barlow and Nancy Benedetti prepare food, circa 2010.





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## The Laundry Ministry

by Jacky Poulsen

In 2014, a committee of interested persons from Asbury United Methodist Church (AUMC) and the UUCiL agreed to work collaboratively to develop a Laundry Ministry.

UUCiL was able to offer \$5000 that



Jacky Poulsen in the laundry room at Asbury Methodist Church, 2017.

had come from an anonymous donor. This money was used to jumpstart the program. Two washing machines and two dryers were purchased and housed in a small outbuilding that was converted into a laundry by AUMC. In March of 2015, the first clients started to use the pilot program that tested procedures and processes. It was a success. Over time an additional washer and dryer were added.

The laundry is open every Wednesday afternoon. Those in need can get a hot meal provided by Open Heart Kitchen, take a shower and clean their clothes. I coordinate the volunteers for the program. UUCiL church members working in three-hour shifts comprise most of the twelve volunteers who actively and enthusiastically oversee the operation to make sure that it runs smoothly,

although it is the clients who actually access the machines and are responsible for their clothes.

The *Contra Costa Times* in 2015 quoted Rev. Kim Risedorph of AUMC who speaking of the Laundry Ministry said, "This is how we take our faith seriously; knowing we all have moments with the opportunity to give and moments we need that support and help and care." Rev. Lucas Hergert added Unitarian Universalist's "first principle is that we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person." He added, "This is a clear way we can make sure we help everyone have that dignity: to help them get the resources that are needed." ☺

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## Shawl Ministry

by Joan Dickinson

Some years ago a large amount of yarn was donated to the UUCiL yard sale. When I mentioned this to a friend she said, "Why don't you start a shawl ministry?" I researched what a shawl ministry was all about and thought it was something we should do. I then asked Kim Rowe to help.

The UUCiL Shawl Ministry is a group of knitters and crocheters who gather together to make shawls, lap blankets, scarves, baby blankets, and baby hats. These items are given to members who are in need of extra comfort or for a special occasion,

such as a baby's birth or a wedding.

Over the past ten years, we have made over fifty items and those members who have received them tell us how much love and comfort they have provided. We hear many thank you stories of how these items have meant so much at the time they were given. Recently we started a project, engaging more members of the church, knitting or crocheting rectangles to be made into warm blankets for the homeless.

In 2014, we participated in Livermore's Downtown Tree Sweater Forest, a temporary fiber art installation. We knitted a tree sweater. At the end of the art display, sweaters were donated to the Valley Humane Society to be used as comfort pieces/bedding for shelter pets.

We meet on the first Wednesday evening and the



Sally Marone, Kim Rowe, Janice Paquette, Judy McMurry, Disa Zaplatosch, Joan Dickinson with UUCiL's Tree Sweater. Members Susan Harvey and Kris Parsons also shared in the construction of this lovely tree sweater. October 2014.

second Tuesday afternoon of the month. We welcome new members both experts and beginners. We have lots of yarn and are willing to teach.

An extra benefit of the Shawl Ministry is, as we knit or crochet together, we form friendships. ☺



First afghan made from squares knitted and crocheted by church members, and stitched together by Lisa Fittinghoff and the Shawl Ministry in 2017.

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# Youth Rebuilding Efforts after Hurricane Katrina

by Gavin Herr

We were asked to suit up in crisp white jumpsuits and respirators, to ensure our clothes weren't covered in shrapnel and to protect our lungs from the mold and mildew that had been growing in the walls. Our group had been tasked with something simple and fun for developing youths: demolition.

As we finished getting zipped, we choose our weapons: a baseball bat, sledgehammer, a crowbar, etc.. A bevy of destructive instruments to accomplish a simple goal: take down some dry wall. As we walked down the road, the excitement from picking our "weapons" faded, and the reality of what we were there to do set in. Families had lived here,

children grew, animals frolicked, what was once happy and full of life, was now a rundown parish in need of love and a little help.

Demolition was just one of the tasks we performed while on our trip. We were also lucky enough to assist in putting up fences, drywall, roofing, as well as do some painting for the community in need. The trip gave some kids from Nor-Cal the chance to experience the French Quarter, Cajun cooking, and an opportunity to give back to those in need. ⊕

*On October 7, 2007 the youth led a service recapping their experiences from earlier that spring.*



UUCiL Youth in 2007 demolition in a Parish on the outskirts of NOLA. UUCiL Youth went to participate in clean-up efforts twice. In 2007 Rev. Eric Meter accompanied 15 youth from Livermore. Three years later, rebuilding continued with The Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert and older members from our youth group.



UUUCiL members participate annually in the Creeks to Bay Clean Up by removing litter from a portion of Arroyo Las Positas. In September 2017, participants were Maureen Hamm, Kathy Woofert, Sally Marone, Sharon Piekarski, and Alyce and Terry Rossow.



UUUCiL members participate in the Livermore Rally for Love, February 2017. This peaceful, positive, family-friendly, non-partisan gathering to bring communities together to demonstrate and celebrate the wonderful diversity we enjoy in the Tri-Valley and beyond! The event is sponsored by Embracing Diversity and Interfaith Interconnect. Maureen Hamm, Kathy Woofert, Reanna Bradford, Jocelyn Combs, Stephanie Fish, The Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert, Janis Kate Turner, Judy McMurray, Sierra Aasen.



# History of Caring and Concerns

by Alyce Rossow

I began attending the Unitarian Fellowship in 1962 when it met in an old Spanish style house at 4260 First Street. Although it did not have an "official" Caring and Concerns Committee, I believe the members have always helped those members in need.

The first year I can find a formal committee listed is 1985 when a committee called Crisis was headed by Eileen Contento. The committee was later called Crisis and Caring, and finally, Caring and Concerns.

Often the committee has taken on a special project such as writing the *Memorial Service Procedures Manual* or compiling a list of community resources for those in need, which was provided to the minister.

While Kim Rowe chaired the group they conducted a survey of the entire congregation asking them in what ways they could help.

Then they sorted the names into towns with maps showing each dwelling.

In that way they could choose who might be the best person to ask to help a needy member.

Some names of chairmen in the past were Louise Boyle, Marilyn Graham, Khabira Hartwig, Sara Tarr, Karen Crosley, Helen Meier, and Kim Rowe, who served just before me.

At the time of writing this article, 2017, I am the chairman of Caring and Concerns. The committee consists of

ten people, and usually the minister, who meet monthly. We conduct some business by e-mail. Our purpose is to support those in need with cards, telephone calls and e-mails; and hospital, rehabilitation facility and home visits. We offer rides to church and medical appointments. We also provide meals for those recovering from operations or otherwise in need. Many other members of the congregation have helped when asked. Often a shawl is presented to a person in need of comfort. The Shawl Ministry knits these lovely shawls.

As I write this, many in our congregation are aging. Therefore the committee arranges the logistics for

perhaps two to three memorial services a year. The reception is generally held in the Tot Green Room following the service. Although we used to bring potluck dishes for the reception, we now recommend the family have the reception catered.

We prepare the church, helping the family display pictures

and mementos of the deceased. For the service we provide greeters and ushers, and have attendees sign guest book pages which are later put into a book for the family. We clean up afterwards, restoring the Tot Green Room and the Sanctuary to their former state.

Caring for our members has always been considered a very important function of our church. ☺



PHOTO: PUSHPA DALAL



## Memorials

**Caring and Concerns organized and supported these families for their memorial services**

by Alyce Rossow

Roger Woodbury, July 1968

Jim Watson, May 1975

John Henry Green, December 1977

Thea Stone, 1978

Hilda Frerking, March 1979

Harold Wiesner, October 1980

Captain William Noel Mansfield,  
December 1980

Fran Wiesner, June 1984

John Green, June 1991

Roger Bardsley, October 1993

Ruth Speakes, February 1996

Stu Stone, December 1997

Rita Langhorst, September 1999

Rosemary Stroud, April 2001

Joan "Tot" Green, January 2003

Helen Bardsley, 2004

Dee Wilson October, 2005

Josephine Jones, January 2006

Cheryl Bennett, July 2007

Jim Wilson, August 2007

Marilyn Bangs, March 2008

Bud Barlow, February 2009

Bob Stearns, November 2011

Mary Dum, January 2012

Art Langhorst, March 2013

Rick Thorne, June 2013

William Friedman, August 2013

Virginia Erickson, August 2013

Cathey McClure, October 2013

Hildy Pehrson, March 2014

John Hiskes, February 2015

Margaret Chapman, August 2015

Juanita Bjorklund, October 2015

Tom James, October 2016

Linda Wyeth, November 2016

Keith Mielke, November 2016

Marilyn Bunug, December 2016

John Piekarski, June 2017

Margaret Cooke, December 2017

Chilli Barlow, January 2018



## Building Community

### Weekly Coffee and Sunday Potlucks

*by Gail Cobe*

Coffee and monthly potlucks are held immediately following church services. Depending upon the weather, these are held indoors, or outdoor under the arbor. ⊕



### Chalice Circles

*by Jane Staehle*

In the Spring of 2011, Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert and I established our first Chalice Circles. Since then, groups of up to a dozen have gathered twice a month with a facilitator to share a simple liturgy based on a common reading. The groups are challenged to explore spiritual growth, to deepen their understanding of UU values and principles, and to more fully express these among themselves and in the larger community. Three or four groups have met each Fall and Spring, offering another opportunity for fellowship and growth of our small-group ministry. ⊕



Chilli Barlow and Marion Stearns

### Circle Suppers

*by Davyne Bradley and Gail Cobe*

The concept of Circle Suppers, or potlucks, date as far back as 1971 according to announcements in newsletters. Circle Suppers partner three to five families together to rotate through homes monthly for a shared meal and conversation. Tot Green was an early coordinator, with Joan Dickinson assuming that role through 2017. Circle Suppers continue as we write this, with brief hiatuses throughout the past 35 years. ⊕



### Growing Together Book Club

*by Alyce Rossow*

The book group meets once a month, usually on the first Sunday of each month, following the church service. Various people take turns leading the discussion of a book which has been chosen by the group. Since I have been the leader I have tried to alternate fiction and non fiction selections. Lately we have been choosing books about race relations in America, and immigration to our country. Once a year we have been having an All-Church Read which may be influenced by the UUA guidelines. Discussions are usually quite lively! ⊕

### Senior Singles Dine Out

*by Alice Jane Eachus*

The idea of having a chance to visit with those of us in similar circumstances seemed appealing to several of us living alone, so some of us discussed the possibilities of getting together for a meal, and that is how Senior Singles Supper was born.

We now meet once a month. In the summer we meet for supper, and during the winter we meet for lunch. Each month we decide where to go for the next month's gathering. We have a great time getting to know each other better, and welcoming new people to our group. Both men and women are welcome. ⊕



## Second Saturday Intergenerational Potlucks and Game Night

Games and potlucks, first organized by Margaret Cooke in the early 2010s as 2nd Saturday Family Game Night. Members bring in a variety of games from their personal collections to share for the evening. Lively game nights continue at the time of this writing. ⊕



Margaret Cooke playing "Sparkle Kitty."



UUCiL's youth and adults participate in Game Nights.



### Mexican Train

by Gail Cobe

Mexican Train, a popular game of dominoes, is held once a month on a Friday evening. Players enjoy a potluck dinner, a laid-back game, and lots of conversation. The monthly event started in March 2013 and continues at the time of this writing. ⊕

### Men's Group

by Gail Cobe

In Spring 1992, John Rex invited male members of UUCiL to meet to explore the possibility of establishing a men's group. By 1993, the group formed with Art Langhorst as a contact. The group continues at the time of printing, though with brief hiatuses in its history.

Meetings typically rotate through members homes and UUCiL. ⊕

## Service Auction

by Davyne Bradley

The service auction items brings members together for a variety of activities and opportunities to gather for a variety of activities and for members to share their passions and

knowledge with the church community. The service auction is also a way for members to give and receive help on the subject of their choosing.

Please see page 45 for how the service auction contributes to our finances. ⊕

UUCiL Auction item winners joined Jocelyn Combs on a daylong walking tour that traced the history and original shoreline of San Francisco. From the former U.S. Mint on Mission and 5th Street, through Union Square, Maiden Lane and Chinatown, our intrepid walkers sampled freshly-made fortune cookies and worked up an appetite for lunch in North Beach. Blocks later, they ate dessert followed by a cable car ride back to the Powell St. BART station where they started hours earlier. June 2017.

PHOTO: JOCELYN COMBS



Kim Rowe, Alyce Rossow, Janice Paquette, Arlen Rowe, Lois Dueltgen, Terry Rossow, Ron Dueltgen.



## Groups

### LUF and UUCiL Groups of the past

#### † YAG: Young Adults Group

#### † Minds on Fire: 2001-2011

Minds on Fire was a voluntary, intentional gathering of 7-14 people, who met regularly with the shared goal of mutual edification, fellowship and service to the cause of religious freedom (UU principles and purposes). The group aimed to provide "intimacy and ultimacy," in a setting that allowed people to connect as individuals, and with those individuals consider the ultimate causes of life.

#### † Women of the Cloth

This group incorporated discussion of women's issues, a support group and friendship circle and completed projects for the church at the same time. It is unknown when it was first conceived, but it was revived in 1991 and was active through 1996.



Judy & Monty Herr at a Costume Party.



## UUFOs

### UU and friends Outings

UUFO are ad hoc social activities for all ages with activities ranging from camping to concerts. This is an example and by no means a comprehensive list.

POPS : Livermore-Amador Symphony annual fundraising concert.

Snow Trips to Bear Valley

Fall Picnic at Del Valle Reservoir or Los Vaqueros Reservoir

Local area hikes

Backpacking trips

Niles Canyon Train of Lights



Terry and Alyce Rossow, Camp Shelly, circa mid-1990s.

## Camp Shelly

by Alyce Rossow

UUCiL has a tradition of camping at Livermore's South Lake Tahoe campground called Camp Shelly. It started with Dolores Hiskes organizing Fellowship outings back in the 1960's. Dolores organized what were then called UFO's, standing for Unitarian Family Outings. Originally UFO's were many different types of outings. However, going to Camp Shelly is the one outing that has continued to occur every year. Alyce Rossow has been the most recent organizer. Before her Mike Ong made the arrangements.

Typically families travel to South Lake Tahoe on a Friday afternoon. Some families arrive Friday night to pitch their tent in the dark. They have an early breakfast to enable them to reach Lake Angora early enough to secure picnic tables. In order to reach Angora Lake you must follow a one-lane road up the mountain, hopefully early enough to get a parking place. Having secured a place, you hike up a trail about a half mile to the lake. The more ambitious members hike up a trail from Fallen Leaf Lake with beautiful views of Fallen Leaf and Lake Tahoe.

Lake Angora is a beautiful mountain lake with a sandy beach suitable for young children to wade in. The group usually rents paddle boards and boats to sail on the lake. An



Gail Cobe at Camp Shelly, 2002.

exciting venture for teens and adventurous adults is to travel by boat to the far cliffs and jump off them. A picnic lunch is consumed with homemade lemonade purchased from the small store. In late afternoon the group returns to Camp Shelly for a potluck dinner. Several tables are carried to a large-enough campsite so all can feast together. The youngest children typically run about enjoying being together. Someone will build a campfire for all to enjoy.

Sunday morning most people pack up their tents and sleeping bags and prepare for the drive home. Some go to the nearby Ranger Station and walk a nature trail complete with an underground viewing of the fish swimming in Taylor Creek. Usually there is time to enjoy Baldwin Beach for swimming and a picnic lunch before the drive home. Some lucky people remain for a night or two at Camp Shelly and enjoy more hiking and beaching. Camp Shelly is a wonderful tradition! ☺



Camp Shelly 2012



# Buying our Building: LUF 1976-1977

by Susan Mayall

Some time in early 1976 Harold Wiesner asked me if I would be interested in becoming President of the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship for the year 1976-77. He added, "It's time we had another woman president!" I wasn't too sure whether to be flattered by this — it seemed like some reverse sexism! But I did say yes.

Little did I realize that this coming year would be one of change and dissension within the Fellowship. My husband Brian and I were fairly new members. We had arrived from the Philadelphia suburbs in 1972. There we had been members of a Unitarian Church that had been founded in the same year as LUF, but already had about 500 members. It had just extended its main building, and built a large Sunday School.

LUF was a small group. It had no wealthy benefactors, and most male members worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Its "home" was a large, crumbling old house on a busy street, with a large wild yard surrounding it. Sunday services were cramped, and the Sunday School existed in the old bedrooms. It had been founded largely by people who wanted a liberal religious Sunday School for their children.

When there were special events — memorials, special speakers, weddings etc. — the crowd overflowed the small hall. On Sundays in winter that hall was not large enough for all attendees to gather and talk.

Coming from a much larger congregation, we found that the confines of the building and the tight knit nature of the group did not provide a welcoming atmosphere. So when a weekend retreat was planned at the Unitarian Church in Kensington I signed up for it. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the future of LUF. Its leader was a retired Minister and speaker, Josiah Bartlett.

Joe Bartlett told us that our Fellowship was a "Chambered Nautilus," cramped between the walls of our crumbling building, unable to

move outwards and onwards by lack of funds. We did have a small building fund, but there were new demands apart from those of the building. The city was about to require that we attach to the city sewer, at a cost well above anything we could pay at that time.

We needed to expand, we needed to move. So the building committee, under Harold Wiesner, started to explore possibilities. Restoring and expanding the old building looked impossible. We looked at the possibility of buying a prefab. building, or moving into an existing one. We started looking at other spaces. Eventually, after endless general meetings, more than had ever been held then or since, we decided to put the old building up for sale. We were encouraged by a meeting with a realtor who told us it might bring more than we ever expected — possibly at least \$100,000!

There was sadness over this decision. Many members had worked on the old house, and had helped buy it in the first place. Meetings were often full of argument. But most people became resigned to the idea of selling.

There were hitches in the attempts to sell. One potential buyer offered to pay the asking price for cash. Tot and John Green, suspicious of an offer that looked too good to be true, investigated the buyer and found their suspicions were justified. He was, in fact, bankrupt!

But before the Fellowship year was over we really did find a buyer. Soon after that Dick Ryon and Rick Pond told the Board that they had seen a possible building for sale. It was a Baptist Church on North Vasco Road. Just after that I was coming back from Walnut Creek and decided to detour and have a look at it. As soon as I saw it I thought "If I was a believer I'd say this was an act of God!"

It was still set in meadows at the edge of town. The back looked straight out on the hills. A meadow lark was singing. The

## Facilities History

by Terry Rossow

The Livermore Unitarian Fellowship, later the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, was founded in 1957. It initially met in members homes and then in rented spaces at various Livermore locations. In 1963 it bought a two-story Spanish-style home at 4260 First Street, built in 1927 by a relative of Robert Livermore.

In the late 1960s the size and configuration of the First Street home were not really suited for use by the growing Livermore congregation. Also, the building had structural and plumbing problems. Expansion was not practical due to the cost of required conversion from well water to city water and from septic tank to city sewer system.

In 1970, the Greenville Missionary Baptist Church, which had been meeting at 6443 Southfront Road, east of Vasco Road, built and moved to its new church at 1893 North Vasco Road. It had a Sanctuary/ Classroom Building and a Sunday School building (the present UUCIL Starr King building).

Greenville Baptist was started by the Trinity Southern Baptist Church (460 North Livermore Avenue) to serve the Springtown community. At this time US Highway 50 was being converted into Interstate 580. There wasn't yet an overpass at Vasco.

1977 - The Livermore Unitarian Fellowship bought the Greenville Baptist Church property.

2000 - The sanctuary was completely remodeled, removing the baptismal font and preparation room and reconfiguring the dressing room.

2004 - The Founders and Tot Green buildings were built.





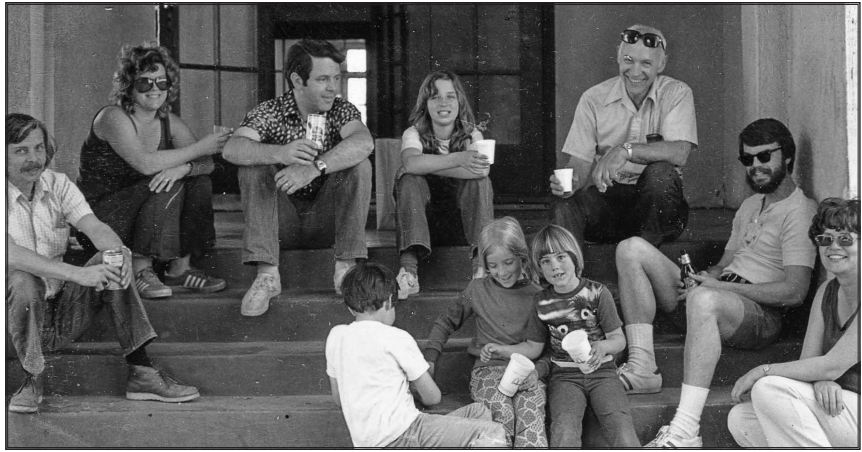
building seemed just the right size. There was plenty of room for expansion and for playgrounds. An extra building was obviously the Sunday School.

I went straight home and called a special Board Meeting. Brian, who was on the Building Committee, went to see the church, and was equally enthusiastic. The Board agreed that we should investigate, and the Building Committee went ahead. It turned out that the Baptists, anxious to get rid of a church they no longer needed, were asking less than we had expected — still more than we wanted to pay, but there was not an impossible gap.

But now we needed to involve the congregation. Another general meeting, a vote to proceed further, and a visit to the church. Many people found the building cold and too conventional. The pews, the turquoise carpet, the worn out furniture, all came in for criticism, but eventually the majority agreed that this was the best chance we had found to achieve our aims.

My presidency had started with the semi-collapse of a basement wall in the old building. It ended with the theft of our piano. It seemed an appropriate time to say goodbye.

The summer was full of meetings, negotiations (sometimes, if in Baptist quarters, accompanied by prayer) and Sunday services held in unusual places, such as Rosewood Gardens Retirement Home. We had sold the old building, and were temporarily homeless. And in the fall we moved into our new home. ⊕



Above: Moving Day from First Street House: George Bishop, Diane Harmon, Larry Harmon, Kathy Davis, Harold Wiesner, Carolyn Staehle, Ron Koopmann, Gunthar Hartwig, Kari Cashen, Jane Staehle.

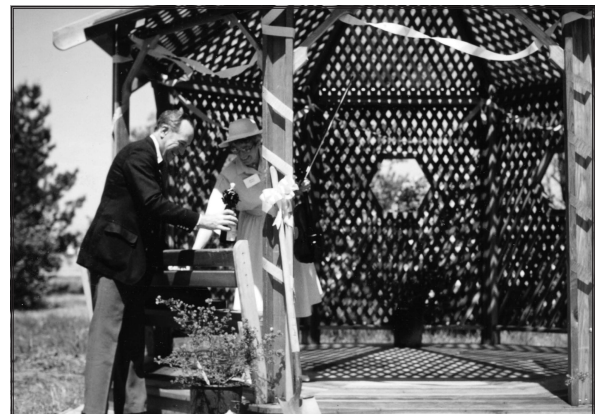
Right: Removing the cross from the Vasco Road Building.

Below: Our new home at 1893 N. Vasco Rd.



Bottom left: The Pergola was constructed in 1979 by volunteers. Grapevines and wisteria were planted in 1980. Bob Stearns and Art Langhorst made their *Celestial* red and white wines from these grapes that garnered top dollar at the service auction.

Below: Bob and Marion Stearns Gazebo, constructed in 1987.





# Remodeling the Sanctuary

by Pat Mielke and Joe Thompson

In the year 2000 a committee was formed to remodel the church sanctuary. The property had been purchased from the Baptists in 1977, and the interior was not well suited to our Unitarian needs. There were long, heavy, ten-person pews which were not at all flexible for the church's other meetings. The interior was very much in need of painting. The church members felt that the sanctuary should reflect a spirit of warmth to members and visitors alike to meet our oft-stated affirmation: "We are a



*Demolition of Baptismal Font.*

friendly and open congregation."

The Sanctuary Remodeling Committee members were Tot Green, chairperson; Joe Thompson; and me. We each brought special skills to the group. Tot was the tiger lady who had been pushing for this project for some time. We wrote a letter to the Church Board and convinced them the time was right. Tot and I made the big decorating decisions on types of flooring, chair selection, painting colors and lighting additions. Terry Rossow was instrumental on making sure the lighting and sound systems were done right. Joe prepared the construction drawings and provided full-time supervision throughout the demolition and construction phases, doing some minor construction work himself. He also carefully tracked the project to make sure everything was done legally and within budget.

The Sanctuary Remodel Funding campaign was held in the last quarter of 2000. The goal of \$60,000 was soon

reached and construction began in early 2001. The project began with Joe Thompson and John Lemieux clearing out the former baptismal area, which had been filled with chairs and other debris. Much of the work of preparing the sanctuary for remodeling involved members doing the work. Tot found a contractor, Lloyd Johnson, for some of the heavy duty demolition work. He and his crew demolished the large baptismal pool area, choir loft and the right-hand closet that had been used as a dressing area. That work meant that a new supporting beam had to be installed at the front end of the sanctuary. A new beam was located and painted to match the other beams and installed.

I recommended track lighting be placed on the beams and three ceiling fans installed to help with air circulation. Tot recommended that the old flooring be removed and smoothed so that new parquet flooring could be installed.

The old 10-person heavy oak pews needed to be disposed of. Someone,

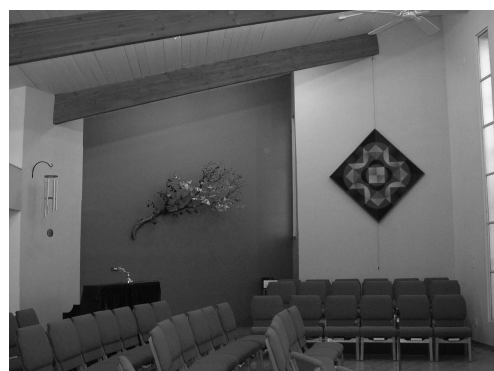
encouraged to try them out and vote for their favorite. The decision was made to buy stackable chairs with padded backs and seats, with narrow storage under the seat. They were ordered in a soft teal color. This generated the search for new wall paint colors. The sanctuary committee with Pat as chairman, decided on a light beige color for the majority of the walls, with a darker teal color behind the pulpit and choir areas. A branch of manzanita was located from property owned by Dick and Doris Ryon that became the focal point of the area above the choir. It took a couple of tries, and the help of a decorator, to finally get the accent color right. Shelley Covey added a rainbow of origami doves to the branch, and it's been a focal point for years. Through the years banners have also been added behind the minister and pulpit, changed periodically.

Having removed the old small choir loft, there was a need for some movable risers for the choir to sit on. A team of members, led by Joe, with help from Keith and Ted Crosley, built a series of 4-foot-square, 5-inch-high platforms, covered in teal carpet. They are portable and stackable to form a platform for the choir. Later, Rich Partida designed and built a set of risers to fit the corner behind the pulpit, and fill in some gaps in the choir risers. The risers have proved very versatile, meeting many diverse needs. ⊕



*Under Construction - lots of help!*

no one remembers who, located a church in Antioch that was willing to take them. UUCIL gave them the pews with the stipulation that they had to remove them. I organized a committee to investigate and decide on new flexible seating. After visiting several churches and trying out chairs, several chair models were selected and displayed. Congregants were



*Finished!*

PHOTOS: CHUCK HARTWIG OR PAT MIELKE

## Adding the New Buildings

by Brian Mayall

When LUF moved into its new quarters in 1977, the property consisted of two buildings, a giant cross and more than two acres of field. We were surrounded by ranches to the north and east and horse paddocks to the south, separated only by barbed wire fences. Meadow larks sang. Vasco Road was merely a two-lane country road. LUF had clear views of the hills surrounding the Livermore valley.

The buildings had no internal doors. The sanctuary had seven long yellow pews and odd bits of bluish carpet. A large total immersion font-dominanted with changing areas on each side, and the narthex (the gathering area at the back) was separated from the sanctuary by removable sheets of 4x8 plywood. Much was to change.

Under the leadership of Jay Davis and Tot Green, the whole congregation pitched in to remove the cross, create internal doors, build a kitchen, construct a stage to cover the baptismal tank, extend the RE building to add a toilet and storage space, seal part of the parking area, and landscape with irrigation (Dick Ryon was an unstoppable wizard with the ditch digger) and some trees. LUF borrowed \$20,000 to complete the purchase, and took out another \$20,000 loan to complete the initial renovations.

Over the years, LUF/UUCiL

continued to improve its property: the walkway and arbor (John Green) and gazebo for outdoor ceremonies (Bob Stearns). The property was plagued by sporadic vandalism — trucks tearing up the grounds, knocking down the gazebo, entering through the men's toilet and breaking through the wall to deface the sanctuary. Terry Rossow installed lights and an alarm system, which helped. But it really was the build-out of surrounding properties that made the most difference.

From the beginning, LUF realized that we would outgrow our limited space and need to expand. UUCiL had paid off our initial loans, we had evolved into a church with a minister and staff to support, and had reached the stage where the church had more members than could accommodated, particularly for RE where every available space was used, including the minister's study, for classes.

UUCiL had accumulated a substantial building fund, supplemented by income from leasing out the RE building to a day care center; but did not have nearly enough funds to undertake a major expansion. Members explored different options, including double sessions, but nothing actually happened. This all changed with the renovation of the sanctuary. Our self-image was transformed to that of a can-do group. New floors, chairs, space. And raised the \$60,000 needed entirely from the congregation in just a few months.

To proceed, UUCiL needed a strategic vision, and then building plans and a funding plan. After several meetings, a path forward started to converge. Fortuitously, the land to the south was bought by Warmington Homes for housing development, but they had to have a water and fire route loop. UUCiL negotiated to give them an easement for water mains and emergency access through our parking area. In return, they would provide UUCiL with water, gas, electric and communication access through their development, together with a cash contribution and an undertaking to repave and extend the parking area.

The pieces were starting to fall in place, and by the end of 2002 UUCiL was ready to move forward.

Sunil Wijeyesekera took control of finances and developed a plan to secure the funds estimated that would be needed. Cash in the building fund and from a major three-year capital drive (\$300,000) were supplemented by a bequest from Tot Green's



PHOTOS: CHUCK HARTWIG



Above, Brian Mayall and Sunil Wijeyesekera. Left: framing of the Founder's Building.



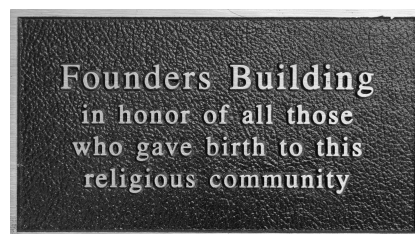
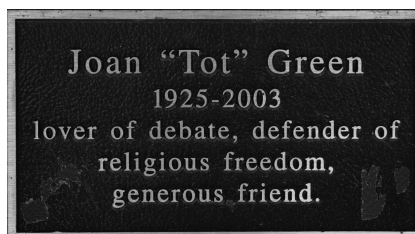
estate (\$50,000), payment from Warmington (\$65,000), a mortgage through the UUA (\$200,000), and seven-year notes purchased by our members (\$80,000).

The congregation created a request for proposals from possible architects. From several proposals, Paul Kelly, a Berkeley firm that specialized in church expansion projects, was selected. He guided UUCiL through several congregational workshops, to converge on issues like how much space was needed, how it was to be allocated, etc. He then created a master plan for the site, which had two phases of construction. First as phase A, the two new RE classroom buildings (1,240 and 1,600 square feet) together with new roofing, repainting and other necessary upgrades to our existing buildings; then as phase B, doubling of the sanctuary, extension of the office building, new washrooms, and a separate fellowship hall.

The master plan was presented to and approved in its entirety by the City (October, 2003).

UUCiL then created an RFP for construction and hired Antrim Construction, a local operation, as our contractor. Once detailed construction plans were completed, construction went relatively smoothly. The Church was able to continue all operations and avoided falling into trenches.

The Founders Building and the Tot Green Building were completed on time and on budget. They were named and dedicated on September 12, 2004. ☺



## "Tot" of the Tot Green Building

by Susan Mayall

I met Tot at the LUF house – the big old mansion on First Street that

housed the Unitarian Fellowship. It was 1972, and we had just arrived in Livermore from Pennsylvania, where we'd been members of a large church with 500 members.

LUF was very different, but Tot made us feel very welcome. When I met her in the supermarket a few days later she immediately invited me to coffee. We became firm friends. We got to know all the Green family – hiking, camping and picnicking with them, going to concerts and plays with them, even going to our first baseball game (they were addicts!).

Tot and I went backpacking together soon after the tragic death of their son John. She needed peace

and solitude. But she was one of the few people who liked to have people dropping in — and they did! One could often encounter Tot and her lovely husband John sitting at the kitchen table, Tot taking an occasional puff on John's pipe, and chatting about anything under the sun.

Tot was a dedicated Unitarian, and took pride in going to church every week. Sitting next to her in church was somewhat hazardous, because

is almost no part of the church as it is now that does not show traces of her influence, from the buildings themselves to the whole organizational structure. She and John were generous donors, but Tot was a very hands-on member as well, holding almost every office, a member of every committee, and taking part in every work party.

She had very strong opinions and loved to argue, but she bore no ill will towards anyone who disagreed with her. She was a good citizen, as active in the community as in the church. She was a lifelong Republican, but believed strongly in health care reform for all. She was

There is almost no part of the church as it is now that does not show traces of Tot's influence, from the buildings themselves to the whole organizational structure.

if she disagreed with the sermon — or the music, or anything else — she would whisper her opinions loudly in one's ear. But Sundays were a tiny part of Tot's service to the Fellowship, then to the Church it became. There

courageous and kind, a lover of life and of people. She deserved to be remembered in the church she served so well. ☺

# Our Playgrounds

by Leslie Lemiux

When my husband John and I first joined the church in 1996 the playground consisted of a set of metal “old school” monkey bars surrounded by a sandbox out in back of the sanctuary, kitchen and office building. A couple of years later, a family whose grandsons had outgrown their playset gave us that, and it sat outside the sandbox for several years.

As far back as 2000, some of the congregants were envisioning a new playground. At that time we began planning to build our two new buildings (the Starr King and Tot Green). However, it was of greater importance to first build these new Sunday School buildings. Claire Nelson had already begun asking members to bring their plastic bottles and tin cans to recycle for the benefit of a playground fund. The fund was growing slowly.

Once the buildings were built, we really ended up thinking we needed a playground, a dedicated space for the children. Claire, with Alyce Rossow, Chilli Barlow, and many of the elders in the congregation, took a strong stance on this at the Annual Meeting. And the playground fund was on the books of the church’s balance sheets. Growing, but really not by much.

In 2012 the church got serious about building a playground. Margaret Cooke called for the formation of a Playground Capital Campaign. Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert applied for a Chalice Lighters Grant from the UUA which ended up being \$9,500. This moved the committee closer to our goal. At that point we spent a lot of time asking

people what equipment we should choose. Of course the children were asked what they wanted to play on. Margaret was the primary person responsible for the completion of our playground. In her professional life at the Livermore Lab, Margaret worked with contracts. She found a vendor, and worked with the committee to decide which pieces of equipment we wanted. She then bargained with the vendor to get the prices down. The committee obtained the specifications needed to build our playground up to the code for a public playground in Livermore. The day finally came when UUCiL ordered the equipment and also the material beneath it, and then waited.

Finally the delivery day arrived. Margaret asked me to be there for the delivery, as she was not available that day. At the time, she was employed full-time at the Lab, and I was not. Terry and Alyce Rossow,

Karen Lincoln, Davyne Bradley, Cyndy Salmon and Margaret took turns doing duty during delivery and installation. We waited for the trucks, and then several of us, as schedules allowed, stayed for the assembly. After the assembly, we all had fun with our shovels and rakes putting the ground covering around the playground, making sure it was the proper depth for the city code.

It never would have happened without Margaret. ☺

Opening Day, May 2013. Aislin Lighter Steill, Imoen & Colin Bradley, Sierra Aasen, Lucas Koselka-Wallin, Piper Cooke, Natalia Koselka-Wallin, Avery Lighter Stiell.



PHOTO: DAVYNE BRADLEY

Leslie Lemiux, Margaret Cooke, and Claire Nelson were the driving forces behind the new playground in 2013. Piper Cooke and Mackenzie Lemiux test it out!



Poodle Playground at the First Street house, circa 1973. Built by Chuck Hartwig and LUF members.

PHOTO: CHUCK HARTWIG



Sandbox Playground at the new building on Vasco Road, designed and constructed by Chuck Hartwig, Marc Costantino, and other LUF members, circa 1979.

PHOTO: CHUCK HARTWIG



1982 Climber Playground

PHOTO: CHUCK HARTWIG



Temporary playground addition 2003



PHOTO: DAVYNE BRADLEY



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# Liberal Religious Youth

by Jack Long

The Livermore Unitarian Fellowship had a vibrant high school youth group. It was referred to as LRY. I remember being the advisor for about four years starting in 1971. At that time I was 35 years old, working at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as a mechanical engineer. My wife Valerie and I had four young daughters ages 4-10 years old. My family was involved in the group's trips.

Liberal Religious Youth was the name for the Unitarian world-wide organization for high-school-age youth. The Livermore Unitarian Fellowship sponsored a group since its inception. The Fellowship high schoolers were encouraged to attend local, national and international conferences.

LRY members did not have to be a Unitarian. The ratio of Unitarians to non was about 50/50. The group met mid-week, weekly for three hours at the Fellowship House. The meetings were run by elected officers and were generally allocated a portion of the time for selecting and organizing the next activity which could be:

1. Northern California LRY conferences, once a year.
2. National LRY conference, once a year. (I attended one in Los Angeles.)
3. Participating in the Fellowship service, once a year.
4. Visiting other religious denominations about twice a year.

## 5. Weekend trips.

I'll cut to the chase: items 1-4 were fit in around item 5, weekend trips. These trips were the group's bonding glue. Here I need to digress into my philosophy as an advisor.

1. LRY members run their own organization. I typically read a book during their weekly meetings.
2. Keep the group safe.
3. Do a trip once a month wherein they select the destination, plan the menu, buy the food, and establish responsibilities.
4. Pay their own way, food, lodging, fuel, fees, etc.
5. Treat my family as guests i.e. cook, clean up, babysit.
6. Value me as an advisor.
7. I provide as much support as possible i.e. vehicles, equipment.

Item 7 is a key point as almost none of the LRY members were licensed or owned a vehicle.

I always provided a ten-passenger station wagon or a 1949 Chevrolet sixteen-inch flatbed truck with six-foot-high sides, commonly referred to as "The Goose," as in *Mother Goose*. Whenever we camped, the flatbed truck was used. Most trips were weekend camping trips. Some were seven to ten days

long (Easter Vacation) to places like Canyon Lands and Death Valley National Monuments.

In retrospect, if you asked one of the former members today what they remember about LRY forty years ago, they would only remember camping trips in the ancient Chevrolet flatbed truck, "The Goose." I don't think they would recall weekend conferences in the redwoods or visiting other religious organizations. Perhaps a few details might emerge, such as the summer weekend spent river running in the American River, Truckee, and Stanislaus Rivers using their inner tubes. Or they might remember a morning search in fresh snow around our camping area in the Utah desert for Zeke. After several

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If you asked one of the former members today what they remember about LRY forty years ago, they would only remember camping trips in the ancient Chevrolet flatbed truck, "The Goose."

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hours of searching, I called the sheriff to report a missing person. The sheriff advised me there was a stranded teenage boy in a gas station about sixty miles from us. Apparently while refueling the truck about midnight, Zeke got out of the truck to use the bathroom while LRYers were sleeping in the back of the truck. No one realized he had gotten out.

The stories could go on probably bigger and better than reality. To me, these stories would be a measure of my effectiveness as a youth advisor.

My daughters still have fond memories of their interactions with LRY members they got to know on the various trips. As for me, I feel lucky to have made my role as a youth advisor relatively successful. To this day, I am friends with my LRY members. ⊕



Egg Throwing Contest, May 1971.

## Growing Up in the Fellowship *circa 1961-1968*

by Tasia Wilson Florey James

These are my early impressions of the Fellowship.

Sundays, as a child, started with a long walk to the Fellowship on First Street. A stop at the liquor store to buy candy kept us fueled. Dad took us five kids both because he loved to walk, and Mom enjoyed some quiet on Sunday mornings. We picked up the railroad tracks and followed them out of town. Where we turned from the tracks across a field to the church, we would look for last week's smashed coins. Then we would set new coins for the next train through to flatten.

Once at church, I headed upstairs to the children's gathering room. Mrs. Olga Shearer often led the opening service. She made the room attractive with table cloths and fresh flowers. It was a treat to see what she did

each week. A lucky child was called up to light the three candles. Reciting the purpose of each candle has stuck with me: hope, beauty and love, the greatest gift of all. Service ended with a gospel song such as *Jericho* or *Go Down Moses*. All the children then dispersed to Sunday school.

Recollections can be less than accurate because I remember studying dinosaurs for what seemed like year after year. Moses floating down the river in a bull rush basket was another subject classes seemed to dwell on. Perhaps, this early in the Fellowship's life, there was a lack of a set curriculum. Somehow the values of the Unitarian faith were instilled; they continue to be a foundation for responding to life's challenges.

Both the best and worst part of Sunday services was after classes were over. It seemed like my parents would

never quit talking and take us home. Seeing what Mrs. Dolores Hiskes was wearing helped pass some time; she was the only flashy dresser I had seen. She wore tops with sequins and eye makeup. Once I checked out her outfit, I listened in on conversations. Mr. Harry Nelson could be counted on to have a puzzle in his pocket. My parent's Unitarian friends were full of enthusiasm and convictions. More than any church program, it was the people who made up the Fellowship who influenced my morals and values. I suspect this is still true today for the young people in our congregation. ⊕

*Tasia is Dee and Jim Wilson's daughter, who were among the first members of LUF in 1957.*

## Growing Up in the Fellowship

*circa 1962-1968*

by Cathy Watson

My memories of growing up in the Fellowship strangely contain no religion; I literally can't recall a single Sunday School lesson or sermon. There wasn't even a minister at first. Even when we did get one, I didn't like those Sundays as much as when one of the members spoke about, say, the meaning of beauty, or showed slides from their vacation. Perhaps I have vague memories of building pyramids out of sugar cubes.

No, my memories are of the old Fellowship building. It was a big sprawling house with any number of secret passages and little nooks and crannies for hide and seek. And we had lots of time to kill: my parents were always among the last to leave. We ran all over for hours together picking flowers and doing the things kids aren't supposed to do. And don't forget the potlucks! I used to help my mom make her special Easter cupcakes or deviled eggs, without being able to eat any. It was agony if they

were all gone before I got through the line.

I shouldn't say I never remember Sunday School: I do remember the Communication and Sexuality classes (now called OWL) that Chilli Barlow taught. It was Alice Mayall and Randy Kahn and I. My mom still says that, although Jack and Barbara didn't come much, Randy never missed it! And I remember a "blind weekend" that my parents chaperoned. We all wore blindfolds for a day and a half, to try to understand disabilities and learn to trust each other.

More than the church itself though, I remember the people. We had so many good outings with all these friends: ski trips and picnics and pool parties and of course, Camp Shelly. We didn't have a lot of money, so our big summer vacation might be a backpacking trip with the Barlows and Davises. My memories of singing around campfires are my most treasured.

And I could never forget how the



Children's worship area, circa 1968.

church came together when my father, died, too young at the age of 40. At his memorial service I had never seen so many people at the Fellowship: they had to set up speakers outside for all the overflow. A house filled with love. ⊕

*Cathy is Alyce Rossow's daughter. Jim Watson was Cathy's father.*



## Growing Up in the Fellowship *circa 1975-1987*

by Carolyn Staehle

Summer sunlight, the smell of dust and dry grass, and the rolling hills around and behind the original LUF House...those are the first things that come to mind when I think of a childhood in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. My childhood seems a long time ago now, and a lot of Livermore has changed since the 1970s. The house on First Street that was the original church building is now surrounded by other houses—packed in and without a view of the hills. But back then, it was all white exterior and, on the inside, it was dark-brown and creaking floorboards, sun beams and dust motes—the Sunday school upstairs and the grownups downstairs and voices traveling between.

I remember the outside most clearly—the stand of milkweed on the western side of the church entrance where you could gently pluck the plants and place them in a jar with nail holes in the lid to provide food for the brightly striped caterpillars that lived on them and ate them. Those caterpillars magically transformed themselves into milky green chrysalis jewels studded with gold, then went transparent to reveal the

monarch butterflies within. Get really lucky, and they would all emerge from your jar, inflate their wings, and fly away out of your front yard weeks later. I remember the boys of the church, mostly a few years older than I, teaching me how to make a slip knot out of a long strand of wild oat grass to catch the blue belly lizards sunning themselves on the pile of old bricks behind the church. Once you got them, you could gently hold them upside down and stroke their electric blue striped bellies and they would fall asleep (or possibly go limp

about church stuff just above in the late morning light.

A childhood at the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship, later UUCiL, was a haven for a child who didn't fit in very well a lot of other places. People like the Hartwigs were my second family. UFOs (Unitarian Family Outings) to places like Camp Shelly, Angora Lake or the ski slopes are treasured parts of my childhood. But what I truly have taken with me as an adult is a love for our traditions—my time in the choir means I always have at least one hymn in my head every

week, randomly showing up to grace me with good memories. And in the work that I do as an adult with survivors of trauma, incarcerated in jail, the principle that all human beings have inherent worth and

dignity is engraved in me and has become the touchstone of all my work.

So, while my memories of a UUCiL childhood might seem all wrapped up in lizards and butterflies, dust and sunlight, what they are really about is a childhood spent learning to treat others with respect, to honor differences, and to know I always have a spiritual home I can return to. Thank you, UUCiL, for the memories and the good childhood. ⊕

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A childhood at the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship, later UUCiL, was a haven for a child who didn't fit in very well a lot of other places.

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in terror, but I prefer to think they were entranced by the touch). Once you set them down they would take a moment, remember where they were, and run back under their favorite brick. There was also the darkness behind the exterior stairs where all the kids dared each other to go, where little white rootlets and weeds tried to find the sun. A scary place, but the right kind of scary—with the adults smoking cigarettes and talking



RE Class with Chuck Hartwig, Spring 1982.



Gunther Hartwig, tree unidentified children, Johanna Hartwig, June 1977.

PHOTOS: COURTESY CHUCK HARTWIG

## Growing Up in the Fellowship *circa 1975-1990*

by Johanna Hartwig

How fortunate I was to grow up in the Fellowship! My family became members before I can remember and I was involved with the congregation until leaving for college in 1990. I still enjoy coming back for special events. The values the UU community instilled in me of fostering tolerance, understanding and justice and seeking the oneness of peoples everywhere are still core to my beliefs. Now, when asked what religion I am, I still identify as UU, although it has been years since I've been a member of a congregation. That said, I live in San Francisco, which has a wonderful UU church, and am about to have a baby girl—that's been making me think it may be time to join the SF congregation!

My memories of my childhood are populated with images of the Fellowship/UUCIL. I'll just share a few of my favorites. Some of my early memories involve the move to Vasco, when I was about five years old. I particularly remember discovering the baptismal font, which seemed like it would make a wonderful kiddy pool, and everyone building the playground together. My dad recently showed me

photos of the latter—what fun!

I enjoyed RE, whether it was with a small class of a few kids or one of our popular times when we might have had a whopping 15! My parents and so many members of the congregation generously cycled through as teachers. Interestingly, the main thing I remember was learning about the primary beliefs and practices of other faiths and of other flavors of



PHOTO: PUSHPA DALAL

Johanna with her husband, Stefano DeZerega, at UUCIL's 60th Anniversary Gala.

Christianity. That early information and understanding of common spiritual and moral threads has served me throughout my life as I've met people from diverse faith backgrounds and have traveled around the world

and had a chance to visit holy sites from India to Peru. After Elizabeth arrived, I really loved how we would get to join the adults first for a story from her before we started RE.

When I was in high school, I babysat the youngest kids in the congregation, which I really liked.

The Fellowship put on a lot of social events when I was young that were especially fun and gave the congregation lots of chances to come together, laugh together, and get to know each other well. For example, we had a movie series with eclectic showings. As a child who was very fond of my long hair, the film version of Fitzgerald's short story *Bernice Bobs her Hair* made a particularly strong impression on me!

One of my funniest memories that I enjoy sharing with my friends to this day was getting to benefit from what must have been the most explicit (and useful!) sex ed class going at the time in the Tri-Valley. (I wonder if those filmstrips from the 60s are still around!) Since there were not a lot of adolescents and teens in the church at the time, I got to participate earlier than others would have,

well before I had romance of my own. In a day and age now when there are so many attempts to keep kids in the dark, it makes me even more grateful I grew up in a community that focused on empowerment.

It meant a lot to me to grow up in the Fellowship in Livermore. Some kids might have minded that people often had no idea what I meant when I said I was Unitarian; I liked the chance to explain what being a UU was about. I know that many people reading this will know my family and me from my time at the church and my parents' many years of dedicated service. Thanks to all of you who helped raise me through the UU community! ☺



PHOTO: COURTESY CHUCK HARTWIG

Johanna's Mom, Khabira (Rin) Hartwig, often taught RE classes. Johanna is at the far right. Spring 1982.



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# Growing up UU 2009-2018

by Piper Cooke

**I**  
i remember my friends were all christian so one day when  
i was little i went home  
and i told my mom i thought jesus was the son of god  
because  
anika-margie-molly-everybody told me so.  
and now my friends all believe in nothing  
and i believe in nothing holy  
but i don't go to church for holiness.  
the best thing is: i don't have to.

**II**  
i remember at the park by my house when i was walking  
another little girl started running towards me.  
so many things happen when little girls meet each other  
and parks are such good places.  
i don't remember much but my parents spoke with her  
parents and her parents were UU  
and so a few months later then so were my parents  
and then so was i.  
i don't remember much but sometimes such marvelous  
things happen to you completely on accident.

**III**  
i remember i used to fight for the cushions in the  
elementary school room  
tiny-little pillows to sit on and listen.  
don't remember much of what i heard but i remember it  
was good.  
i remember middle school lessons and seeing different  
churches, temples, synagogues,  
you can believe in anything you want to here and that's  
beautiful.

**IV**  
i remember growing up UU and not understanding  
biblical allusions. seriously.  
i never read it once and what do those books and stories  
mean???  
i learned later- why read the bible  
when i can write one?  
"the world is lovely, this i know  
for i find it to be so  
for i want it to be so  
for ill make it to be so." (that's my bible)

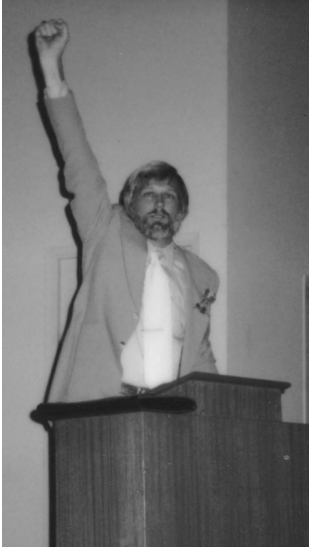
**V**  
i remember OWL, the week before valentine's day,  
walking in a walgreens and shouting about condoms  
(productively).  
employees said "you can't do that" (they were wrong).  
someone bought a pack with a chocolate rose  
said "just getting ready for valentine's day" – to the cashier  
then we got pizza  
and it was the best story i ever told for YEARS.

**VI**  
i remember sunday december 3rd 2017  
i didn't want to go  
but you cried for me and with me and it was the worst  
thing  
and it was so lovely of you and  
if i had to lose her  
im so glad i got to do it with you.

**VII**  
growing up UU is just growing up  
how else do you do it? i never knew  
i wouldn't be me if i wasn't UU  
i hope it makes me kinder. i think it makes me wiser  
i don't always go to church anymore  
but ill never forget the chance i got  
to find my own truth.

Piper Cooke, center,  
participates in the annual  
youth service.





## A Year as President: 1981-1982

by Jay Davis

Looking back across the decades, and in particular through the lens of the present, it's hard to believe how simple those times were.

The Church grew slowly as our visibility in Livermore increased, and we managed to adapt to both the new formality of sermons and a structured service and the maintenance of a new and larger property. Oh, do I remember the endless mowing of the grounds! We were at the edge of town and

seemed to merge with the fields forever.

My most unexpected duty was the marrying of three couples during the year. (Since we had no minister, the church president was able to marry couples.) Most notable among them, of course, was Alyce and Terry Rossow. My work in all cases must have been good, as I've not heard any complaints to date.

As always, the Unitarian experience had much in rewards and much to teach. ☺



## LUF and UUCiL Board Presidents

compiled by Chuck Hartwig

### Livermore Unitarian Fellowship

1956-57	Paul Whitmore
1957-58	Joe Taylor
1958-59	Forrest Fairbrother
1959-60	Bill Dickinson
1960-61	Ervin Woodward
1961-62	Bob DaRosa
1962-63	Dianne Beard
1963-64	
1964-65	
1965-66	Lynn Woodbury/Jim Wilson
1966-67	Bill Lokke
1967-68	Ed Ratcliffe
1968-69	Harold Wiesner
1969-70	Harold Wiesner
1970-71	Harry Nelson
1971-72	Dick Ryon
1972-73	Rick Pond
1973-74	Bill O'Neal
1974-75	Charles (Chuck) Hartwig
1975-76	Charles (Chuck) Hartwig
1976-77	Susan Mayall
1977-78	Jay Davis
1978-79	Tot Green
1979-80	Bud Barlow
1980-81	Ron Koopman
1981-82	John Boyle
1982-83	Jane Staehle
1983-84	Marc Costantino
1984-85	Marilyn Bangs
1985-86	Steve Morgan
1986-87	Chilli Barlow

### Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

1987-88	Terry Rossow
1988-89	Marion Stearns
1989-90	Harry Gandy
1990-91	Cyndy Salmon / Bob Bangs
1991-92	Erv Woodward
1992-93	Charles (Chuck) Hartwig
1993-94	David Nilson / Charles (Chuck) Hartwig
1994-95	Chris Petzoldt
1995-96	Dorris Lee
1996-97	Hank O'Brien / Steve Morgan
1997-98	Thad Salmon / Becky Leyser
1998-99	Becky Leyser / Khabira Hartwig
1999-00	Khabira Hartwig
2000-01	Sunil Wijeyesekera
2001-02	Sunil Wijeyesekera
2002-03	Leslie Lemieux
2003-04	Leslie Lemieux
2004-05	Jane Staehle
2005-06	Chuck Jeronimo/ Jane Staehle
2006-07	Arlen Rowe
2007-08	Janice Paquette
2008-09	Janice Paquette
2009-10	Sunil Wijeyesekera / Ron Duetgen
2010-11	Ron Duetgen
2011-12	Tim Bradley
2012-13	Tim Bradley
2013-14	Janice Kate Turner
2014-15	Gail Cobe
2015-16	Jocelyn Combs
2016-17	Jocelyn Combs
2017-18	Bob Thornhill



# Representing UUCiL at the UUA's General Assembly

by Ron and Lois Dueltgen

Since joining UUCiL in 2005, we have attended five national meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association, usually referred to as the General Assembly, or just "GA." These annual meetings bring together thousands of UUs from across the country and around the world to discuss, debate topics of widespread interest and to adopt policies and action plans that reflect the hopes and ideals of UUs everywhere.

Several highlights of these meetings come to mind:

† Just being in a large auditorium with 5000 other UUs is an absolute thrill. To see this many (mostly) like-minded people together,

affirming our movement, singing our songs, is inspiring. If you think you are alone, fighting the good fight, try to get to GA as soon as possible.

† Seeing the assembled UU youth always gives us hope. Especially, we have accompanied UUCiL youth to these meetings and have been mightily proud of their contributions and of their friendly interactions with their peers and adult attendees. We were thrilled with their participation and leadership in the Justice GA in Phoenix in 2012.

† Having the responsibility of being



UUCiL delegates Amy Leona, Lois Dueltgen, Charlie Bennett, Ron Dueltgen, Laura Bennett, Pat Meilke, Joceylyn Combs, Sierra Aasen, and Bob Miess at the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans in June 2017.

a delegate to the convention can be exciting and boring and fulfilling all at once. In this way we have represented UUCiL four times. Delegates debate and discuss and approve actions for the entire UUA for the coming year, often with great fervor and many, many words, as only UUs can.

† In Salt Lake City (2009) we had the privilege of meeting the Rev. Lucas Hergert and welcoming him to UUCiL prior to his move to Livermore. We liked the "sneak preview" and hope that it helped him feel at home here.

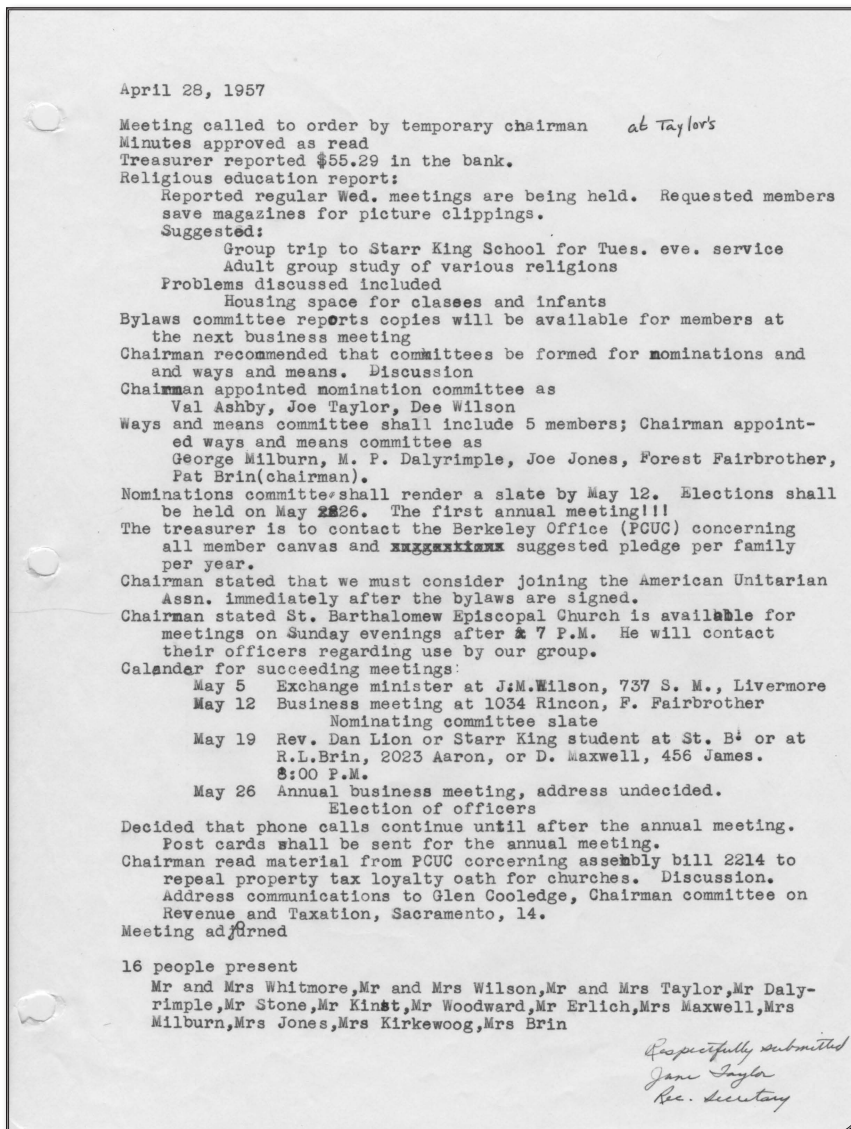
We have been pleased to represent UUCiL at GA while, incidentally, visiting some great American cities. Thanks for the opportunity. ⊕

## UUA Pacific Central Division

by Gail Cobe

Our involvement and support in and from the PCD has continued over the lifetime of our existence. In the July 1966 newsletter there was a statement "The PCD showed great judgment in electing Jim Wilson from LUF to be the Director of Extension for the District." In 1967 Liz Lokke was elected as a member at large to the PCD. In April of 2001, Gail Cobe and a member of the Hayward Church were Co-Chairs for the Pacific Central District Assembly held in San Ramon. ⊕

Minutes from the first LUF Annual General Meeting.



# Stewardship and Canvassing Memories

by Chuck Hartwig and Charlie Bennett

Raising money to keep the UUCiL and in earlier days the LUF functional and financially healthy has always been extremely important to our church. Over the years we have had a wide variety of fundraisers. We have had numerous service auctions, which add significant amount of money to our finances and are much fun. We have conducted yard sales, hosted electronics return events, and have had special events, such as presentations by the Oregon Shakespeare Company (first held at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore and then at UUCiL) or special musical events, such as a Gospel Workshop open to the community at large. In addition, we have been taking collections at our church services, half of which is donated to special humanitarian causes in our community.

We have also had special capital campaigns to buy and improve our property; Brian Mayall has provided important leadership to improving our property. Another example of a generous donation to improving our property is the Tot Green building, which was made possible by a beloved member of our community, Tot Green, in her estate plan.

We also have an Endowment Fund, which does not produce spendable income for the Church until we have \$100,000. In May, 2018 we were less than \$25K away. This year the Cooke family requested that donations in memory of Margaret Cooke be made to the endowment fund at UUCiL, and this greatly assisted in the fund increasing. Also, having the fund invested in stocks/bonds and not CDs is also a reason the fund has increased.

Most importantly we have had annual Stewardship Campaigns or Canvassing to ensure that our members have the opportunity to

financially assist our church. Our first canvassing was initiated by Harold Wiesner, Jay Davis, and Chuck Hartwig while we were still at the LUF house. Over the years, we have had inspirational themes that characteristically describe our commitment to our church. This year the theme was “beloved community.” Another example was “keep the flame burning.” In 2017, we had skits at the Church, to encourage us all to pledge: Chuck Hartwig, Bob Bunch, Reverend Lucas Hergert, and Charlie Bennett participated.

Most recently our Stewardship campaign team has been led by Charlie Bennett. Over the years, the Stewardship Campaign or Canvassing has been conducted with a number of different approaches. In recent years we have consistently alternated between two general models.

In the first of these approaches, an “Every Member Canvass,” we recruit a group of approximately 20 canvass volunteers from among the members of our congregation. We then hold a workshop for these volunteers, at which they receive a free lunch, as well as training in how to conduct their canvassing. We teach that the point of the canvassing of our church community is primarily for us collectively to get to know our community better, and additionally for us to receive a pledge of financial support to the church. These volunteers each

receive a list of approximately 5 or 6 members of the congregation to contact in a canvassing visit. At these visits, often at the home of the person or family being canvassed, the volunteer initiates a conversation with them about their connection to the church, their recent church experiences, and their aspirations for the future. The volunteers are encouraged to take notes at these meetings for sharing with our community. At the conclusion of these canvassing visits, we again gather the group of canvass volunteers together and in round-robin fashion, each volunteer relates to the rest of the group what they heard from the people they canvassed. This sharing session is the highlight of the “Every Member Canvass” process, and this group of volunteers gains the benefit of hearing, at least second hand, from everyone in our community. It is for this reason that we strongly encourage every member of our board of trustees to volunteer to be among the canvass volunteers. Finally, after this sharing session, we form a composite of the numerous comments from the congregation and produce a digest of these results for general distribution at our annual church business meeting.

The second approach to our annual stewardship process is the Celebration Sunday alternative. In this case, we have a special designated Sunday service, at which we distribute pledge



2016 Stewardship campaign skit performed by Chuck Hartwig, Bob Bunch, Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert, and Charlie Bennett.

PHOTO: COURTESY CHUCK HARTWIG



cards to all in attendance and encourage them to make a generous pledge for their intended financial contribution to the church in the forthcoming year.

This year, for the first time in quite a while, we followed the cottage meeting model, where we meet in small groups, of no more than 10 individuals, to discuss our Church and receive our pledge cards. This year after a very successful campaign we attained \$219,208. (And note, this was also done with a special collection earmarked for tree cutting, roof replacement, and solar panels at a cost of \$ 58,598.) ⊕

## Shakespeare Visits UUCiL

by Gail Cobe

As early as 1980, LUF newsletters mention "Shakespeare on Tour" and stated that although held at the Presbyterian church, LUF netted \$559. In 1988, 1989 and 1990, Rick Wendling assumed the leadership in arranging for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to hold performances in our area. Although the events were not held at the church they were sponsored by the UUCiL and earned approximately \$450 each year.

Ten years later Judy and Monty Herr took charge and with their boundless enthusiasm arranged for two Shakespearean actors to come to our church each fall until 2006. Members and community friends were delighted with scenes from Shakespeare and other great playwrights such as August Wilson, and each year this cultural highlight earned approximately \$2400. ⊕

## Finance Committee

by Rita Koselka

Over LUF/UUCiL's existence, its budgeting operations have varied but they have always relied on the generosity and ingenuity of its members. The church rarely relied on paid bookkeepers or accountants. Members have chipped in to create a finance committee, fill a treasurer's role and network for bookkeeping or auditing help on a volunteer basis. For all its bootstrapping aura, LUF/UUCiL has generally functioned in a relatively professional measure, although don't overestimate the contribution and in some case sacrifices individuals have had to make to accomplish these feats.

The building came about with bonds sold to members. The finance team in recent years has committed to repaying those bonds and getting the church independent from most mortgage liens. Getting control of the records and professionalizing activities,

while not yet totally achieved, are a huge credit to those on the finance committee and related roles. They have tried to put the church on a prudent and transparent fiscal course. In the last five years, we have separated the treasurer and bookkeeper roles so that there is an intrinsic check and balance on the process and created an endowment for the church.

As a rule of thumb, treasurers have a two-year term, and set the budgets for those years with strong input from the stewardship and operational committees. The bookkeeper tracks contributions and payments as well as other transactions so that money is allocated to the appropriate accounts, taxes are paid, and all legal requirements met. It is a constant struggle to try to upgrade the financial management and use it more as a tool to drive goals versus as a backstop so that the church doesn't fail at meeting operational needs. ⊕

1 Aug. 1957 to 1 Aug. 1958		
	INCOME	Bal. Forward (1 Aug. 1957) \$9352
Regular Pledges	\$1684.	
	80	
	52.84	
	<u>\$1826.84</u>	
	EXPENSE	
Rent	381.50	
Baby Sitters	138.	
Speakers	120.	
Supplies	40.38	
Sunday School	201.60	
Adult	88.72	
Misc. (AAU \$70)	86.24	
Committed	210.	
a) Capital Exp.	111.	
b) Starr King	100.	
	<u>\$1266.44</u>	
		Net ± \$56040
		1 Aug. '58 Bal. 658.92
Per Month	Income	Exp.
Aug.	\$92.	\$56.60
Sept.	119.	8.04
Oct.	84.66	92.81
Nov.	65.25	112.50
Dec.	261.	180.28
Jan.	109.05	52.
Feb.	151.47	152.28
Mar.	159.55	91.10
April	128.76	212.34
1st May	138.35	122.90
2nd May	149.75	59.01
June	155.	20.18
July	213.	106.40

Income and Expenses 1957-1958

## Sources of Income

Rentals for weddings, memorials, parties, concerts, recitals  
 Rental contracts  
 Scrip, Amazon Smiles  
 Recycling bottles, plastic and cans  
 Harvest Dinner (mid-1980s through early 1990s)  
 Shakespeare Festival  
 Parking Lot Sales  
 Service Auction

## Service Auction

by Joan Dickinson

The Auction as a fundraiser is a tradition in many UU Churches. UUCiL's Service Auction is the largest money raiser outside of donations. About 90% of our members participate in offering and in bidding. Members offer a variety of items: game nights, art and craft workshops, outdoor activities, art work, music (vocal and instrumental), services (rides to airports, use of truck), and the most popular, themed dinners. In 2018 we started a silent auction in addition to the "bid auction". We provide a meal for a fee and a no host bar. Our bidding process is computerized which makes it easier to process the bids. On average each auction earns the church \$9800.



Harvest Dinner, October 1982. Bud Barlow, Susan Mayall, Tot Green, Roger Bardsley.



Fondue Dinner auction item - March 2017. Laura Bennett, Lucas Hergert, Terry and Alyce Rossow, Jocelyn Combs, Carol Dickinson, Ted and Karen Crosley, Pat Mleke.

## Parking Lot Sales

by Gail Cobe

Throughout its history the LUF and UUCiL held sales as means of raising funds. The earliest record is from 1967 when Pat Hoyle planned a rummage sale which raised \$100. In 1991, Cyndy Salmon coordinated a rummage sale. Between 1998 and 2015 the church held approximately thirteen parking lot sales and on the average earned over \$1300. All but three were held at the church. Each event took weeks to plan and carry out. In addition to being fundraisers, the events helped to create a feeling of fellowship among the 35 to 40 members who volunteered to collect, sort, price and sell the items and then clean up and take unsold objects to local thrift shops. Everyone had the opportunity to clean out their house and garage, and the community had a chance to visit and see us in action. ⊕



Doris Ryan and Alyce Rossow tend a table of children's toys.

PHOTO: COURTESY GAIL COBE



Bob Stearns is happy to be moving that file cabinet.

PHOTO: COURTESY GAIL COBE



# The Anniversary Committee

by Gail Cobe, Chair

In December of 2016, I received an email from our Board, asking me to pull together a group of people to mark our 60th anniversary. There were several meetings in January and February and by March, Alyce Rossow, Bob Miess, Chuck Hartwig, Pat Mielke, Terry Rossow and I had spent time reflecting on our history and envisioning what a year of celebration might look like. A few months later Michael Cooke joined us. Each of us concentrated on specific areas, seeking and receiving help from others in the congregation.

On September 9th, The Walk Down Memory Lane was combined with the Second Saturday Intergenerational Potluck. A highlight of the evening was the game UUCiL Jeopardy created by Michael with help from his daughter Piper. Karen Lincoln kept us laughing with her expert delivery of UU jokes.

During that fun-filled evening, Kim Rowe introduced the UUCiL Tree of Life and the youth and adults began making its leaves. The attachment of leaves continued until the tree's dedication on November 19th. It was on that Sunday that Sophie Warnock made us all proud with her video production *A Look Into the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore at 60*.

I assumed the responsibility for

the October 7th Gala. However, it took our entire committee and many others to make it the success it was. Cyndy Salmon arranged to have an article published in the Independent. Laura Bennett spent days shopping and coordinating with the caterers and created an artistic and festive ambience which was appreciated by all. Pushpa Dalal designed the printed program. Pat worked her magic by arranging for the music. Joe Bonfiglio and Priscilla Grainger thrilled us all with a clarinet sonata, and the Jim Hurley Band made us want to get up and dance. Tom Reynolds answered the call and played jazz piano. Wendy Fisher created an original piece, *Growing Together*, which our choir sang. Kim Rowe and Pat Thorne greeted attendees and helped with name tags. Michael Cooke ordered the wine and soft drinks, arranged for the bartenders, and served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Over the course of the year, Chuck gathered hundreds of photos and created wonderful videos and storyboards that were exhibited on Sundays and during several events. His work is now part of this commemorative book and the time capsule.

Alyce concentrated on documenting our history and gathering compositions, which help express who we are and what we believe.

Davyne Bradley designed and



PHOTO: PUSHPA DALAL

## Growing Together

Music by Wendy Mason Fisher

Lyrics taken from the UUCiL Mission Statement, UU principles, heritage and traditional hymns.

Growing, growing, growing together  
 Growing together in spirit, in reason, in  
 fellowship and justice.  
 We affirm and promote truth.  
 We affirm and promote community.  
 We affirm and promote commitment.

Through many dangers, toils, and  
 snares what wondrous love has  
 wrought.  
 Our heritage of beloved community,  
 how we've grown. May we grow on!  
 Grow on, grow on, grow on,  
 In spirit, in reason, in fellowship,  
 fellowship and justice. Ah.....

Growing, growing, growing, growing.  
 Growing, growing together, together,  
 Growing together. Ah----- Grow on!

## Why did the UU cross the road?

To support the chicken in its search for its own path.

A Unitarian Universalist died, and to his surprise discovered that there was indeed an afterlife. The angel in charge of these things told him, "Because you were an unbeliever and a doubter and a skeptic, you will be sent to Hell for all eternity — which, in your case, consists of a place where no one will disagree with you ever again!"



PHOTO: PUSHPA DALAL

Karen Lincoln told UU jokes between rounds of UU Jeopardy.

put the book together to give it the professional depth and appearance that it has. Her expertise in production, editing and layout guided the Anniversary Committee members each step of the way.

It is their hard work that has made this commemorative book possible.

All of this would not have been possible without the nearly forty families and individuals who responded to our call for financial support. Their donations helped us to celebrate what our founders began sixty years ago.







The 60th Anniversary Committee with the time capsule.  
Back: Bob Miess, Terry Rossow, Chuck Hartwig; Front: Michael Cooke, Gail Cobe, Pat Mielke, Alyce Rossow.



ROMAN MORKOWSKY, MICKEY SCHOENFELDER, VANESSA EADS, CAROLYN STAEHLE, NIKKI DE CRAIG, JOHANNA HARTWIG, REV. JONES, CHILLI BARLOW, ART LANGHORST

## Time Capsules

On October 24, 1982, UUCiL buried a time capsule to be dug up for the 50th Anniversary. In 2007, the time capsule was retrieved. Pictured: Bud Barlow, Bob Stearns, Bob Breckinridge, Eric Meter, Khabira Hartwig, Chuck Hartwig, Chili Barlow, Marion Stearns, Gerald Nordley, Art Langhorst, Carolyn Staehle, Johanna Hartwig.



Kyan Roffy presents the Tree of Life to the congregation. Members were to write a note or a short poem, create a drawing; or you can glue/tape a photo or even a small object, or something that indicates your personal UUCiL memory on a leaf.



PHOTO: COURTESY CHUCK HARTWIG



PHOTO: PUSHPA DALAL

Joyce Taylor, Alyce Rossow, Marilyn Lane, Kathy Woofert at UUCiL's 60th Anniversary Gala.



## Alyce Rossow

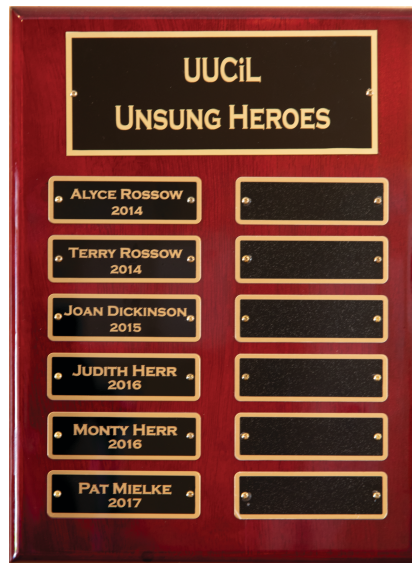


Alyce Rossow, an integral member for over 50 years has more we can credit than there is space here to do so. With a background in childhood education, she is an active advocate and was involved in RE from the 1960s through the early 2010s. She chaired Caring and Concerns for many years, which she is still doing at the time of this writing. Thank You!

## Pat Mielke



Pat Mielke, member since moving to the area in the late 1990s, has been a driving force behind weekly music. She often is the accompanist, sings in the choir, and works with the minister on music selections. In addition to her passion for music, she was deeply involved with the sanctuary remodel in 2003.



## Monty & Judy Herr

The Herrs hosted July 4th picnics and dinners for new members, arranged for Shakespearean Actors to visit UUCiL, arranged for UUCiL members to see the A's play ball, and much more. From working extensively with the Pacific Central District to chaperoning our youth in New Orleans where they worked tirelessly cleaning up after Hurricane Katrina, Judy and Monty could be depended upon. They shared that ethic with granddaughter Misty, who cared for countless children, and grandson Gavin, who was always available to pitch in anywhere his strength and good humor needed.

## Terry Rossow



Terry Rossow, AV specialist, electrician, handyman, and the list goes on. Terry runs the AV during nearly every service, video records and edits the sermon to post on the website, changes light bulbs, and so much more around our church. Thank You!

## Joan Dickinson



Joan Dickinson, a longtime member, has served on the Board of Trustees, organized the Service Auction for many years, started the Shawl Ministry, and contributes so much more to our community.