

LIVE THE DREAM

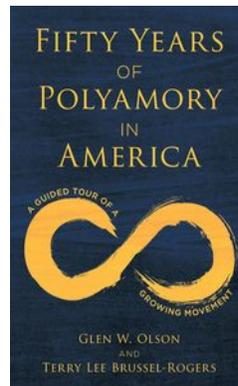
8515 Penfield Ave

Winnetka, CA 91306

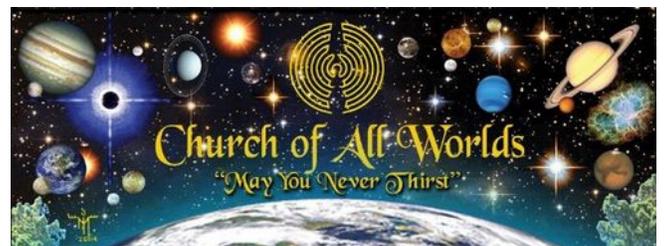
Founded in 1987 by Terry Brussel and Brian Gitt
Based on the philosophy of Family Synergy,
Founded 1971 by Hy Levy and Pat LaFollette



www.livethedream.org



[Fifty Years of Polyamory in America: A Guided Tour of a Growing Movement](#), by Glen W. Olson and Terry Lee Brussel-Rogers, is the **first definitive history of polyamory in America ever published.**



www.caw.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday December 20, 2025: Live 11 am – 11 pm PT Zoom: 11 am – 1 pm PT 1-4 pm Pot Luck Lunch and Socializing in Jacuzzi Live Only. Poly SF Sampler: Robert A. Heinlein (Future History), Spider Robinson (Callahan's Place series) & S.M. Sterling's Emberverser Series (aka Novels of the Change). Winter Solstice Ritual. Hannukah and Winter Holiday Party.

Saturday January 17, 2026: Live 11 am - 11 pm PT, Zoom: 11 am – 1 pm and 6 – 11 pm PT. Memorial for Leslie Fish—Poly Anarchist and Prolific Filk Writer and Performer (Songs of Science Fiction and the Space Age). Filksing (socializing & Pot Luck dinner at 6 pm PT—music starts at 7 pm).

Note: While Leslie Fish's Life and Music will be emphasized all day and evening during her Memorial, the Live the Dream portion 11am- to 4 pm will also include Poly discussion (including Leslie's poly experiences and writings) and poly oriented questions by attendees.

Join our Zoom meetings <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?pwd=VI8d4Qk2FXIb80dmDS73AbvKSPPcr1.1&omn=85326078065>

Meeting ID: 317 597 1626 Passcode: Heinlein

Note: Our Meeting ID and Passcode remain unchanged, but Zoom has generated a new link. Please use the Meeting ID and Passcode if the link does not work.

Live the Dream

December 2025-January 2026

Live the Dream is an education and support group for those who, originally inspired by the writings of Robert A. Heinlein, Robert Rimmer, Marion Zimmer Bradley, and Spider Robinson are now ready to LIVE such alternative lifestyles as cooperative living, open committed relationships, and group marriage. Many of our concepts on multiply committed relationships come from Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* and *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. Live the Dream is the oldest continuing Nest of Church of All Worlds, the real life, over fifty-year-old spiritual movement inspired by *Stranger in a Strange Land*.

Please visit the Live the Dream website at www.livethedream.org to view current events, past articles, etc. Terry Brussel-Rogers is a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist, Life Coach, & a 4th-generation Matchmaker. We provide poly relationship counseling, hypnotic jealousy release, ways to attract and maintain loving relationship(s), success coaching, and other services. See www.acesuccess.com or call (800) LIFE MATES (543-3628).

EVENTS

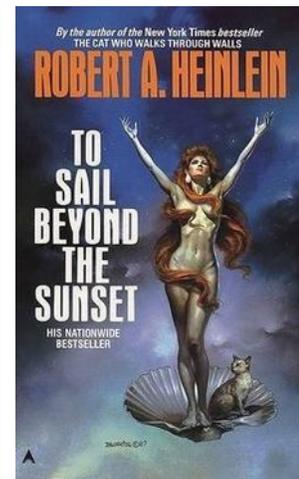
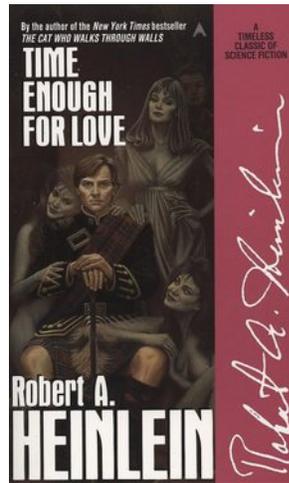
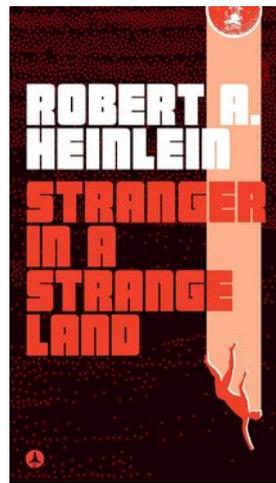
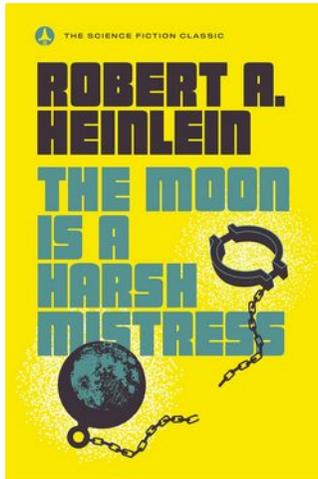
All regular Live the Dream LIVE events 11am-4pm on 3rd Saturdays at 8515 Penfield Ave Winnetka, CA. 91306 (unless otherwise specified). Suggested donation for those attending events Live is \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members of Live the Dream. LTD paid members: Meeting \$5. If an evening party is listed, meeting and party both \$8 with pot luck dish for both events, without pot luck dishes \$12 donation suggested for both events. Non-members \$15 with pot luck dish for both events, without Pot Luck, \$20 suggested donation for both events.

Terry is the primary organizer of the Southern California Poly Meetup (www.meetup.com/socal-polyamory/). Its ongoing events include those in this Newsletter on 3rd Saturdays of each month 11 am - 4 pm PT + special celebrations and parties listed during the year.

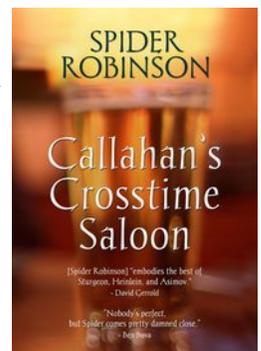


Saturday, December 20, 2025: Live 11 – 11 pm PT Zoom: 11 am – 1 pm PT
Poly SF Sampler: Robert A. Heinlein (Future History), Spider Robinson (Callahan's Place series) & S.M.Stirling's Emberverser series (aka Novels of the Change). Winter Solstice Ritual. Hannukah and Winter Holiday party.

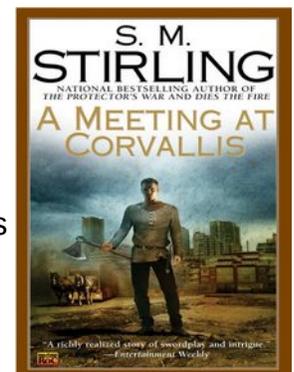
Heinlein's stories offer us multigenerational group marriage in *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, everything from open marriage practiced by utterly committed couples to a group marriage spanning not only wide age ranges, but multiple alternate universes, in *Time Enough for Love*, *The Number of the Beast*, and *To Sail Beyond the Sunset*.



Spider Robinson's Callahan books give us open marriages practiced by sexual "Artists" along with what amounts to group living in a very inclusive Brothel engaged in high level diplomacy affecting history. The customers of *Callahan's Crosstime Saloon* form a group of people whose lives connect on MANY levels, affecting all relationships in their lives and ultimately leading them all into a trek cross country to the Florida Keys to continue their very intertwined lives Together.

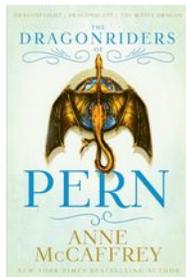


Spider's *Stardance* novels offer group marriage in Space, spanning Time, and including Gay, bi and hetero members.



S. M. Stirling's Emberverser series (Novels of the Change) give us examples of group living in castles and forts as well as open fields, farms, and gardens, with a central Home serving meals and holiday feasts.

Both Spider's and Stirling's stories are based on Pagan and Medieval history, but differ due to being carried out by humans in our present time.



Anne McCaffrey's *The Dragonriders of Pern* gives us bonded relationships between riders and their dragons (telepathic), between the dragons themselves (physical and telepathic), and between the riders themselves (who are frequently married to each other). Does this count as a Quad?

Fantasy or reality? What aspects of these do we want in our own lives & how can we create them? Let's talk about it!

2-3 pm: Afternoon activity: Exercises for developing intimacy -- empathic communication to enhance your love life and friendships.

6-11 pm PT: Potluck Dinner, Winter Solstice Ritual (by High Priestess Lilith) and LTD's Winter Holiday Party. Happy Hannukah! Good Yule! And a Merry Christmas!

6 pm: Potluck dinner – bring your favorite holiday dish, big enough to share with 8. Perhaps something you loved as a child?

7 pm: Winter Solstice Ritual (by High Priestess Lilith)

8 pm: Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

(Crash space available by arrangement when you RSVP.)

Latkes (provided by Live the Dream, along with applesauce and sour cream), songs about the Maccabees, dreidels, lighted up Christmas miniature houses, and a Winter Solstice ritual. We'll light the Hanukkah Menorah (7th night as holiday starts December 14 this year)

Did we forget a ritual important to you? Tell us and we'll add it.

Bring stories/songs/poetry to share. Craig Brussel Rogers will provide live and recorded music of various holiday flavors (such as *Winter Wonderland*).

Bring wrapped science fiction, erotic (tasteful please!), fantasy or magikal gift (\$10-\$15) for a GIFT EXCHANGE if you want to participate in it.

Sharing our holidays is part of what weaves the bonds of Family in a group like ours. Understanding what is important to each of us during this festive season and how we celebrate it is a way to grow closer and delight in our diversity.

Clothing-optional Jacuzzi (with holiday music playing around it!) available all afternoon and evening—bring sandals and towels.



Saturday January 17, 2026: Live 11 am - 11 pm PT, Zoom: 11 am – 1 pm and 6 – 11 pm PT: Memorial for Leslie Fish—Poly Anarchist and Prolific Filk (folksongs of Science Fiction and the Space Age) Writer/Performer

11 am – 1 pm PT Live and on Zoom: Live the Dream Meeting focusing on Leslie Fish's life, with several guest speakers (see below).

1 pm – 6 pm: Additional discussion as well as socializing in the clothing-optional jacuzzi.

6 pm: Potluck dinner – bring your favorite dish, big enough to share with 8.

7 pm – 11 pm PT Live and on Zoom: Filk singing focusing on Leslie Fish. Zoom coverage may start as early as 6 pm PT for a virtual dinner.

Leslie Fish's songs are funny (*Banned from Argo*), educational (*Black Powder and Alcohol*), inspiring, and outrageous. She was an Anarchist (*The Day it Fell Apart & Firestorm: Songs of the Third World War*), a member and storyteller in song for the Society for Creative Anarchism (SCA), a Union supporter (*Robbing the Poor*), a Pagan who wrote about and actually demonstrated a way to make rain through Magick, a believer that **The Right to Bear Arms Is the Right to be Free** (*The Weapons Shops of Isher*), a Feminist (*Freedom of the Snow*), and many other sometimes contradictory things.

Joining us for this Memorial to speak about Leslie and share their personal experiences with her:

- **Oberon Zell**, founder of **Church of All Worlds**, the first officially recognized Neopagan religion in the US.
- **Paul Gibbons**, Political Activist/Libertarian/Anarchist and Water Brother to Leslie Fish.
- **Elaine Anderson**, Deputy Lady in Waiting to the Queen of Caid in the SCA for 2025.
- **Terry Brussel-Rogers**, Founder of Live the Dream and Leslie's Water Brother will share her knowledge of some of Leslie's Poly experiences.

Do you want to speak? Please call Terry at 818-388-5612 to arrange it. Additional speakers will be announced in the **January – February 2026 Live the Dream Newsletter**.

Note: While Leslie Fish's life and music will be emphasized all day and evening during her Memorial, the Live the Dream portion (11am- 4 pm PT) will also include Poly discussion

(including Leslie's poly experiences and writings). As always, poly oriented questions by attendees are welcome and will be thoughtfully answered.

Lee and Barry Gold will speak of their own long friendship with Leslie at the Filk and will share some of their favorite songs of hers during the evening.

At the Live the Dream meeting or the filk, anyone wishing to share a *funny or heart warming* memory of Leslie may briefly do so in alignment with Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover ritual "Let this memory lighten grief..." This need not necessarily be matched with a song. (Leslie attended Marion Zimmer Bradley's Pagan gatherings over the years.)

For the evening Filk, please call Terry on the Live the Dream line 818-886-0069 to request a particular Leslie Fish song be part of this Memorial. This is to avoid having more than one person doing or requesting a given song. Leslie has written plenty of songs—no repeats are necessary. Only Leslie's songs will be sung (or read with feeling) at this particular Filk. Songs **about** Leslie are also welcome.

Excerpts from Past Live the Dream Yule Rituals

You can try this at home!

PRIESTESS stands to PRIEST's left.

PRIESTESS and PRIEST turn to face each other. PRIESTESS stands with feet together, hands crossed at the wrists on her chest just below her neck as PRIEST says:

"I call upon thee, O mighty mother of us all, bringer of fruitfulness,

by seed and by root,
by flower and by fruit,
by stem and by bud,
by life and by love,
here below as above,

And ask thee to descend into this body of thy priestess _(NAME)_.

PRIESTESS then moves her feet apart to shoulder width and reaches her arms out sideways as if to touch the shoulders of anyone next to her were anyone there. PRIEST takes the pentacle and touches it gently to PRIESTESS's forehead, L foot, R hand, L hand, R foot & head.

PRIEST replaces the pentacle on the altar and says:

"Hear now the words of the great mother who of old was called among men by many names."

PRIESTESS then reads the Charge of the Goddess.

"I am the eternal goddess,
Ever changing, ever living,
Ever loving, ever giving,
Yet I charge you, if you would,
Be mine and follow my ways.

(pause)

Then shall you gather yourselves once in a month, and better it be when the moon is full, and assemble in some secret place. There you shall adore the spirit of me who am queen of all witches. There shall you dance, sing, feast, make music and love, all in my praise, and to those who would learn sorcery, to these I will teach things as yet unknown.

Keep pure your highest ideal; strive ever towards it; let naught stop you or turn you aside, for mine are freedom, knowledge and rejoicing, the ecstasy of the spirit, the earth's love for her creatures. Mine is the secret door of life and death, and all these I do give freely to the children of wisdom.

I give unimaginable joys on earth, certainty, not faith, while in life; upon death, peace unutterable, rest, ecstasy. Nor do I demand sacrifice, for behold! I am the mother of all living and my love is poured out upon the earth."

PRIEST says: "hear ye the words of the star goddess, she in the dust of whose feet are the hosts of heaven, whose body encircleth the universe."

PRIESTESS continues with the Charge of the Goddess:

"I, who am the beauty of the green earth, and the white moon among the stars and the mystery of the waters and the desire of the heart of man, I call upon thy soul to arise and come unto me, for I am the soul of all nature, who giveth life to the universe.

(pause)

"From me, all things proceed; to me they shall also return. Let my worship be in the heart, rejoice, for all acts of love and pleasure are my ritual. Therefore, let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence among you.

And thou who thinkest to seek for me, know thy seeking and yearning shall avail thee not, unless thou knowest the mystery; that if thou seekest and find it not within thyself, nothing is there for thee to find, for behold! I have been with thee since the beginning, and I am that which is attained at the end of desire."

PRIEST says "WELCOME, LADY." and kisses PRIESTESS. PRIEST then stands with feet together and hands crossed on his chest, similar to PRIESTESS earlier, as PRIESTESS says:

"I call upon thee, lord of the hunt,
guardian of the forest and all wild creatures
By seed and by root,
By flower and by fruit,
By stem and by bud,
by life and by love,
here below as above,
Descend now into this body of thy priest NAME."

PRIESTESS takes the pentacle as PRIEST spreads his feet shoulder width or as far apart as needed so PRIESTESS can reach his head, and raises his arms out to the side like PRIESTESS did.

PRIESTESS touches the pentacle gently to PRIEST's forehead, LEFT foot, RIGHT hand, LEFT hand, RIGHT foot and forehead, then puts it back on the altar.

PRIEST then reads the Charge of the God from a scroll.

"I am the stag of seven tines;
I go across dark waters.
I am borne up by the wind--I descend in the tears of the sun;

I fly like a hawk to my nest on the cliff.
I put forth leaves and flowers in the meadow--
I am the oak and the lightning that destroys it.
I am the courage of spearmen; I give wisdom to judges;
I breathe in the words of the poets.
I rove the hills like a wild boar,
I return again, drawn like the tide.
Who but I may know the secret of the unbuilt temple?"

PRIESTESS says "Welcome, Lord," and kisses PRIEST.

PRIEST tells the story of how Yule began

Midwinter's Eve: YULE

by Mike Nichols

Our Christian friends are often quite surprised at how enthusiastically we Pagans celebrate the 'Christmas' season. Even though we prefer to use the word "Yule", and our celebrations may peak a few days *before* the twenty-fifth, we nonetheless follow many of the traditional customs of the season: decorated trees, caroling, presents, Yule logs, and mistletoe. We might even go so far as putting up a 'Nativity set', though for us the three central characters are likely to be interpreted as Mother Nature, Father Time, and the baby Sun God. None of this will come as a surprise to anyone who knows the true history of the holiday, of course.

In fact, if truth be known, the holiday of Christmas has always been more Pagan than Christian, with its associations of Nordic divination, Celtic fertility rites, and Roman Mithraism.

Ultimately, of course, the holiday is rooted deeply in the cycle of the year. It is the winter solstice that is being celebrated, seedtime of the year, the longest night and shortest day. It is the birthday of the new Sun King, the Son of God—by whatever name you choose to call him. On this darkest of nights, the Goddess becomes the Great Mother and once again gives birth. And it makes perfect poetic sense that on the longest night of the winter, "the dark night of our souls", there springs the new spark of hope, the Sacred Fire, the Light of the World, the *Coel Coeth*.

That is why Pagans have as much right to claim this holiday as Christians. Perhaps even more so, since the Christians were rather late in laying claim to it, and tried more than once to reject it. There had been a tradition in the West that Mary bore the child Jesus on the twenty-fifth day, but no one could seem to decide on the month. Finally, in 320 C.E., the Catholic fathers in Rome decided to make it December, in an effort to co-opt the Mithraic celebration of the Romans, the Yule festival of the Saxons, and the midwinter revels of the Celts.

For modern Witches, Yule (from the Anglo-Saxon *yula*, meaning "wheel" of the year) is usually celebrated on the actual winter solstice, which may vary by a few days, though it usually occurs on or around December 21. It is a Lesser Sabbat or Low Holiday in the modern Pagan calendar, one of the four quarter days of the year, but a very important one. Pagan customs are still enthusiastically followed.

Once, the Yule log had been the center of the celebration. It was lighted on the eve of the solstice (it should light on the first try) and must be kept burning for twelve hours, for good luck. It should be made of ash. Later, the Yule log was replaced by the Yule tree, but instead of burning it, lighted candles were placed on it. In Christianity, Protestants might claim that Martin Luther invented the custom, and Catholics might grant St. Boniface the honor, but the custom can demonstrably be traced back through the Roman Saturnalia all the way to ancient Egypt. Needless to say, such a tree should be cut down rather than purchased, and should be disposed of by burning, the proper way to dispatch any sacred object.

Along with the evergreen, the holly and the ivy and the mistletoe were important plants of the season, all symbolizing fertility and everlasting life. Mistletoe was especially venerated by the Celtic Druids, who cut it with a golden sickle on the sixth night of the moon, and believed it to be an aphrodisiac. (Magically—not medicinally! It's highly toxic!) But aphrodisiacs must have been the smallest part of the Yuletide menu in ancient times, as contemporary reports indicate that the tables fairly creaked under the strain of every type of good food. And drink! The most popular of which was the "wassail cup", deriving its name from the Anglo-Saxon term *waes hael* (be whole or hale).

Medieval Christmas folklore seems endless: that animals will all kneel down as the Holy Night arrives, that bees hum the 100th psalm on Christmas Eve, that a windy Christmas will bring good luck, that a person born on Christmas Day can see the Little People, that a cricket on the hearth brings good luck, that if one opens all the doors of the house at midnight all the evil spirits will depart.

Remembering that most Christmas customs are ultimately based upon older Pagan customs, it only remains for modern Pagans to reclaim their lost traditions. In doing so, we can share many common customs with our Christian friends, albeit with a slightly different interpretation. And, thus, we all share in the beauty of this most magical of seasons, when the Mother Goddess once again gives birth to the baby Sun God and sets the wheel in motion again.

To conclude with a long-overdue paraphrase, "Goddess bless us, every one!"

All lights in the house should be extinguished by VOLUNTEER

As PRIEST talks, the house becomes darker. As PRIEST gets to the part about how the people were fearful and prayed that there wouldn't be eternal darkness, he says "and the lady of light heard and sent the child of light." At this point PRIESTESS (or a child if one attends) enters the room and comes into the circle anywhere with a lighted candle in her hand and gives it to PRIEST, saying

"Don't fear the night! I bring you light!"

PRIESTESS lights the altar candle

PRIEST says:

"Great mother of us all, we thank you for your attendance here. Stay if you will, go if you must, but ere you depart for your heavenly abode, we bid you ...hail and farewell."

All: "HAIL AND FAREWELL!"

PRIESTESS says:

"Mighty guardian of the fields and forests, we thank you for your attendance here. Stay if you will, go if you must, but ere you depart for your leafy abode, we bid you hail and farewell."

All: **"HAIL AND FAREWELL!"**

Guardians of the east, guardians of cool air and icy winds, We Thank you for your attendance here. Stay if you will, go if You must, but ere you depart to your windy Abode, we bid you hail and farewell."

Guardians of the south, guardians of fire, heat, and nurturing warmth, we Thank you for your attendance here. Stay if you will, go if You must, but ere you depart to your fiery abode, we bid you hail and farewell."

Guardians of the west, guardians of wintry water, oceans, rivers and waterfalls, we thank you for your attendance here. Stay if you will, go if you must, but ere you depart to your Watery Abode, we bid you hail and farewell."

Guardians of the north, of earth and hearth, of soil and of things which will grow once more, we thank you for your attendance here. Stay if you will, go if you must, but ere you depart to your Earthy abode, we bid you hail and farewell."

All: **"HAIL AND FAREWELL!"**

PRIEST then takes up the circle by walking around the outside of the perimeter with the sword widdershins (counterclockwise) and upon returning to the east, says loudly:

"We've met in reverence and in mirth; the power now returns to earth. The circle is open, the spell is cast, what's taken place is now in the past. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!"

Extinguish candles and incense

Joyous Yule! Let fruitcake and eggnog abound and merriment be unfettered!

Image by wirestock on freepik.





Fifty Years of Polyamory in America: A Guided Tour of a Growing Movement, by Glen W. Olson and Terry Lee Brussel-Rogers, published by Rowman and Littlefield on November 11, 2022, is the **first definitive history of polyamory in America ever published**. It is a fascinating read. The publishers are continuing to put this book in more and more universities and libraries! Students are using material from it in Masters theses and Doctoral dissertations on Polyamory.

Fifty Years of Polyamory in America: A Guided Tour to a Growing Movement is unique among the many books about polyamory because the scope of this book is the entire history of the polyamory movement, from Woodstock right on into the 21st century. The book is available at [on Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and many other places—even internationally!— just by [Googling its title](#).

Between them, Terry and Glen have experience with open marriage, group marriage, and group living, and both are part of an intimate network which has evolved from 1969 to present time.

WHAT EXPERIENCES/BOOK REVIEWS, ETC. CAN YOU SHARE RELATING TO THE POLY LIFE STYLE?

We'd like to run it here or have you bring those questions to one of our 3rd Saturday events.

Please email to: Terry_bg@msn.com

Or mail it to: 8515 Penfield Ave. Winnetka, CA 91306.

We will take any question with *your* solution or brain storm and give it one or more of our own.

Let's have fun with this and learn from each other.

Meetups & Other Group Events

Check out www.meetup.com/Loveopen; www.meetup.com/loving-more;
www.meetup.com/socal-polyamory/

The Southern California Naturist Association Meetup <http://www.meetup.com/nature-519>

This is the largest non-landed clothing optional club in California

Other Poly info:

The Human Awareness Institute www.hai.org

Emma and Fin are “Normalizing Non-monogamy”

Link: Podcast Interviews in Swinging and Polyamory

(normalizingnonmonogamy.com)

Webcast with The Center for Positive Sexuality Monthly Educational Series -
Center for Positive Sexuality

<https://positivesexuality.org/education/>

LTD DUES ARE \$25.00 PER YEAR FOR ONE PERSON, \$40 FOR A COUPLE, \$10 EACH FOR ADDITIONAL PERSON(S) IN THE SAME HOUSE. DOUBLE THAT FOR FREE ATTENDANCE AT ALL REGULAR DAY TIME 3RD SATURDAY MEETINGS. TO BECOME A MEMBER OR TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM AND EITHER E-MAIL OR SNAIL MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW. An E-Mail NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION ONLY IS AVAILABLE FOR FREE. JUST BE SURE TO PROVIDE US WITH YOUR E-Mail ADDRESS. REGULAR MEETINGS ARE \$5.00 WITH YOUR CURRENTLY PAID MEMBERSHIP CARD (FAMILY SYNERGY OR LIVE THE DREAM) WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE \$10.00.

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Mail to: Live the Dream, 8515 Penfield Ave, Winnetka, CA 91306

I am willing to volunteer: Time Meeting Space

I could lead a meeting or activity, proposal enclosed

I am interested in Science Fiction Pagan Libertarian _____ Oriented Programs

I am interested in Co-operative Living: Yes No

**I have space for others: No Yes (Location & Phone
_____)**

I am willing to relocate Yes No