

November and December 2020

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

LIVE THE DREAM FOUNDED 1987

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday November 21, 2020

11 AM TO 12:30 PM on Zoom

Building a Triad in an Intentional Community

Led by Eileen and David Maxfield + Zarifa Spain

Retired Couple (Triad?) in an Intentional Community NOW 2020:

Songaia near Seattle WA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89317790915?pwd=WU01YU5vYUY3anRuZnBvYitZTUNaZz09>

Meeting ID: 893 1779 0915

Passcode: heinlein1

Saturday December 19, 2020

11 AM TO 12:30 PM on Zoom

Building a Poly Education/Support Group while Creating a Triad & Raising Kids Together in the '70s

Led by Pat LaFollette, cofounder of Family Synergy

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?pwd=NWVjU3A2M0I2Q29lUkI4L1lMRzd2QT09>

Meeting ID: 317 597 1626

Passcode: Heinlein

We will be back to in-person meetings when safe and legal...BUT find us *Always* here on the 3rd Saturday from 11AM-12:30PM Pacific Time ... This will be our Zoom ID from now on.

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, success coaching and other services. See www.acesuccess.com or call (800) LIFE MATES (543-3628)

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

EVENTS

All Live the Dream LIVE events are 11am-4pm on 3rd Saturdays at 8515 Penfield Ave in Winnetka, Ca. 91306 (unless otherwise specified)

For all events: RSVP/more info call the LTD Hotline (818) 886-0069

**Donation for 3rd Saturday 11-4 events:
\$10 for nonmembers, \$5 for members. Bring something healthy and delicious to share for the pot luck lunch**

The silver lining of Safer at Home experience: From now on, all our meetings will be available on Zoom for those who can't get to us in person. Some will be hosted by speakers in other areas, too. We will be doing both Zoom and Live as soon as that is safe and legal. Meanwhile...

Come Zoom with Us

Saturday November 21, 2020
Building a Triad in an Intentional Community
Led by Eileen and David Maxfield + Zarifa Spain
11 AM TO 12:30 PM on Zoom
Couple (Triad?) in an Intentional Community NOW 2020:
Songaia near Seattle WA
Led by David and Eileen Maxfield + Zarifa Spain

Dave and Eileen Maxfield have been actively involved in polyamory since the 80s. They were in a semi-residential triad for many years, Poly leaders in the Willamette Valley community since 1992, founding members of Network for a New Culture and were my (Terry's) own first experience with dating a couple. They introduced me to the 3-way kiss in 1987. Their latest adventure is joining David's secondary partner Zarifa Spain in the intentional community she lives in – Songaia. They will tell us about the community itself and how that is working out for them as a couple and for the three of them as a now more residential triad in this new situation. Part of that is doing poly during these Covid times. The response of the Songaia community to the open polyamory practiced by David, Eileen and Zarifa was heartening: the poly residents came out of their collective closet! Eileen says there are several of them...

Saturday December 19, 2020
11 am to 12:30 pm on Zoom
Building a Poly Education/Support Group while Creating a Triad & Raising Kids Together
in the '70s Led by Pat LaFollette, cofounder of Family Synergy

Pat LaFollette and Hy Levy founded Family Synergy in 1971. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of that event on the 3rd Saturday of July, 2021 at Freedom Acres Resort. More details on that as we have them, except to say that Pat has agreed to be our Keynote Speaker for the event. Pat will share with us today some of the original experience of founding and building Family Synergy as well as his own personal experiences being in a triad with his wife (Anne) and another man (Joe), each man fathering a child with Ann and how they raised those boys openly (no closets here) from attending PTA meetings together to attending family gatherings as a triad with two sons.

On Again Off Again Relationship -- My Own Experience on the Outskirts of a Triad

Written by Terry Brussel in 2014

I am at a poly convention and get a call from a long time (and long distance) lover (David Maxfield) while in a workshop. He is in one, too—Landmark Forum. This call is probably an exercise for it. We arrange to talk a bit later.

Turns out he is calling to apologize for our “on again off again relationship”. I laugh and tell him we do not have an on again off again relationship—merely one which is less frequently in person and physical than both of us would like it to be. When it is in person and physical, it is explosive in a very yummy way.

An “on again off again relationship” is one which features your lover’s wife (or Significant Other) decreeing that your relationship shall be put on hold (or *maybe* ended permanently) for an unspecified period of time while she regains her inner security—sometimes without requiring that SHE break up her other relationship(s)! It may feature a required hiatus if her / his lover breaks up with him/her. It generally includes giving up both love making and communication while having little or nothing to do with the actual relationship of the two people who are most involved. It is one of the darker sides of polyamory which I have had the unfortunate experience of upon occasion.

This can be avoided by such things as making sure that you have agreements in place which give all parties involved a chance to get counseling together with a good poly relationship coach or therapist if it can’t be worked out between the 3 (or more) of you. It involves treating that secondary partner like a human being whose feelings matter, not like a yoyo. It is also imperative that the secondary fully support the primary relationship and best that there be real bonds of friendship all around. Our lifestyle makes this possible in a way that classic cheating does not.

Naturally a relationship which is not poly can also involve being “on again off again” because one or the other partner breaks it off and then comes back—perhaps repeatedly. This could be caused by other partners distracting the attention of one or both of them or by hostilities on one or both sides, among other things. It looks right now like the live-in relationship I have been in for the last 7 months is breaking up due to my partner’s grown children (most of the seven of them) being unwilling to have contact with him or allow him to see his grandchildren if he is with *anyone* other than their mother. Unfortunately, she doesn’t want him back unless he becomes the “good Fundamentalist Christian” she thinks she was married to. Fundamentalist Christian does not describe the man I have been living with- thank Goddess. This is the person who has been handling polyamory so well he gave a workshop on comparison for Live the Dream! This won’t have a chance to be on again off again, though, as I am not willing to be a yo-yo. [11-2020 comment: He remains a good friend despite all that and gets along quite well with my husband, Craig]

What I am talking about in *this* article is the uniquely poly situation of relationships which are ended or put on hold for reasons separate from the connection between the lovers involved by the primary partner of one of them.

David's wife has never done any of the things mentioned above. Eileen has never been anything other than loving towards me and accepting of my relationship with her husband. It was from David and Eileen that I learned the joys of dating a couple (and three-way kissing!) for the first time back in 1986. Being surrounded by the love flowing between a devoted husband and wife is incredibly special. When they give your kids unusual space memorabilia from their aerospace careers, our sons play together, they share tours of fascinating hobby trains, and present beautiful dishes for their wedding gifts when those kids get married, it is what family by choice is all about. Their children were dear to me, as well. Walking into their home has always felt like a homecoming to me—even though it is now a rare treat due to the distance.

It was with great sorrow that I learned (in 1989) after a couple of years of this closeness that these dear friends (and water kin) were moving to Oregon due to Eileen's family responsibilities there. I would miss them deeply, but never lose touch over all the years to now. We (almost) always remember each other's birthdays, share vacations on one end or the other every couple of years, and send holiday gifts.

In 2011 when my then primary partner canceled a vacation to Yosemite with me on very short notice, I called David and said "I have a fantasy that you fly to LA, I pick you up at the airport and we drive to Yosemite together for a few days. Any chance?" A couple of hours later, I got the call telling me that his wife and the lady who is their love partner (Linda) were willing to send him off to me as fantasized (for my benefit and his since he enjoys that kind of adventure). Yes! This same lady was kind enough to let me share her bedroom there about four years ago when I visited at Christmas time. Both Dave and Eileen were having emotional and physical ills. It was sweet to spend time with Linda and she was a good cuddler.

Usually when I visit them, they show me a great time from a trip on a real steam boat for my whole family to a chance to see local lighthouses and delight in the seals. Even when they were having all these issues, we did some of that.

David was here to hold me when I cried from a particularly painful break up following that Yosemite trip. I will always be grateful for that.

This is NOT an on again-off again relationship, David, please note. As long as we can call each other to share our joys and sorrows, we are in Relationship where ever we are physically. Long distance relationships have their challenges, but they are more than worth it!

Addendum in November of 2020

I handled the guest book at the wedding of Eileen and David's daughter Ann in 2015. Craig and I (along with my former husband now lover Paul and his Lady (now wife) Athena) attended her baby shower in 2018. My husband Craig proposed to me in the backyard of David and Eileen's home August 20 of 2017—as the Eclipse started. It was on this occasion that I met Zarifa Spain. She accompanied Eileen to a place for viewing the eclipse because David had duties elsewhere—while Craig proposed. Zarifa sang and played the guitar as we were leaving. I have one objection relating to Zarifa: she does not live close enough for me to enjoy her company as Eileen is doing and has a very busy life. This is one very special lady! She deserves to be in a relationship with Eileen and David who now have time for that as Linda's age and health issues make it much more difficult to spend time with her. I hope there will be more time for Zarifa and I to connect as time goes by.

David and Eileen came to my wedding to Craig April 28, 2018. Eileen handled the guest book. While Craig has no objection to my continued relationship with David (nor do Zarifa or Eileen), David's plate is rather full at the present time. Due to his relationship time commitments, career commitments (Unitarian leadership) *and* our physical distance from each other, it has been some time since my relationship with David has been a physical one. That still does not make it "off and on." The caring and love continue whether it is physical or not. Who knows what the future may hold...

Tell your Poly curious friends to look us up! WHAT EXPERIENCES/Book reviews, etc. CAN YOU SHARE RELATING TO THE POLY LIFE STYLE? We'd like to run it here.

**If you have a
“What do you do when?” question for us,
or any Poly related article for publication:**

Please E-Mail to: newsletter@mail.livethedream.org

Or mail it to 8515 Penfield Ave. Winnetka, Ca. 91306.

We will take it 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.

Meet Ups & Other Group Events

NONE OF THIS IS COVID 19 UPDATED. GO TO THEIR WEBSITES TO SEE HOW EACH GROUP IS HANDLING IT.

First Saturday of every month is Deborah’s meet up at Fuddr--uckers
221 N. San Fernando Blvd in Burbank at 8 pm. It’s a dinner and socializing meeting.

Go to www.meetup.com/SoCal-Polyamory for more info on this meeting
Also check out www.meetup.com/Loveopen & www.meetup.com/loving-more
and other SoCal poly groups (40+ groups in the Greater LA Area!)

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:

www.lovemore.com

www.polyevents.blogspot.com

<http://openingup.net/resources/local-organizations-u-s/>

Other groups friendly to Polyamory

KARL HESS CLUB www.karlhessclub.org

meets on the 3rd Monday at Dinah's Family Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd. (at Centinela),
Culver City. Phone: (310) 645-0456 West L.A.

Burning Man Festival August 30-September 7, 2020 for details www.burningman.com!

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.

	Membership Type	Single	Couple/Family
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full LTD Membership Includes Newsletter & Membership Card	\$25	\$40 (\$10 FOR EACH EXTRA PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email Newsletter Only	NO CHARGE	NO CHARGE

Make checks payable to Success Center Total: \$ _____

Membership Information *Help Support the Lifestyle you live!*

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Single **Married** **Attached** **Unattached** **Amount Enclosed \$ _____**

Name(s) of Mate/Family to be included in this membership if APPLICABLE:

FAX OR Mail to: FAX#1-818-882-8512 – 8515 Penfield, 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**