

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Saturday March 19, 2022 Live 11am - 4 pm (Zoom 11am-12:30pm PST)
Remembering Hy Levy, Cofounder of Family Synergy
which inspired Live the Dream**

**Saturday April 16 2022 Live 11am - 4 pm (Zoom 11am-1 pm PST)
Polyamory and the LGBTQ Community
led by Elaine Anderson, Rodney O'Riley & Terry Brussel-Rogers**

Proof of Vaccination required to attend all LIVE events.

ALL LTD MEETINGS ARE NOW ON ZOOM!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?pwd=NWVjU3A2M0I2Q29IUkI4L1lMRzd2QT09>

Meeting ID: 317 597 1626 Passcode: Heinlein

Find us *Always* here on the 3rd Saturday from 11A-12:30P Pacific Time. This will be our Zoom ID from now on.

Burning Man 2022 Ticket Sale THIS MONTH! Go to www.burningman.org for details.

Live the Dream

March - April 2022

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

Visit livethedream.org articles and info

The silver lining of Safer at Home experience: From now on, all our regular 3rd Saturday 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 are doing Zoom 11-12:30

Attending Live meetings requires proof of vaccination.

Suggested Donation For those attending Live only: Ladies free with pot luck dish to share—same donation as gentlemen otherwise. Gentlemen (pot luck dish appreciated): Paid members of Live the Dream: \$5. Non-Members: \$10 events. Evening events same price. If you join Live the Dream day of meeting, \$25 for singles, \$40 couple or group at same address, donation for one event or both on same day is included.

Saturday March 19 Live 11am - 4 pm (Zoom 11am-12:30pm PST)

Remembering Hy Levy, Cofounder of Family Synergy which inspired Live the Dream

Speakers: Pat LaFollette co-founder of Family Synergy, Oberon Zell- Founder of Church of All Worlds based on *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein (of which Live the Dream is the Los Angeles Nest), Terry Brussel-Rogers and Paul Gibbons, long time board members of Family Synergy.

We have just found out from a member of the Levy family that Hy Levy passed on October 28th 2018. That is why this is a much belated Memorial Service, but one being delivered to the Poly community as promised to Hy many years ago at the time of his recorded final message to that community September 14 of 1998. This 20-minute video will be shared with all who are present on Zoom or in person. We will also include those who knew Hy sharing how he made a difference in their lives. You are welcome to bring your own story if you knew Hy, were in Family Synergy or cared about someone who was.

Afternoon activities:

1 pm Pot Luck Lunch –Bring something healthy and delicious to share

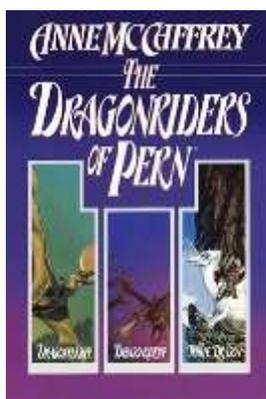
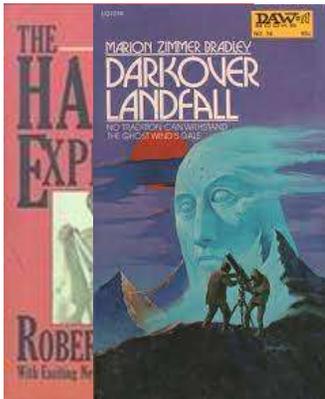
Corn Beef and Cabbage provided in honor of St. Patrick's Day!

2-3 Discussion of Celtic Polyamory: Fiction and Reality:

Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover series, Anne McCaffery's Dragon Rider series and the many marriage and handfasting traditions practiced in real Celtic communities past and present.

Time permitting, Harold will discuss Burning Man ticket sales procedures.

3-4 Socializing in Clothing Optional Hot tub.



Saturday April 16 2022 Live 11am - 4 pm (Zoom 11am-1pm PST)

Polyamory and the LGBTQ Community

led by Elaine Anderson, Rodney O'Riley & Terry Brussel-Rogers

Elain, a trans bi lady living that lifestyle full time since 2017. Many years before that, she experienced being a husband and father in a traditional monogamous marriage. She will share her own journey and what she has observed of polyamory along the way. Terry and Rodney have lived the poly lifestyle all their adult lives. Rodney is a bi male who has been in an open committed relationship with his partner Mark Merlino for over 32 years. They are the recognized founders of Furry Fandom and have had a group house for most of their time together through to the present. Terry raised her children as wife and mother in an open marriage, was in residential triads and is now in an open committed relationship with her husband Craig Brussel Rogers. They live in a group house. She has led workshops on bisexuality at lifestyles and Loving More conferences for many years and watched bisexuality become more and more acceptable in the poly community among both men and women. She will share some of those experiences. Do you have experiences you would like to share or just questions to ask? Come grow with us!

Afternoon activities:

1 pm Pot Luck Lunch –Bring something healthy and delicious to share

3-4 Socializing in Clothing Optional Hot Tub

Hy Levy and Pat LaFollette founded Family Synergy in 1971. I am including here a few excerpts from the chapter on Family Synergy in our forthcoming book *Fifty Years of Polyamory in America* by Glen Olson and Terry Brussel-Rogers

Hy Levy, an engineer by profession in the bustling California technical world of aero-space, was looking for something different to bring into his life. He and his wife Joyce had already built a loving marriage, created a suburban family lifestyle with two children, on a single income. It was a very normal, middle-class life, but as good as life was for them, they knew they were looking for a way to enrich their lives further.

They were looking for something quite specific, although hard to define. They were definitely not looking to join a commune, or to make a political statement about planetary resources, or create a model for co-operative living- others were already doing that.

They were actually inspired by the utopian novels of Robert Rimmer: *The Harrad Experiment, Proposition Thirty One, Love Me Tomorrow*. Rimmer proposed that a group marriage, built by couples, who would find other couples and marry them, could work and would be a powerful and joyful lifestyle. The Levy's wondered if this could possibly be true and were on quest to find out.

Hy recalls that in the late 1960's, and early 1970's, many utopian groups were forming, or at least attempting to form, advocating everything from urban group living, back to nature farming, economic co-op trade and bartering, to Israeli kibbutzim style total property sharing. Many included freeform experimental sexual pairing styles. There was something there for everyone, and, surely, they would find one that suited themselves.

After attending meetings put on by numerous groups, he and his wife realized they were looking for something else. They were in their thirties and had two small children. They were not teenagers trying to change the world, they were people looking to enrich their lives and the lives of others they cared about. And this turns out to be a key concept that would inspire and infuse the future organization they founded with a purpose that spanned decades.

"In those days it was very hard to meet people," Levy says, "the only way to contact other like-minded people was to put an ad in the LA Free Press and wait for someone to answer it, or answer someone else's ad."

Eventually, after answering a large number of ads, and putting in one of their own, they met Pat and Ann LaFollette. Hy remembers, "We met each other, we liked each other, in fact Pat and I got along fabulously well." The LaFollette's, though they were younger and did not have children yet, had also read Robert Rimmer's novels and were looking for the same things the Levy's were.

A deep friendship developed. It became clear that, though they were looking for the same thing, the two couples were not quite the right mix to build a marriage together. Instead, they went as a foursome to several discussion groups on communes.

About that adventure Hy states, "We blew people away because all they wanted to talk about is who takes out the garbage, or how to *decide* who takes out the garbage- and we wanted to talk about being in a place where people cared about each other. The reason for being there was not political or economic, it was to live with someone you cared for... We ended up getting attacked a lot, because our views were so dissimilar to those of the rest of the room."

The Levy's and the Lafollette's were so dismayed by the responses they were getting they decided to put in an ad of their own, advertising a meeting to discuss the philosophies of Robert Rimmer. The meeting drew a group of more than a dozen people and was supposed to be about three hours long.

But the idea caught fire. At the end of the discussion period no one was ready to leave so they adjourned to a local restaurant for dinner and returned to continue the discussion.

Sometime late in the evening they decided that they should do more than just talk about the ideas of Robert Rimmer, it was time to do something about it. They formed a body called the steering committee, composed of everyone who was at the meeting, and resolved to build an organization to see if these ideas would work in the real world. Of course, the group had no name, a problem which would need a solution sooner than they realized.

One of the new steering committee members mentioned that Robert Rimmer himself would be coming to the Los Angeles area the following month to give a talk at a convention. He proposed they attend the convention to hear Rimmer speak- and to advertise their existence to other like-minded people.

Now came the problem: they had a group, what to call it? In trying to define what they were looking for, Pat Lafollette and Hy Levy had often stated they were looking to build a "synergy" in their lives, create stronger, vital relationships based on their marriages, and to provide a stronger family experience for the adults AND the children.

It hit Hy, and perhaps Pat also at the same time, they were talking about Family. Obviously, the organization should be called Family Synergy. Later they would invent the term "expanded family" to denote those adults and children that you spent a lot of time with and did family activities with, who were family, but who did not happen to be related to you by blood.

The Levy's and the Lafollette's attended that convention the following month and met Robert Rimmer. They found a way to get invited up on stage with Rimmer and made their announcement. Pat recalls, "At that time I was a professional artist and had a huge artists loft in the skid row area of Los Angeles. It was four or five thousand feet. We held the next meeting there just in case we got a good turnout." In fact, fifty or sixty people showed up- and Family Synergy was in business.

What Family Synergy did:

The Family Synergy newsletter: As volunteer run social groups learn very quickly a consistently published newsletter is essential to creating the experience of community. The Synergy newsletter was the glue that held hundreds, and eventually thousands, of people together.

Not only did the newsletter announce events (remember this was pre-internet communication, almost pre-privately owned computers of any sort) it published articles by members giving advice on every topic under the sun concerning multiply committed relationships. People chronicled their joys and sorrows, successes, and failures, in the adventures of expanded family and expanded loves.

Monthly meetings: The monthly meetings were originally general topic presentations or group discussions about aspects of group marriage, or sometimes special interest presentations, such as how to put together a group household or plan a commune.

Terry: Where did Synergy come into my life?

I joined when I was 22. I came from a small family and craved a much larger one. My water brothers in High School were my first Family-by-choice. Family Synergy, *an intentional community*, helped fill this need for me as a young wife and mother. It showed me my first functioning group home—the Allot House and through one of its members I was introduced to my first child centered commune—adults who raised their children together in a large home with plenty of loving interaction. Synergy became very central to my life as I put in volunteer time coordinating the annual Passover Seder, which Hy Levy led for many years. I was on the board for five years and even managed to attend board meetings by telephone when I was on a camping trip in Yosemite before cell phones, shivering in a phone booth— OK, I was a little compulsive about it.

In those early days Synergy gave me a choice of kindred spirits to love, in bed and out, people who understood that it was possible to love and be committed to more than one significant other. I was able to meet people who were actually living in the triads and group marriages I had read about in SF books, to learn that this lifestyle really was possible. I learned that one could be happily married and still have a joyous committed secondary relationship which could last through many years. I've been blessed with relationships which have lasted over a quarter of a century, which started in those Synergy years.

**A Letter Written to Hy Levy June of 2005 by Terry Brussel
This is a Thank You letter**

You were the first person to tell me I was beautiful and to make me believe it. You were the man who taught me to carry a strong sex drive as a badge of honor rather than something to be, on some level, ashamed of. You helped me keep my self-esteem through the relationship challenges in my life. You were a wise and caring friend I could turn to for words of wisdom on subjects of life style, politics and religion.

You taught me about Judaism by being the first man I knew well who truly practiced it. You led the first properly done Seder I ever experienced and honored me by allowing me to coordinate the one you did regularly for Family Synergy. You even continued to give my children the benefit of your Jewish example long after you stopped leading those Seders publicly. You were the one who led me to make sure my children got a Jewish education instead of just wishing they would get one. You were there for my daughter at her Bat Mitzvah when my father had a heart attack which kept him from being there.

I met many people who made a difference in my life through Family Synergy including Paul [my second husband who was married to me 15 years and is still a joy in my life today 2022]

We of the poly community will not forget the ideals which lead you to found Family Synergy. It is a fine achievement and meaningful contribution to thousands of lives Live the Dream. goes on as well, a living tribute to the Work you started. I keep it as much in alignment with what I believe your original purpose was as I possibly can—the ideal we both hold that it is possible to love and

be committed to more than one significant other—to have Family by choice who mean as much to you as those by blood. The ideal is worth preserving. The part we have had in spreading it and making this way of life a viable one will go on long after you and I have passed into the Light.

As I promised you, I will make the Memorial service for Synergy, Live the Dream and others in this life style when I learn that you are gone. Paul still has the video you made for that.

Love and Light Always,

Terry

That Memorial is being done on Zoom and Live Saturday March 19, 2022. See details in event above. Please join us for this tribute to the man who founded Family Synergy.

WHAT EXPERIENCES/BOOK REVIEWS, ETC. THAT YOU CAN 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 E-Mail to: newsletter@mail.livethedream.org

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.

Meet Ups & Other Group Events

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:

The Human Awareness Institute www.hai.org

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.

For the many book lovers amongst us

The LA Vintage Paperback Book Expo March 20th

Glendale Civic Auditorium

There are 47 authors schedule to be signing books, 70% are Science Fiction/Fantasy authors!

Including Peter S. Beagle, Steve Barnes, Greg Benford, and John DeChancie

<http://www.la-vintage-paperback-show.com>

It's Burning Man Ticket Sale's Month!!! For details www.burningman.org! March 16, 2022

Ticket Aid (formerly Low-Income Ticket) Program Application Opens March 23, 2022 Main Sale

Registration Opens (you MUST register to purchase tickets) March 30, 2022 Main Sale Star

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**