

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 July 16, 2022 11 am to 4 pm LIVE and In Person

11 am to 2 pm on Zoom

Etiquette of Alternative Relationships

Saturday August, 20 2022 11 am to 4 pm LIVE 11 am to 1 pm on Zoom

Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover novels, Science Fiction Intro to Polyamory

ADVANCE NOTICE

35th Anniversary Celebration of Live the Dream! Zoom 11 am to 2 pm Only

Saturday October 16, 2022 10 am to Sunday October 17 at 1 pm

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 11am-1pm Pacific Time. This will be our Zoom ID from now on.

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*.

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)

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

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. If you join Live the Dream Day of meeting, \$25 for singles, \$40 couple or group at same address, attendance is included.

Saturday July 16,2022 11 am to 4 pm LIVE and In Person

11 am to 1 pm on Zoom

Etiquette of Alternative Relationships

What do you do when your wife brings her lover home for dinner? Who sleeps where if he offers (or is invited) to stay overnight? If your wife has had a depressing day on a night, you've got a date, should you cancel and stay home with her? Should your girlfriend keep you company if you do stay home? Is it proper poly behavior to bring a lady home for dinner with your wife before taking her to bed or only if considering a serious long-term relationship with her? Should a residential triad (one woman & two men for example) sleep all together or alternate between joining the lady in her bed? Emily Post did not cover this stuff, but we will!

Note: the real answer to all these questions is that they involve agreements between those involved in a couple, triad or larger group marriage. All of this is negotiable-- preferably *before* the situation arises... Printed examples of such agreements will be available at this meeting.

Zoom 11am-1pm

Lunch 1pm-2pm

Socializing in the hot tub 2pm-4pm

4-6 Poly Movie or Poly Ungame activities as group decides.

Pot Luck dinner at 6 pm

Filk Sing at 7 pm til 10 or 11 That's folk songs of science fiction, fantasy and the Space Age. from Coed Naked Quidich (Harry Potter) to the more somber Ballad of Apollo 13—includes poly filk some of it written by Craig Brussel Rogers. Wait and see what he does with The Tennessee Waltz!

Saturday August 20. 2022 **11 am to 4 pm LIVE, 11 am to 1 pm on Zoom**

Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover novels, Science Fiction Intro to Polyamory

We'll discuss fascinating novels based on the concept of a world on which a few hundred Terrans were marooned in crashed space ships hundreds of years ago and were forced to build a viable community from this limited gene pool. Many women found themselves unable to bear children on the new world. This resulted in a society where a fertile woman having more than one child by the same man was considered a kind of selfishness. Group marriage became the norm and ties of fosterage frequently stronger than ties of blood...Marion and many new writers as well as successful professional writers have chosen to create stories in the Dark Over universe dealing with the alternative lifestyle of multiply committed relationships. We'll focus on **SPELL SWORD and FORBIDDEN TOWER, two novels based on a real life two couple group marriage which lasted 16 years!**

ADVANCE NOTICE

35th Anniversary Celebration of Live the Dream!

Saturday October 16, 2022 10 am to Sunday October 17 at 1 pm

Only Saturday 11 am to 2 pm on Zoom

8515 Penfield Ave. Winnetka, Ca. 91306 Crash space in living room, big tents with air mattresses in backyard + trailer which sleeps 4. Reserve early for sleeping over. Those coming from longer distances may want to arrange to sleep over Friday Oct 15. Please make such arrangements before October 5 if at all possible.

Nearby motels and hotels if you prefer.

Keynote Speakers: Glen Olson and Terry Brussel-Rogers authors of Fifty Years of Polyamory in America: A Guided Tour to a Growing Movement being published November 11 2022 by Rowman and Littlefield. (May have books available at this meeting!)

Oberon Zell founder of Church of All Worlds

Pat LaFollette Co-Founder of Family Synergy

Sensitivity exercises verbal and non-verbal

Sensual massage and MORE

Clothing Optional hot Tub

Pot Luck lunch Saturday—Dinner Saturday night and Brunch Sunday provided by Live the Dream 10 am Saturday morning through Brunch Sunday –closing circle around 1 pm.

Nonmembers: \$75 per person includes sleeping over, \$50 if sleeping elsewhere. Either of these includes \$25 annual membership in Live the Dream. Paid Members: \$50 includes sleepover, \$25 if sleeping elsewhere.

Send checks to 8515 Penfield Ave Winnetka, Ca. 91306 made out to Live the Dream or RSVP at 818-886-0069 to use a credit card.

Excerpt from *Fifty Years of Polyamory in America: A Guided Tour of a Growing Movement* by Glen W. Olson, Terry Lee Brussel-Rogers, Hardcover | Barnes & Noble®

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/fifty-years-of-polyamory-in-america-glen-w-olson/1141090594>

CHAPTER ONE:

WHAT IS POLYAMORY?

Most of us are familiar with the term monogamy. Often connected with marriage or other committed relationship, it is a contract between two people who agree that they will have sex only with each other. It is the most prevalent form of emotional/sexual relationship between two people in our western cultures and is believed to be sanctioned by all modern Judeo/Christian religions.

But that is not the only sexual/relationship choice people can make. Polyamory is a term coined in 1990 by Morning Glory Zell in an article ⁽¹⁾ she wrote to address the ethical problems that can often occur in multiply committed relationships, that is to say, a situation where one person has two or more acknowledged sexual relationships at the same time/. Bouquet of Lovers [text omitted]

In 1967 an event took place in that was destined to shake American society to its foundations and cause not just isolated splinter groups, but huge segments of the population to pay attention, to wonder and to ultimately question their relationships- with themselves and with the people they loved.

“The Summer of Love” was the culmination of three very strong trends going on in America at the time. The Civil Rights Movement had been changing people’s hearts all through the sixties, making activism respectable. The Human Potential Movement, coming from good old American philosophical and psychological roots had been quietly gaining momentum all decade with the message that you can change who you are, for the better. And the literary Beat culture of the fifties, whose basic tenets included challenging your preconceptions, making a spiritual quest and rejection of economic materialism had turned into the popular and energetic Hippie movement of the sixties.

The result? An event and a movement- literally. In the spring and summer of 1967 thousands of young people migrated to New York City and San Francisco California, to attend weeks long “happenings” that celebrated music, drugs, personal expression, and free love.

Some of these young people had a deep distrust of government as they perceived it, a strong desire to change society... and they started by changing themselves and how they related to one another. They also poured a lot of energy into the anti-war movement of the late 1960’s/ early 70’s. One slogan that continues to ring down through the years from that era is “Make Love, not War”.

The fervor of these secular movements infused the following decades with excitement in human potential and the ability of humans to love. Many people who were otherwise happy and content with the society they were living in began personal explorations, leading them to include new ideas about what love, and caring might look like and making broader choices in their personal lives.

Something unique in human history happened at this point. A few people began questioning the idea that marriage was only to be limited to two people. Not only could someone have more than one lover, perhaps they could have more than one spouse. In another section of the book, we will introduce you to Family Synergy, a group that formed in 1971, explored this concept deeply,

Alternative Dating & Relationship Etiquette by Terry Brussel-Rogers CCHT *Originally published April of 2017*

818-886-0069 livethedream.org

Many things have changed in the Covid era. There have been long separations of lovers who may have seen each other weekly for years. Some married or living together couple have closed their marriages entirely “for the duration”. Some have limited their other relationships to those with up-to-date vaccines—which may cause rifts based on politics which will never heal. Unfortunately, with the ups and downs of Covid and its variants, “the duration” is dissolving into the New Normal.

Beyond Covid 19 or Back to Poly Dating Basics

If you are a couple meeting another couple, dinner at one of your homes is generally best. Again, as a couple, inviting a single male to your home for dinner is appropriate for a first meeting. If you are a couple meeting a single lady, the best way we've found to handle it is to court her together. Take her out and treat her nicely--let her know that dating a couple doesn't mean giving up the joys of romantic single dating, but doubles them instead! The husband is taking both of the ladies out--he should pick up the check without a fuss. The single lady can reciprocate later with dinner at her place if things work out. If the single is male and you go out together, he and the husband should split the check--you are both taking *her* out. None of this on who pays applies to feminist ladies who wouldn't *think* of allowing a man to buy her dinner--but we've run into amazingly few of those in this movement.

Primary Prospect Dating (or Marrying) Someone in a Committed Long Standing Secondary Relationship

If your partner or prospective partner comes to you with one or more long term secondary partners, you are likely to not only meet these people, but also to form your own relationship with them – anything from casual friendship expressed by a cordial “Have a good evening (or weekend) together,” to becoming an ardent lover of that person if you are bi and the relationship grows. This dynamic can be even more confusing when the secondary has turned down your prospective partner’s offer to be primary (or vice versa), but both have chosen to continue the relationship as it is valuable and satisfying despite that.

There are many in between possibilities. Perhaps your prospective primary’s secondary has veto power over his or her primary relationship. This is particularly common in BDSM master slave relationships – though the Master or Mistress may be a long-married man or woman. More commonly, meeting and getting the approval of this long-term secondary will be similar to getting the approval of a parent, big brother/sister or best friend of your prospective primary partner. Perhaps you passed the inspection and this secondary is now family by choice, joining you for Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday celebrations. Where this person sleeps and whether your partner will sleep with both of you or that person alone during such a visit is one thing you will need to negotiate for the comfort of all concerned. Perhaps you will all sleep and make love in one bed, or perhaps your partner will spend part of the night with one or the other of you. The secondary may be long distance, taking your partner away for a weekend a few times a year, or you may be sharing the bed with them twice a week if that secondary is local and available for such things – some call this a semi residential triad such as the one which originally founded Live the Dream. It is wise to find out what the current situation is before getting into such a relationship. You may be able to negotiate changes which would make you more comfortable either to start with or ongoing. While it is not a given that you will take the time commitments in that relationship as is, you will most likely be expected to accept the relationship itself which may have been going on for decades. The honest and ethical thing for you as someone forming a primary relationship with a person in such a relationship is to be clear on what you can handle and what you can’t, so your prospective primary partner can make an informed choice about what he or she is committing to. Changing the rules after the wedding, handfasting or decision to live together is something which would have to be done by mutual consent – perhaps including the consent and input of the secondary partner. Arbitrary vetoes or changes at this point have been known to end in a breakup of the new primary relationship, so think carefully about it and be fair to yourself as well your partner and the person who may have seen him or her through 3 marriages, perhaps helping to raise kids involved...

Three in the Car

If you all go out together as three, the wife and single lady should alternate sitting in the front seat if your car has bucket seats. In the case of a couple dating a single man, the gentleman whose car is being driven will usually drive with the lady beside him. Three in front is much better if you have a vehicle which can do it – rare as of 2015.

Three at a Restaurant

If you are going to a restaurant, plan things so that round booth seating (preferable) or individual chairs avoid the couple sitting on one side and the single on the other. Whether that single is male or female, avoid anything with a

two against one feel to it. Call ahead to check exactly what kind of seating the place has if you have not been there before.

Couples Together and Apart

Be sure you not only do the obvious of sitting in cars or restaurants with the opposite sex member of the other couple, but spend time with the same sex one, too. This goes for separate meetings, too. The gentlemen can go to a computer fair together while the ladies go for a drive or whatever. You are *all* in a relationship together if this works out. During 50 years of living this life style, I have found that the relationship between same sex members of a triad, quad or bigger group is *at least* as important as that between opposite sex members especially if the same sex members are hetero. I will never forget the man whose “share” at a Loving More conference was that “This woman is the lady I love, ardently desire, and want to spend the rest of my life with. This is the man I want to repair roofs and remodel kitchens with for the rest of my life. I love them both equally in different ways...” I hear also in my mind Marcus saying to Paul and me early in our relationship, when we were just beginning to relate as a triad, “I’ve got to tell you, I love you both!” in joy and surprise. His first triad was with his best friend from high school—he expected to love both his bride and the man he asked to join them in their marriage. Paul (in 2000, several months before our braiding ceremony in June 2001) was a much newer friend, in time to become even closer to him than that high school buddy.

Separate Dating--couple with a Single

Depending on the couple's comfort level with it, after getting to know them both on two or three joint meetings, you as a single male could offer to take the lady alone out for lunch, dinner or even a play. This works particularly well if her husband gets to go to some meeting or activity, he is really interested in but she is not while you entertain her. You, as the male member of a couple, can also ask the single lady out, assuming this is ok with your wife--best to have your wife assure her that it is especially if your previous meetings have been as three.

Addendum 4-4-21

Paul and Athena married May 16, 2020 after nearly a decade of living together. Paul popped the question at our New Year’s Eve dinner at Tam O’Shanter with Craig, myself and many of our water brothers present. Craig and I were married April 28th 2018. As of this writing April 4, 2021, we are still a very happily married couple who become a semi residential quad when Paul and Athena visit for birthdays, holidays, special occasions like weddings and funerals+ Science Fiction Conventions. Right now, they are here in California for Paul’s second vaccination. Athena as a Veteran has gotten her first one in Pheonix. Craig and I share time with Family by blood and by Water (see Stranger in a Strange Land). His very close family relationships have taught him to put Family first for which I have been very grateful on the occasions that time with what is now OUR Family conflicted with alone time and other plans. Craig and I flew to Cleavland, Ohio in 2020 despite Covid concerns to support Paul and to say good by to his Mother (who I had called Mom since our marriage in 1993) before she passed. We also came out to Pheonix for their wedding and helped them put together that Zoom and in person event. When I had lung cancer surgery in March of 2021, they came out to California to support Craig and be there for me while I recovered. I am recovering amazingly well thanks to the loving, healing energy (&prayers) of those close to me, using my own hypnotic techniques including a healing meditation specifically for the surgery (played on a loop the whole 3 hours) and after it, which Paul helped me put together as my audio engineer and Craig loaded into a very small play back devise. The surgeon said they got it all—no chemotherapy or radiation required. Blessed Be!

It IS possible to enjoy lovemaking during a recovery. The gentle loving of my Poly Prince, Paul and Athena in her own way have certainly helped the Healing. I am a very lucky 67-year-old lady!

Addendum 6-27-22

In February of 2022, Craig was diagnosed with Lymphoma Cancer. He began spending 6 days out of every 21 in the hospital getting chemo. For some of this time, I had the company of Paul and Athena, but especially at the beginning of it, they were very busy moving their double wide home to a new location in Pheonix. Very little time to spend with me. A trans lady who had been attending Live the Dream meetings for some time entered my life as a romantic partner. She was THERE for me when I really needed her, to help with the tech part of our Zoom meetings, go for drives to the beach, sleep in my bed when Craig was not in it as well as when he was home some of the time. We Shared Water. She was accepted by Paul, Athena and others of my Nest. How does this fit into a piece on the **etiquette** of alternative life styles? How do you handle 5 people with a bed comfortable for sleeping in by four? What do we do when Paul and Athena are visiting the same week end Elain is with us? Elain sleeps on a very comfortable couch in my home hypnotherapy office. Paul and I visit her since we are both her lovers. Craig and Athena are not sexually involved with her or each other. They have verbal intercourse—talk to each other. Or sleep. Perhaps if this continues, they will let the three of us who are making physical love have the big bed while they sit elsewhere to talk. Still under negotiation. I want to sleep with Paul and Craig. Athena wants always to sleep with Paul, so the sleeping arrangements will stay as is even if the sexual play arrangements change.

Also, I have been seeing a lot more of Elain due to Craig being in the hospital 6 days out of 21 since our relationship became a romantic one. This has required her to drive out from Lancaster. There will probably be less of that in the future, but the water sharing is a *permanent* commitment. She wants some alone time with me and will probably get it. Fortunately, Craig likes some time to himself also. It will be worked out. Will she go on vacations with us as Paul and Athena do for summer and winter holidays? Perhaps. There are some talking exercises we will be doing in the months ahead including such questions for each person to answer for each other person in the group as "What I want from you is _____." "What I would like to give you is _____." "What I need to tell you is _____." "What I would like to ask you is _____." "Hot seat involves one person being asked whatever they can think of by everyone else in the group. Each person gets a chance at the Hot Seat, though it may not all be in the same sitting. Fortunately, Paul and I have *lots* of experience with this sort of thing. Sometimes we can even get our partners to go along with it...

Does the fact that Elain is trans figure in to all this? Not much other than which of our intimate circle are comfortable having a relationship with her and which are not which may or may not have anything to do with that. I have been paying for most meals out etc. while she is visiting when it was just her and me because she was gracious enough to drive from a long distance for those visits and gas is expensive. She did take me out beautifully to one of my favorite restaurants for my 69th birthday with Craig home but unable to go out due to being still immunocompromised from the chemo. Who pays later when it is me, her and Craig? A man should probably not pay for two women when one of them is his wife's lover, but not his. That is more about being bi than trans, come to think of it. Hmmm...

More on this as it unfolds.

Back to more general poly dating.

Know Where You Stand

There are many ins and outs to the etiquette of poly dating. Much of it depends on the agreements a couple (or triad or quad) has with each other before another person enters the picture. Contrary to popular beliefs, having an open relationship often does *not* mean "Anything goes." Some couples date only together, while others have a limit of one evening and/or night out a month or a week separately. Some require a week's warning about a whole night out while others just need a call that same night letting the spouse know they'll be out until morning. Couples (and triads and quads), be sure you are clear on such agreements between yourselves and that you make them clear to prospective intimate friends before someone gets hurt feelings through not knowing the rules.

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.

Burning Man 2022 at BLACK ROCK CITY 2022: Aug. 28-Sept. 5, 2022

For details www.burningman.org



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

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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