

LIVE THE DREAM

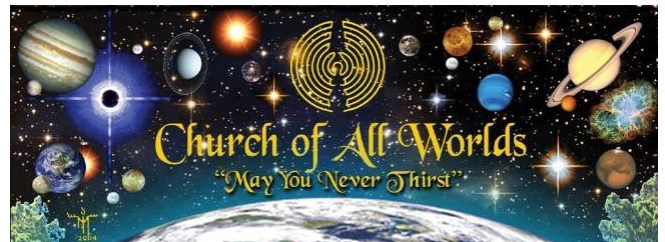
8515 Penfield Ave

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

www.caw.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday August 17 2024 Live: 1 am-4pm PDT, Zoom 11-1 PDT

What If Ayn Rand Had Made Her Characters as Poly as She Was?

Saturday September 21, 2024 Live: 11 am-4pm PDT Zoom: 11-1 PDT

From Family Synergy to Live the Dream: Carrying the Torch

Led by Co-Founder of Family Synergy Pat LaFollette

Join Zoom meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?pwd=NWVjU3A2M0I2Q29lUkI4L1MRzd2QT09)

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Meeting ID: 317 597 1626

Passcode: Heinlein

Live the Dream

August-September 2024

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, ways to attract and maintain loving relationship(s), success coaching, and other services. See www.acesuccess.com or call (800) LIFE MATES (543-3628).

Terry is now 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 11 am - 4 pm PT + special listed events during the year & the ones given first Saturdays of each month 5:30 to 8:30 pm PT at Pitfire Pizza 5211 Lankershim Blvd. NoHo, Co-led by Brad & Jim Call 626-818-8021 for more info.

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. RSVP/more info call the LTD Hotline (818) 886-0069 or Visit LiveTheDream.org

Saturday August 17 2024 Live: 11 am-4pm PDT Zoom: 11-1 PDT

Join Zoom meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3175971626?pwd=NWVjU3A2M0I2Q29IUkI4L11MRzd2QT09)

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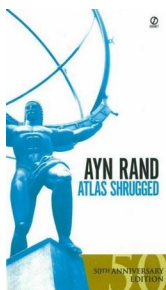
11-1 Poly Discussion, 1pm Pot Luck Lunch, 2-4 pm Socializing in Clothing Optional Jacuzzi

What If Ayn Rand Had Made Her Characters as Poly as She Was?

Ayn Rand married Frank O'Connor in 1929. In 1954, she began a passionate relationship with Nathaniel Branden. It is widely reported that both Ayn Rand's husband and Nathaniel Branden's wife approved of this affair; thus, it would now be considered a polyamorous relationship.

In Ayn Rand's book *Atlas Shrugged*, Dagny Taggart deeply loved three men in her life—great men who could live up to *her* greatness. Francisco was her first teen love, whom she adored with a passion and who shared with her the knowledge that sexual love was something to be gloried in without shame or guilt; something which it was right for these

two free spirited youths (with world changing destinies) to learn from each other. Francisco loved Dagny his whole life long, though he spent many years apart from her pretending to be a playboy for purposes having nothing to do with romance and everything to do with Brains on Strike. She thought her relationship with him was over for many years and had found no other man worthy of her attention during that time.



Already in her 30s, her love was again IGNITED with top Industrialist Hank Rearden, a married man whose wife did not share with him nor support his devotion to his Steel business nor approve of his shameful need for sex with her. It was Dagny who helped him realize he had a right to delight in his sexuality and that his choice of her as his Lady was in complete alignment with the other excellent values which made him the Business Man she so respected.

Finally, there was John Galt, the brilliant inventor of a motor which could gift the world with limitless energy—at the price of respect for the mind which created it. It was to him she finally gave her heart and her body to the exclusion of Hank and Francisco who continued to love her and were compassionately understanding of this Highest choice of the man both of them loved and followed. A beautiful story... of ENTIRELY NEEDLESS sacrifices by characters who supposedly had learned not to make sacrifices, created by an author who knew better!

Dagny Taggart could have found John Galt, then realized that Francisco had behaved honorably in all the years they were apart, holding his love for her as a sacred fire within himself. Since Francisco loved and was deeply committed to John already, a triad between the three of them could have worked out perfectly. When Francisco found her miraculously alive in the Valley after believing she had died in a plane crash, she could have told him all that she felt with complete honesty, letting him know that there was room for both him and John to be her primary partners. Later, Hank could have been added either as a live in lover for Dagny or as a beloved non residential secondary partner always welcome in their home. No one gets hurt.

There was certainly enough of Dagny living, breathing, and willing to satisfy the desires of men who had lived mostly with only their fantasies of her to sustain them for many years. The love and respect all the men involved had for each other would make jealousy unlikely and (if it did come up) something to be dealt with like any other emotional illness rather than something to base one's life on. Had John and Francisco offered her this option, she might have been too happily engaged in carrying it out that she would have stayed in the Valley her first time there rather than choosing to go back to a rapidly disintegrating world of looters who had taken charge of the US government, and who would not permit her to do what was needed to keep her railroad physically safe to ride upon for passengers as well as financially viable for herself and those who invested capital into it.

Dagny could even have had a child by John and then by each of the others, if they wanted one. Additionally, John, Francisco, and Hank might want to consider spreading their excellent genetic materials (and their unbridled affections) to other fine Ladies who were available in John's Gulch...

Think about it; limits on wealth and production were unacceptable, but limits on Love were unexamined and unchallenged. The very people who did not take what the Experts said to be so as a given in their businesses and their political lives had swallowed hook, line and sinker the looting of that most precious aspect of living—romantic Love and Joy.

How many unexamined ass-umptions are *you* carrying around to mess up your life?

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THE BEGINNINGS OF SYNERGY:

Multiply Committed Relationships, Group Living and Group Marriage

Excerpt from *Fifty Years of Polyamory In America: A Guided Tour of a Growing Movement*

by Glen Olson and Terry Brussel-Rogers

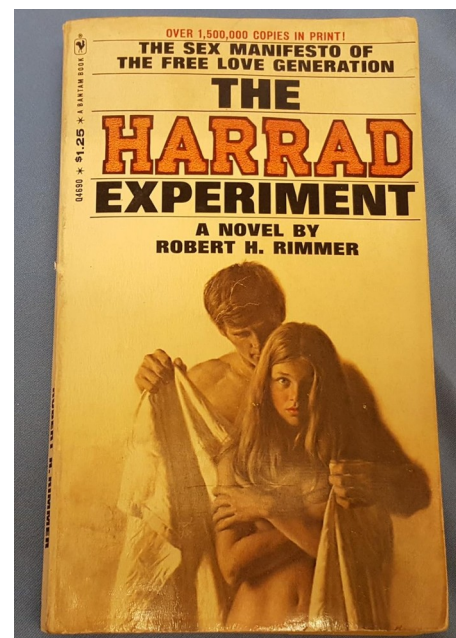
Synergy-Noun: the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects. (combined: Free Merriam-Webster online/*Webster's Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, 1978)

Hy Levy and his wife Joyce were looking for something different. An engineer in his thirties, he recalls he and his wife were not looking to join a commune to make a political statement about planetary resources or create a model for co-operative living – things that others were looking for. He was actually inspired by the utopian novels of Robert Rimmer (*The Harrad Experiment*, *Proposition 31*), an author who proposed that group marriage, built of couples finding other couples and marrying them, could work and be a powerful and joyful lifestyle.

He recalls that in the late 1960's, early 1970's, many utopian groups were trying to form, some advocating every form of sexual freedom, but after attending meetings put on by numerous groups, he and his wife realized they were looking for something else. They already had two small children and 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.

“It was very hard to meet people,” he 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 LaFollettes had also read Robert Rimmer and were looking for the same things the Levys were.

A deep friendship developed. It became clear that the two couples, though looking for the same thing, were not quite the right mix to build a marriage together, so they went as a foursome to a number of 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 men were so dismayed at the reception 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 about 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 adjured 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. So they formed a steering committee, composed of everyone who was at the meeting, and resolved to go forward. 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 would be in town the following month, giving a talk at a convention. He proposed they attend the convention to hear Rimmer speak – and to advertise their existence to any 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, that they were talking about Family. Obviously, the organization should be called **Family Synergy**. Later they would invent the term “expanded family” (like the extended family of Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad, their kids and maybe some Aunts and Uncles with their kids) 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 Levys and the LaFollettes attended that convention the following month and met Robert Rimmer. They remember finding a way to get invited up on stage with him and made their announcement. Pat recalls, “At that time I was an 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.

In 1987, **Live the Dream** was formed as a spin-off of the Family Synergy special interest group *Explore, Come Live with Us*. The organizations were apart and then together again until Family

Synergy's 40th Anniversary Reunion, at which point Terry Brussel-Rogers declared her intent to continue Family Synergy as Live the Dream. How did that happen and how is Live the Dream continuing to carry out the original vision of the founders of Family Synergy?

Are YOU Ready for Group Living?

Many people together can live cheaper and a whole lot nicer than that same number could live separately. Over the years at our Live the Dream gatherings we've done an exercise in which we have everyone write down what they could afford to pay down for a home, what they could pay monthly, where they want to live, what kind of people they want to live with, etc. Invariably, we discover that living together costs less and is quite affordable for most people.

Our present group house was bought in 2003.

An RV with its own kitchenette is available in our group house in the West San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, with access to the kitchen, dining area, and living room in the main house.

Penfield House is the home of Terry Lee Brussel-Rogers, founder and organizer of Live the Dream. Our home is a beautiful one in a nice neighborhood. It has two fireplaces, a high ceilinged grand living room, dining area, and big country kitchen. A washer and dryer are available. We have a clothing-optional hot tub which frequently has good company available and music of your choice playing in it.

Imagine coming home to a beautiful house, a well-kept yard filled with flowers and trees. There is space for a garden if you have a green thumb. The fireplace may be lit if it is winter. You come home to the smell of something delicious being cooked by one of your housemates. Or perhaps you are the housemate doing that cooking—that nurturing.

You share a good dinner with whoever is at home tonight. Afterward, you might enjoy the massage chair, go to the privacy of your room, soak in the hot tub with good friends, join a lively discussion in the living room or cuddle by the fire.

We share meals, holidays, birthdays, special occasions, and hugs as well as household chores.

Sound good?

MAKE YOUR FANTASY A REALITY...

If you have an interest in being part of a group house with warm, caring, like minded people, call (818) 886-0069 for more information.

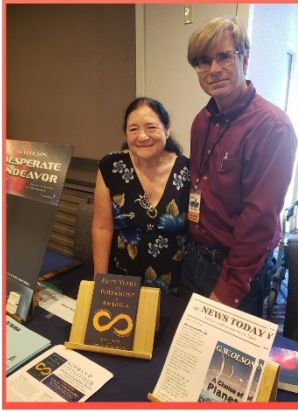
RENT: \$997 for a single, \$250 for each additional adult up to a 3 adult triad. Includes some utilities and internet access

Optional: \$75 a week each person for food and sundries. Tell the grocery shopper what you want bought or be the grocery shopper. Several meals are shared ones and the rest is fixing your own from what's in the fridge.

There are two cats in residence, but no pets will be allowed in the RV. You can pet ours if they will let you.

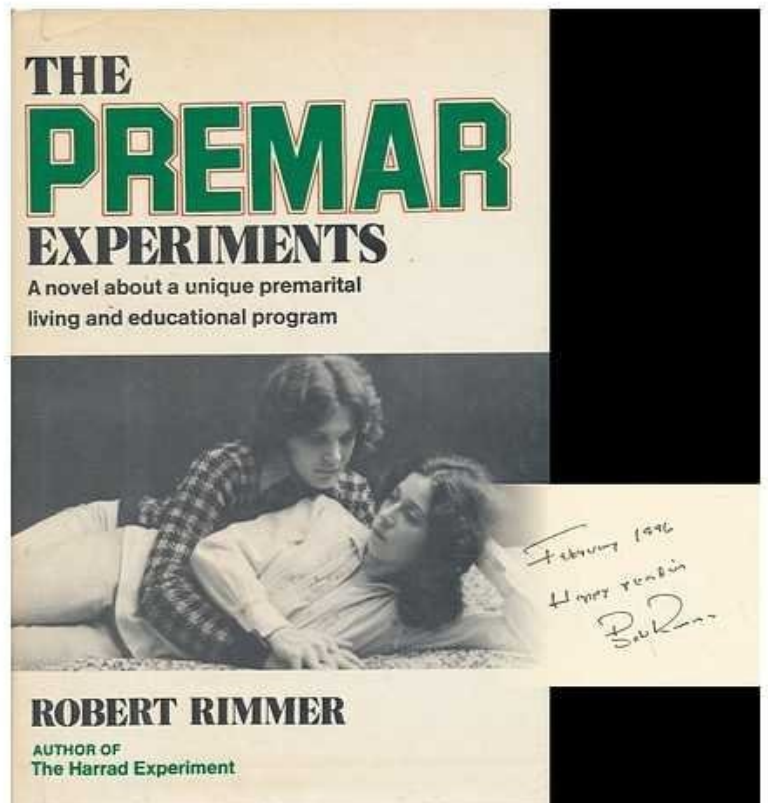
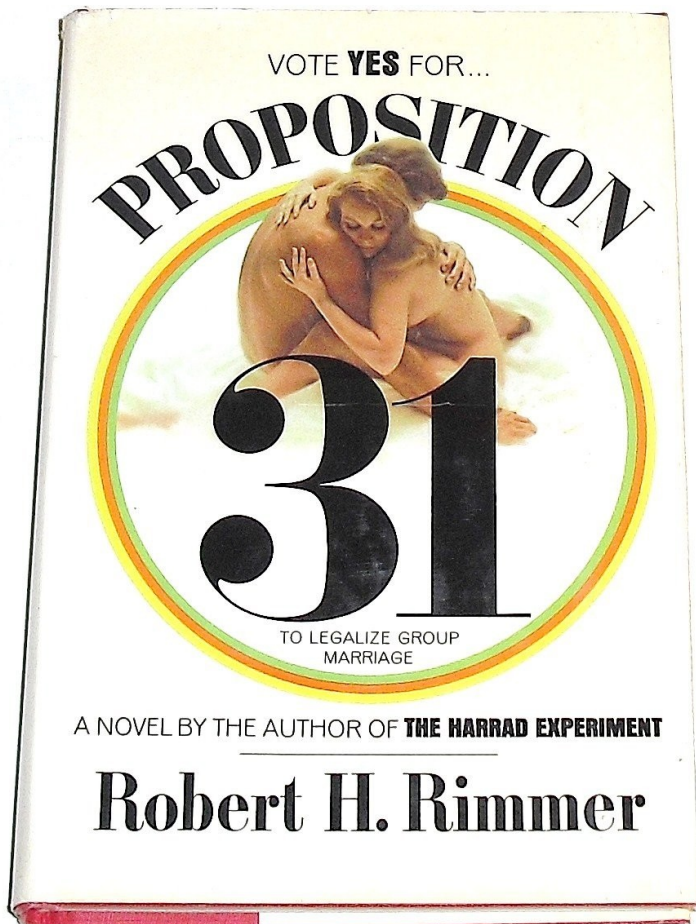
NO SMOKING, Vaping, or recreational drugs.

November 11, 2022 was the official launch date for *Fifty Years of Polyamory in America: A Guided Tour of a Growing Movement*, by Glen Olson and Terry Brussel-Rogers, published by Rowman and Littlefield. It is a fascinating read, and is being used in academic research papers on the subject. 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.



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.

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!



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 brainstorm 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/

www.meetup.com/polycocktailslosangeles/ or www.polycocktailslosangeles.com

Find many other SoCal poly groups (40+ groups in the Greater LA Area!) on Meetup!

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 Kitchen Restaurant,

4130 Sepulveda Blvd. (at Washington), Culver City. Phone: (310) 645-0456 West L.A.

Burning Man 2024 at BLACK ROCK CITY

For details www.burningman.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/>
