

The UUCF CommUUnicator

May 2008

Web Edition



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fullerton
1600 North Acacia Avenue,
Fullerton, CA 92831

Jon Dobrer, Minister

Services begin at 10:30 am

May 4: It's Not Easy Being Green - Sermon

May 6: Movie, Discussion & Dinner - Movie: - Sermon. See the movie on your own and meet for dinner at Don Jose's in Placentia at 7 PM

May 11: Mothers Day—from saints to vipers to people - Sermon

May 17: UU Choral Festival. The UUCF Choir will be performing at this festival on Saturday, May 17th at the Costa Mesa UU Church at 2:00 PM.

May 18: The Ides of May - Sermon **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after Service**

May 25: Eleanor Ramrath Garner - she is the author of award winning young adult memoir [*Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany*](#) * - Sermon

May 27: Pot luck & discussion: The Way Ahead for Our Church

* Eleanor Ramrath Garner (mother of our member Jim Garner) will talk about her personal memoir *Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany*, which has won 9 major awards. It is the compelling story of an American teenager caught up in the daily struggles of surviving World War II in Berlin and gives a moving perspective on life under a totalitarian regime without freedom of speech and where fear ruled every aspect of life. The story includes the bombings, evacuations, final battle for Berlin, and the terrors of Soviet occupation. It also demonstrates the sustaining values of love and family, the gift of friendship, the celebration of traditions in the midst of a collapsing world, and the realization that even in the darkest times the heart can still dance, that hope never really dies.

We now have cribs and infant care is available, thank you Anne Thorward

At our May meeting we will have the opportunity of securing our place here for the next ten years, stabilizing our rent, getting our own permanent office space—available to us at all times for office, classes and meetings. We will also get a permanent sign! Our space will be in the beautiful new building that Temple Beth Tikva is building where the old classrooms were.

This is an important moment in our history. It is a choice to go forward with confidence and commitment. It also comes, of course, with a price.

In exchange for our commitment of \$100,000, (\$50,000 up front and \$10k in each of the next five years) we get all the above benefits and much more. We have reached a size where we could not easily find another home—certainly not one as well situated, large and nicely maintained as this one. If the Temple were to find another tenant or income stream we would be hard-pressed to move into a place where we could meet on Sundays, have Religious Education for our children and the many social and educational events we now have. We would, in my view, face an existential challenge. As of this moment, we have capital assets sufficient to meet this commitment—which is certainly good news. Inspirationally better news is that a member has already pledged \$25,000 towards the first \$50k buy-in. This generous act puts us into a position far more easily to say yes. I also expect more individuals will step forward to build up this fund. This pledge is not to our bank or capital account. It is made contingent on our acceptance of this unique opportunity.

Yes, there will be lawyers and safeguards. We will be protected, but most importantly we will be secure for the next decade. **BE** sure to attend our congregational May meeting to find out more and vote for our future.

Jon©2008 Jonathan Dobrer

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism:

<http://www.uua.org/visitors/>

“Men are apt to mistake the strength of their feeling for the strength of their argument. The heated mind resents the chill touch and relentless scrutiny of logic.” (thanks Debbie Langenbacher for submission)

June 25, 2008 - June 29, 2008 **Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly**

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

Ft. Lauderdale, FL *Participants:* Public, Must Register ASAP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—MAY 2008

At the April Fellowship Dinner we recognized a number of our congregants who have volunteered generously of their time and talents, sharing their energy with us in many vital ways. For the benefit of those who weren't at the dinner, these are the people who received service award certificates

Youth Awards: Last year we instituted a tradition of honoring two of our youth. This year Paige Mahaffey and Briana Perlson were commended for their active contributions to church community life.

Board Members: Lou Arnwine, Catherine Gallaher, Will Nettleship, Susan Perlson, Kathey Schuster, Tom Stark, Mike Steiner, and Ed Tschabrun. Each member attends monthly board meetings and lends expertise as liaison between the different aspects of the church.

Finance: Frank Thomas makes sure our books and investments are solid. Mike Mahaffey develops the budget. Mike Mendelson and Doug Schneider are co-chairing this year's pledge drive. Lou Arnwine handles deposits, while Donnette Guiltinan writes the checks as one of her many responsibilities as administrator

Communication: Randi Hetrick edits the CommUUnicator newsletter. Jim Gallaher designed advertising and Tom Stark got it into the press. Harry Langenbacher has long maintained our website. Gordon Lillibridge, Tom Stark, and Donnette Guiltinan are working on website redesign. Donnette is responsible for our print and electronic announcements

Membership/Member Support: Dick Cole and Gloria May co-chair the membership committee and have organized the new UU and You classes. Jim Fyke has long maintained vital information re visitors. Jeanne Preble coordinated outside greeters and chairs the new memorial committee. Gwen Fyke chairs the Sunshine Committee.

Sunday Morning: Catherine Gallaher as hospitality committee maintains ambiance in the social hall. Tom Stark and the set-up/take-down crew help turn the Temple into our own space. Dana Bianco coordinates the worship table flowers. Marlies Worley chaired the Worship Committee for years; Doris Dressler-Clark has recently taken on that role. Anne Thorward originated the UUSC intergenerational committee and the UUCF orchestra. Judy Herz, minister of music, directs our Mighty Choir. Brad Woodhull provides piano artistry during the offertory.

Religious Education: Liz Heaton as Director, the committee co-chairs-- Barbara Burns and Susan Perlson-- and all the staff of teachers and classroom volunteers do so much for our young people. Loulie Beck, Jim Gallaher, Christina Garner, and Ed Tschabrun merit special appreciation for inspiring the teens. Dennis Spiro provides monthly Adult RE programs

Social Outreach/ Awareness: Bill Bryant chairs our social action committee. Under the leadership of Lesley Mahaffey and Tom Thorward we're now a Welcoming Congregation

Social events: Cathy Boon chaired our 2008 Service Auction. Marcia Taylor coordinates the Circle Supper program. Lou Arnwine runs the monthly Foreign Food Fridays. Al Danzig runs our Fourth of July barbecue and New Year's pancake breakfast. Carolyn Champagne has long chaired the social committee, responsible for church dinners.

I realize there are many other unsung heroes whose valued efforts go far toward making our church family what it is. On behalf of the congregation, I want to express deep appreciation and gratitude to every one of you.

*Thank You*

In peace and fellowship,
Mary Rhodes



Congratulations Hilary, Matt, and Big Brother Sam on the new addition to your family! Elliot (Eli) Maxwell Key Born April 13 at 1:34p.m. 8lbs 14oz 22 inches long. With love and warm wishes, Your friends in R.E. Gwen

May 5: Women's Wisdom Circle. Meet at 7 PM at the home of Barbara Keller. All women are welcome. Topic: ***Racism: Where does it come from?***

I often hear wisdom being dispensed not only during but after one of these meetings. As each of us passes through different stages of life we need to learn from those who have gone before us as well as those who are in lockstep with us. RH-editor

May 11: Adult Religious Education will be held at 9 AM in the classroom upstairs. The topic: "Why Phenomenalism* is immoral from a Gnostic viewpoint" by Ed Tschabrun. This class will be followed by an open meeting being held for the purpose of discussing future topics of interest for Adult RE.

Phenomenalism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: In [epistemology](#) and the [philosophy of perception](#), **phenomenalism** is the view that physical objects do not exist as things in themselves but only as perceptual [phenomena](#) or sensory stimuli (e.g. redness, hardness, softness, sweetness, etc.) situated in time and in space. In particular, phenomenalism reduces talk about physical objects in the external world to talk about *bundles of sense-data*.



International Convocation of UU Women February 26-March 1, 2009
Houston, Texas

The purpose of the Convocation is to engage U*U women throughout our faith communities in programs that seek to explore the major challenges that lie before all women. We will work together to create action plans to enrich and transform our lives while expanding opportunities for women's equality, development, social justice, security and peace. We will celebrate our distinctive religious heritage and plan for a better future. I am putting this in the newsletter early to encourage women to plan to attend next year.

Our church could take a role is assisting an African U*U woman to attend this conference, I would like to know if we are interested in taking on that challenge, contact Randi Hetrick

The Pledge Drive Has Begun!! Please pledge generously. Our Church programs depend on your contributions. We are in good hands this year with our co-chairs, Mike Mendelson and Doug Schneider. Thank you to both of you. Fill out your pledge card today!!! Remember: "This pledge drive is dedicated to go where no pledge drive has gone before."

JUDY STERLING HONORED BY NEW AWARD At the recent Fellowship Dinner, Judy Sterling gave a presentation on her perspectives as a member of UUCF since 1974 and the changes she has seen in that time. Mary Rhodes then summarized Judy's long history of active and devoted leadership in UUCF. Well before our move to this temple in 1989, our religious education classes met at her house. She lent her home as a venue for the service auction and hosted the canvassers' kickoff event many times. Judy served as Board president for an unprecedented three-year term; has co-chaired membership, Adult RE committees and the canvass campaign. For years she's been the person in charge of long-term facility planning. In deep appreciation for her selfless service and dedication to our church community Judy was awarded the brand new, first annual "Sterling Chalice Award" framed certificate. As Judy and her husband Mike Eisman have recently moved to Encinitas and are affiliating with San Dieguito fellowship there, they were given a housewarming gift from the congregation of a chalice-shaped saltcellar. They will both be greatly missed by all here at UUCF and will be a treasured addition to their new congregation.

"The fellowship movement"

IDEAS: Sixty years after Unitarians began encouraging the formation of lay-led congregations, a look back at the movement that transformed Unitarianism.

By Holley Ulbrich, 4.21.08 (Spring 2008)

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/90617.shtml>

Religious Education NEWS

Julia Ward Howe

BY LYNN UNGAR, MINISTER FOR LIFESPAN LEARNING, CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP

How would you feel if you became famous for something that you didn't even like? Pretty awkward, huh? That happened to Unitarian Julia Ward Howe, the woman who had the original idea for Mother's Day. You see, during the Civil War, when Julia was an avid supporter of the abolition of slavery and the Union cause, she wrote a song that became very popular. So popular that, nearly 150 years later, you've probably heard it. It's called "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the first verse goes:

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.*

But what you might remember best is the rousing "Glory, glory, hallelujah" chorus. Anyway, the song has a lot of trampling and smiting and assurance that God is on our side of the war. But, while Julia always believed in putting an end to slavery, she came to feel that war was not the way to solve problems. So she ended up embarrassed by her fame for writing a song that glorified war.

But Julia did more than get embarrassed. She decided that if anyone knew how to work for peace, it would be mothers, because mothers understood how awful it was to have your son or husband killed or maimed in a war. Of course, men care about their sons too, but in those days when only men declared and fought in wars Julia felt that the women at home had a special role as peacemakers. So she created something called Mother's Day as a way to encourage women to work for peace. The Mother's Day we now celebrate owes at least as much of its history to a woman named Anna Jarvis who just wanted a holiday to celebrate moms, but the history of women making peace is an important part of what Mother's Day is, too.

Breakfast in bed and presents are a couple of ways that many people like to celebrate Mother's Day, but another way to please your mom and honor Julia Ward Howe might be to work for peace in your home or on the playground at school. You can be a peacemaker by figuring out how to solve arguments without having them turn into battles. After all, if we can't figure out how to solve conflicts peacefully with our family and friends, how can we expect whole countries to do it? The most important part of peacemaking, for kids, adults and countries, is listening. It's always tempting to listen to someone just enough to try to figure out how we can prove they are wrong. But when you really listen for what the other person wants and needs then it's possible to start working toward a solution rather than a battle. And, speaking as a mom, I would say there's nothing moms like better for Mothers' Day than more solutions and fewer battles. I think Julia Ward Howe would agree.



Principles in Practice

Our sixth UU principle is "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." In other words, UUs believe that we should work toward having a world where everyone can get along, and where everyone can be treated fairly. There are lots of other ways that kids can promote "peace, liberty and justice for all." Think back through to your past week. Can you think of anything you did to make peace, like helping friends settle an argument, or asking for forgiveness for something you did wrong that a friend or family member was mad about? Was there any time when you saw something happening that was unfair or unkind and you tried to stop it? Was there any time when someone was unfair to you and you clearly and respectfully said what was unfair and said what you wanted instead? We probably won't ever have a world where there is peace, liberty and justice for every person all the time, but if we hold that as our goal, like the principle says, then we can make small differences every day—and those small differences can add up in amazing ways!

Religious Education for May

- May 4th: Regular Classes Meet - R.E. Committee Meeting at 12:15 p.m. in the Youth Chapel
- May 11th: Regular Classes Meet
- May 18th: Regular Classes Meet
- May 25th: Tree Planting at Carbon Canyon Regional Park - No Religious Education Program – Childcare ONLY

7th Annual Tree Planting Ceremony at Carbon Canyon

In the undeveloped area, a 10-acre grove of Coastal Redwoods (*Sequoias sempervirens*) has been established. It has been UUCF's tradition to visit, picnic, and add to the redwood grove as part of our annual tree planting celebration. Please join us Sunday, May 25th at 10:30 a.m. for a service in the forest. We'll take a short hike to the redwood grove to our tree planting dedication and sing a few songs as we take in the spirit of mother earth. A short hike back to a covered picnic area and barbeque will follow. Please **bring your own** meat or veggie burger to barbeque and a dish to share. Paved pathways are available for those wishing to cycle, scooter, or skate. A nice playground is nearby. Childcare for the wee ones ages three and under will be available at church on Sunday morning for those not wishing to attend.

UU Church in Fullerton Calendar - May 2008

May 1	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
		7:00p FIMA National Day of Prayer	To be held at Fullerton United Methodist Church
May 2	Fri	Women's Retreat- de Benneville Pines	May 2 to May 4
May 4	Sun	10:30a -11:45a It's Not Easy Being Green	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:00p Youth RE Committee Meeting	Contact Susan Perlson
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
May 5	Mon	9:30a Fuddy Duddies	Contact Jan Lillibridge
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	At the home of Barbara Keller . Topic: Racism, Where Does It Come From?
May 6	Tue	Movie and Dinner with Rev. Dobrer	Contact Marlies Worley to sign up for the dinner.
May 7	Wed	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton , every 4th Wednesday.
May 8	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
May 9	Fri	Work weekend - de Benneville Pines	May 9-11
May 10	Sat	Circle Suppers	Contact Marcia Taylor
		FIES Fundraiser	Food-Loving Guys Raising Funds for FIES at the Astor Classics Museum
May 11	Sun	9:00a Adult Religious Education	Topic: Why Phenomenalism is Immoral From a Gnostic Viewpoint by Ed Tschabrun
		10:30a -11:45a Mother's Day--From Saints to Vipers to People	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:00p Social Action Committee Meeting	Contact Bill Bryant
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
May 12	Mon	7:00p Worship Committee Meeting	
May 13	Tue	7:00p Board Meeting	
May 15	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
May 16	Fri	7:00p Bridge Night	Contact Claude Coppel
May 17	Sat	2:00p UU Choir Festival	At the UU Church in Costa Mesa
May 18	Sun	10:30a -11:45a The Ides of May	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	After the service
May 19	Mon	7:00p Investment Club	Contact Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull .
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	Contact Barbara Keller for topic and location
May 22	Thu	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	
		7:00p Choir Practice	
May 23	Fri	7:00p Foreign Foods Friday	Contact Lou Arnwine to sign up
May 25	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany	Sermon by Eleanor Ramrath Garner
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		RE Tree Planting Ceremony	Carbon Canyon Regional Park.
May 27	Tue	5:30p All Souls Potluck	Meet in the social hall. No pork or shellfish please
		6:30p Salon Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Following the potluck. Topic: The Way Ahead for Our Church
May 29	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	

UUCF President: Mary Rhodes

Board members: Lou Arnwine, Ed Tschabrun, Catherine Gallaher, Will Nettleship, Tom Stark, Kathey Schuster, Susan Perlson and Mike Steiner.

The deadline for the next issue of the CommUUnicator is NOON, May 18th. Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick

The CommUUnicator is published monthly. Visitors will receive a free newsletter for five months. Annual subscriptions (paper) are \$25 or are free to members.

Unitarian Universalist Church in Fullerton
P.O. Box 4151
Fullerton, CA 92834
Church Information Phone: (714) 871-7150



Certain personal information (such as contact information) has been removed from this edition of the newsletter, for publication on the World Wide Web.