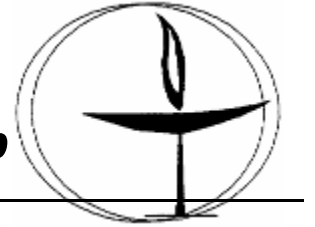


The UUCF CommUUnicator

December 2006



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

Sunday Services

Visitors are requested to come at 10:15AM. Worship Service begins at 10:30AM. School children participate in the first 15 minutes of the service, then go to Religious Education classes. Infants and preschoolers may be dropped off at 10:20AM.

Dec. 3 – *The Many Colors of the Season*
Presented by Rev. Jon Dobrer

Dec. 10 – *Riding the Cycle of Life*
Presented by Rev. Jon Dobrer

Dec. 17 – *Chanukah: Celebrating Hope & Persistence*
Presented by Rev. Jon Dobrer

Dec. 24 – *The Most Precious Miracle (Christmas Family Celebration)*
Presented by Rev. Jon Dobrer

Dec. 31 – *New Beginnings: Reflections, Renewal and Rejoicing Together*
Presented by UUCF Worship Committee

You need not be a member of UUCF to participate in any of the activities listed in this newsletter. We encourage you to explore the many opportunities for involvement offered by our church.

UUCF Mission Statement

We come together as a loving spiritual community to support each other in life's journey. We reach out with active caring to the larger community. We are bound together by common threads and are enriched by their many colors.



Save These Dates!

Dec. 9 **Holiday Dinner**
Dec. 17 **Chanukah Breakfast**
Dec. 24 **Evening Candlelight Service**
Dec. 31 **Pancake Breakfast**
Feb. 3 **Service Auction!**



Holiday Dinner & Entertainment - Dec. 9th at 6PM in the Social Hall

Please join us in the social hall for a little holiday magic on Saturday, Dec. 9th! The festivities will begin at 6 PM with hors d'oeuvres and live performances. A prime rib dinner (or vegetarian entrée) will be served. This year our program will include live music (to include the "Mighty Choir") and a "surprise" guest. Our featured performer will be comedian-magician Jim Hynd, whose resume includes performances at the Magic Castle. His performance is sure to delight and amuse our guests of all ages!

Free childcare will be available downstairs in the RE area, including a pizza dinner. Children and youth who do not wish to remain upstairs are welcome to the downstairs pizza party. Of course, everyone will come upstairs for the magic show. Please sign up early to attend this magical event! The last day to sign up is Sunday, December 3rd. We are look forward to seeing you at our holiday party!!! Cost for dinner (12 and older): \$20 Child care/ pizza party (for children and youth): FREE!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7PM

Please come--bring your families, friends and neighbors for our wonderful service with Rev. Jon Dobrer and our joyous Choir. We will provide the candles for the service!!!

"Part-time" Newsletter Editor Needed

Randi Hetrick has volunteered to share the job of newsletter editor with another person. She agrees to be responsible for the newsletter 6 months of the year.

Please contact Randi or Lesley Mahaffey for more details.

I love Thanksgiving. The meal is both symbolic and a kind of communion with our history.

I love Thanksgiving because it does not present me with any religious problems. There is the non-denomination joy at being alive. Whether from a “Big Bang” or the command of “Let there be light,” there is this universe time, matter—visible and invisible—racing across space, defining existence by its own journey. Some matter is diffuse; some rolled together as planets, while some matter assembles and, through gravity beyond imagination, implodes and ignites into stars.

Some matter, a tiny amount, is alive. An even smaller amount can think, celebrate, seek understanding, wonder at it all and be filled with a sense of thankfulness at this unlikely everyday miracle.

At the first Thanksgiving, two peoples of vastly different backgrounds and different religions got together—if only for a week of celebration. Today we can all share our sense of wonder across all of our various faiths and feel both blessed and enriched by the splendid diversity we have achieved in this wonderful land.

As an American, I have so much for which to be grateful. I live in a nation that is free. Of course we are imperfect and have failed to attain our highest goals, but we strive mightily to be better.

We have fought some wars that I have been privileged to protest. I say this without irony. I am deeply grateful for my freedom to protest. This is a rare and precious right.

Many criticize American Imperialism. This is pretty strange usage. We are certainly powerful, but unlike those real imperialistic powers that invaded lands all across the globe and remained, we go home. The world complains of our movies and our fast food and calls this “cultural imperialism.” I may share some of their cultural kvetching, however this is to real imperialism what war songs are to actual wars.

I am deeply grateful that I live in one of the very few nations that really practices democracy. We just had an election. The campaigning was not always pretty. But the bottom line is that at a time when there are important issues to decide, real threats to our security from foreign sources, real threats to our traditions through fear-based legislation, we had a pretty fair and open election.

There has always been cheating. Dead people are sometimes more committed to our electoral process than the living. Fanatics sometimes believe that the results are more important than the process. Yet every two years we elect a new congress. Every four years we conduct a presidential election. And even when individually we are displeased by the results, we accept them. Power is transferred, and we remain at peace with each other. This is no small accomplishment.

There is something else to think about and to be grateful for when we gather to celebrate: The Pilgrims left England to be free to practice their religion according to their own lights, even as the Hebrews left Egypt. Both groups valued something deep and authentic in their identities that was important enough, true enough and vital enough for them to risk everything, leave their physical comforts, endure heat and cold, hunger and privation in search of a Promised Land. That Promised Land, *this* Promised Land, was not a gift to be passively received. The Pilgrims had to both win and build their Promised Lands. This we did—of course not without mistakes and tragedies. We are still working to keep the promise incarnate in their dreams.

At this season, I am filled with the spirit of thanksgiving for what our ancestors risked, lost and won for our benefit. We honor them with our gratitude. We honor them still more when we set about furthering their vision of, as William Bradford of the Plymouth Plantation dreamt in 1620, “A more goodly country to feed their hopes.” At Thanksgiving we truly feed more than our bodies. We take in the nourishment of past hopes and turn them into energy to fulfill great dreams.

President's Message

What an energized time it seems in our church! There are so many things to notice: the attractiveness of the sanctuary and foyer with the added banners, the extra greeters outside to welcome us as we come in, the expanding variety of choir music, their new shawls. The social hall now restructured to facilitate socializing as well as better access to the various information boards and tables. The updated circle supper program and the Foreign Food Friday ethnic dining events, as well as our many other interest groups and activities, add greatly to our community experience. The website is appealing and is continuously updated, the email announcements eye-catching. There's definitely a greater vibrancy on Sunday mornings—UUCF is an ever more exciting place to be!

Another new thing in the works is our moving toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation. The Board would like to establish a committee to plan how we might attain that goal. The Welcoming Congregation program is a completely volunteer program that has been offered since 1989 for UUA congregations that wish to become more inclusive toward bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. About 60% of churches in the PSWD have taken steps to obtain official recognition. UUA provides a series of workshop designs intended to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance of people of different sexual orientations. Each congregation decides on the content, pace and style that works best for them and adapts the guidelines for their particular circumstances. Typically the process takes 18-24 months to complete. After the committee feels the suggested actions have been addressed, it submits a progress form along with a record of a congregational vote to request formal recognition. Additional information is available via the UUA website.

A number of you have spoken to me of your interest in pursuing this program. The first step is for us to form a diverse and committed committee. If you would like to be part of the Welcoming Congregation planning group, please contact me. We hope to have an initial meeting with Jon sometime in January.

In peace and fellowship,
Mary Rhodes

Ruby Jubilee News

We are still discussing trivia from 1967 as part of this year's 40th anniversary focus. In last month's ComUUnicator we asked what famous car Chevrolet put out that year. ANSWER: The Camaro. And who won the 1967 World Series? ANSWER: St. Louis Cardinals.

This month, we're asking what were the most popular names given to baby boys or girls in 1967. Any guesses?

Board Meeting Minutes

Board meeting minutes are no longer included in the newsletter. See the bulletin board in the Social Hall for the latest minutes.

New UUA Trustee

At the UUCF November Board meeting, a run-off election was held between two candidates for the Pacific Southwest District delegate to the UUA Board of Trustees. Tom Loughrey earned two of our three allotted congregational votes; John Blue earned one.

When all the congregational ballots were tabulated, the result was Tom Loughrey: 114.3 votes (62.1%); John Blue: 69.7 votes (37.9%). Ballots were received from 86% of the congregations in the district, representing 92% of the possible 200 votes.



Longest Night Service

Thursday, Dec. 21, 7 PM

Presented by the
Fullerton Interfaith
Ministerial Association
at Temple Beth Tikvah

Rev. Jon Dobrer will be part of this service! Join in this evening of prayer and reflection on the themes of loneliness, loss, brokenness, and healing, featuring readings and thoughts of the Clergy of the Fullerton Interfaith Ministerial Association and special musical selections. This is a free event and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

New Year's Eve Morning – Attend a Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Dec. 31st at Lunchtime

All the pancakes you can eat, real butter plus varied toppings and flavored syrups. Orange and cranberry juice, milk coffee and tea are included. Adults \$5, children under 12 years \$3. Tickets go on sale on December 3rd and will be available after church services every Sunday. Please buy your tickets early. If you can lend us a crockpot or electric griddle for this breakfast it would be appreciated. If you volunteer to bring a bowl of cut up fruit salad your breakfast is free. Please contact Al Danzig.



A Tribute!

...to **Susan Tschabrun, Jim and Christina Garner, Chris and Liz Heaton, Juana Ventura, Colleen Wieghorst, Judi Herz, Sangeeta Swendson, Anne Thorward, and Patrick Barbush** for contributing their talents to the organization of and activities at our annual weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines. It was a wonderful experience!

Thank you, The Mahaffeys

Give a Tribute

Honor that special person with a Tribute! For a \$10 donation to UUCF, your tribute will appear in the next edition of the newsletter, and a certificate will be posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall and mailed to the honoree. If you would like to place a tribute (or an announcement or ad), please submit your request to Gwen Fyke by the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month.

UU Christian Fellowship

Just what does the UU Christian Fellowship offer many UUs and others who are disenchanted closet Christians? The chapters try to foster a thought-provoking environment friendly towards a personal religious journey to a greater understanding of our existence in this chaotic, disconnected world. This appeal to the intelligence and spirituality of members is the cornerstone for growth. Small groups were the seminal gatherings of our basic religion and can again provide fertile ground for the germination of our beliefs. This exploratory path can be traversed with the reading and discussion of Christian literature contributed by the renowned religious leaders

of our time. Come join with us to share your thoughts and feelings in our common trek towards understanding.

The Pacific Southwest Chapter of the UU Christian Fellowship will hold its monthly meeting on December 3, 2006. The meeting will be held at:

The Unitarian Universalist Parsonage
2309 La Linda Place
Newport Beach, Calif. 92660-3430

UU Service Committee (UUSC)

Advocates for an increase in the minimum wage are celebrating major wins in six states where ballot initiatives on the issue were approved by substantial margins. The six ballot measures — in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, and Ohio — all passed with healthy margins.

Perhaps more significantly, the victory of the state initiatives, combined with the results of the Congressional elections, could lead to the first increase in the federal minimum wage standard in nine years. Jubilant leaders of the new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives said they plan to make an increase in the federal minimum wage their number one priority when the new session begins in January. Already, about half of the states in the country have a higher minimum wage than the current \$5.15 per hour federal level.

UUSC is a member of **Let Justice Roll**, a fast-growing nonpartisan partnership of more than 80 faith and community groups, which worked to pass the minimum wage ballot measures in the six states. The coalition played a leading role in recent minimum wage increases in seven states and next year will be leading campaigns for legislative minimum wage increases in states such as New Hampshire and Tennessee. The election results in the six states demonstrate how labor-faith-community coalitions can overcome high-powered, billionaire-financed lobbying campaigns by major corporations.

You can support UUSC by participating in the “Guest at Your Table” program going on now through the New Year. Collection boxes and program details are available from our UUSC representative, Brad Woodhull.

Fun!! Fun!!! FUN!!!!

Service Auction - Feb. 3rd

Please mark your calendars so you don't miss all the fun and the great auction items. What is a service auction? It's a huge, exciting and colorful live and silent auction with food, entertainment, raffles, AND of course tons of fun. Our minister Jon Dobrer is our auctioneer for the "live" portion of the evening and he is absolutely fabulous. We get donations from the community to restaurants, theaters, sporting events, spas, etc., but the most important part is your donation of time, talent and treasure to the auction. This gives you the opportunity to share a service; to share a skill, to entertain in some manner (i.e. meal, excursion, dance lessons), to experiment with something new and different, etc. All in a safe AND loving environment--your church community! So please be thinking about what you would like to donate to the auction. Be creative! Be innovative!! Remember that this is our biggest fund raiser of the year--let's make it fun AND a success for all of us! Any questions please contact Doreen or Bill Bryant



Remember, the most popular items every year at the auction are the dinners that are given by our members in their homes. And these bring in the most money, too. Can you throw a dinner? It can be anything from a pot of chili or spaghetti to a 5-course extravaganza. What our members like about the dinners is the opportunity to get together with friends.

For even more inspiration, I have available a complete listing of everything that was donated last year. Contact Marlies Worley.



Treasurer's Corner

Following is an update of church finances through October 31st, 2006. As of that date, income received was \$53,008 (90% of budget) and expenses were \$48,962 (93% of budget), resulting in a net profit of \$4,046. Although this amount of positive cash flow sounds good, it isn't as good as it might sound. Historically the church receives a higher percentage of income in the first quarter of each fiscal year, and when you factor in this variable we are actually about **\$2,374 short of budget**. Meaning we are actually forecasted to have \$6,420 profit through October 31st, compared to the \$4,046 actual profit. We aren't off by much, so overall everything looks good.

After reading the above paragraph, you may be confused as to why UUCF is budgeted for any profit. Yes, you are right in the sense that the church budget each year is forecasted with income and expenses being the same amount, resulting in a break-even operation. The point to keep in mind is that the church income and expenses don't occur in equal amounts during each month. This is mainly due to prepaid pledges received in advance during the first quarter of the fiscal year. However, as each month progresses, expenses eventually catch up to income received and the church budget balances back to breakeven by the end of our fiscal year.

The important thing to remember is UUCF is currently in great financial condition, which is important so UUCF can be here for all of us! We wish to thank everyone for your charity contributions to the church, as without them we could not continue the wonderful programs at UUCF! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Frank Thomas or Will Nettleship.

Ideas for Service Auction Donations

- Throw a cake decorating party.
- A craft party for kids.
- A poker party with snacks or dinner... "Aces and Eats".
- A Super Bowl party or World Series Party
- A backyard movie party. Backyard barbeque.
- Sushi workshop with dinner to follow
- Tamale making party.
- New Year's Eve Party or Halloween Party.
- Host a Play Reading and Dinner.
- Pull weeds or plant flowers.
- Teach a computer program such as Excel or Word.
- Baby/Dog/House sit.
- Offer driving services or tutoring services.
- Do you knit or crochet? Offer to teach others.
- Are you super-organized? Offer to organize a closet.
- Put old snap shots into a photo album.
- Make a cake, pie, cookies, or family candy recipe.
- Make some decorative pillows.
- Crochet some hats or blankets.
- Make a color bowl of flowers and greenery.
- Donate gift certificates to your favorite restaurant, movie theater, or coffee store.
- Have any antiques in your attic?
- Donate a low cost item to the "Boutique Table".

Youth Religious Education NEWS



UNICEF Collection

How do the kids at UUCF say trick-or-treat? By raising \$306.02 at our annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF event. Thanks to all our fellow congregants who donated so generously.

deBenneville Pines Weekend

All at our deBenneville Pines weekend shared a wonderful time. Our group was joined by fellow congregants from the Chalice congregation in Escondido and the UU Church in Riverside. Adults and children participated in a variety of crafts and activities – marbled paper with the Rev. Margo McKenna of Chalice, stained glass with Lesley Mahaffey, and beaded nametag holders with Liz Heaton. Ann Thorward and her “theater” group presented Paper Bag Dramatics. Juana Ventura managed to get in two yoga sessions with a large group of adults and children. We all enjoyed the lively dancing – thank you Christina Garner, and music by Jim Garner, Chris Heaton, and Mark and Stuart from Chalice. A brief, but exciting and wet snowfall even accompanied the hikers to Jenks Lake.

“PJ Day”



The children have their own ideas of what makes a “perfect” church. As a result of their input, R.E. is happy to announce “P.J. Day.” Children are invited to wear their pajamas to church, bring their blanket, or favorite cuddly, and enjoy stories and activities on Sunday, Dec. 31st. Adult volunteers are needed. Please see Liz Heaton if you would like to help – you’ll even get to wear your pajamas too!

Upcoming Events

December 3rd: Regular Curriculum Program
Committee Meeting

December 10th: Regular Curriculum Program

Santa Lucia Procession

December 17th: Chanukah

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service

NO R.E. Program

December 31st: “PJ Day”

Snack and Volunteer Reminder

- December 3rd: The Selbys
- December 10th: The Swendsons
- December 17th: The Daniels
- December 31st: TBD

Please let Barbara Burns know if you are unable to assist R.E. on your scheduled day, as your help and support is so important to us all. We will be happy to make other arrangements if you are unavailable to help.



AFTER HOURS Teen Group

- Tuesday, Dec. 5th from 7 – 8:30 PM at the Garner’s home.
- Thursday, Dec. 21st from 7 – 8:30 PM at the Garner’s home. The teens will be preparing a meal for the homeless as part of their annual service tradition.

Check the UUCF website calendar for the latest special events, including opportunities to collaborate with other Orange County UU churches for service projects and activities!

Please remember, teens attending the “after hours” program must have a special permission slip signed by their parent(s) or guardian(s). Please see Liz Heaton if you need a permission slip.



Sunday Task Volunteers

December 2006

Greeters	Set Up Sanctuary	Take Down Sanctuary	Flowers	Refreshments
3 rd Marlies Worley				
Margee Hills & Eleanor Nichols	Michael & Chris Mahaffey	Tim Blaine, Terry Selby & Bonnie Roncyolo	Marlies Worley	The Whismans & Livezeys
10 th Gary Daniels				
Patrick Barbush & Lou Arnwine	Doug Schneider & Tom Thornward	Tom & Aaron Stark	Catherine Gallaher	Rose Bale & the Pumphreys
17 th Carolyn Champagne				
Del Blanchard & Glad Sharp	Dean Fischman, Bill Bryant & Gordon Lillibridge	Charlie Everett & Mike Steiner	Katie Hettinger	Frances Salans & Gordon Scholle
24 th Tim Blaine				
Tim Blaine & Gerry McNenny	Claude Coppel & the Huffingtons	The Langenbachers	Mary Rhodes	Dana Bianco
31 st TBD				
Linda Summers & Dick Cole	TBD	TBD	Dana Bianco	TBD

If you are unable to do a task, please ask someone in the same task group to trade places with you, and tell Judi Herz that you are swapping Sundays so that she can put this in the Program. Lorraine Rothman and Dana Bianco can help with instructions, if you need them.

Unitarian Universalist Church in Fullerton

UUCF Information

The **Reverend Jon Dobrer** welcomes your calls and is available for appointments on Tuesdays from 10:30am-6pm and before or after church on Sundays.

President: Mary Rhodes

Board Members: Lou Arnwine, Carolyn Champagne, Susan Perlson, Tim Blaine, Will Nettleship, Mike Steiner, Tom Stark and Kathey Schuster

For information on becoming a member of UUCF
please contact Jim Fyke or Judy Sterling

Church Information Phone: (714) 871-7150

Email: uucf@uufullerton.org

The UUCF CommUunicator

Deadline for the next issue is NOON, Dec. 19th

Please submit all items to Lesley Mahaffey. The ComUUnicator is published monthly. Visitors will receive a free newsletter for five months. Annual subscriptions (paper) are \$25 or are free to members.

Newsletter on the Website

- Downloading to your PC may take a while due to the size of the file, especially if there are photos in the newsletter. Please give it time to load.
- If hyperlinks (websites or email addresses) embedded in the newsletter do not open automatically when you click on them, try copying and pasting them in your browser.
- If the electronic version of the newsletter just does not work for you, please contact Lesley Mahaffey. Don't suffer in silence!

Certain personal information (such as contact information) has been removed from this edition of the newsletter for publication on the world wide web.