

The UUCF *May 2007* CommUUnicator *Web Edition*



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

The Spring CommUUnity Fiesta

Saturday May 5, 2007
Social "Hour" 6:30 PM.

Beer, wine, chips and salsa.

Curtain 7 PM

Intermission with Dessert

Enjoy an entertaining evening among your friends at UUCF. Dick Cole will MC acts that include improv, music, comedy, and wry wit!

There is still time to submit an Act. Please write a brief description of your prepared act, and give it to Chris or Carolyn by April 29.

The Dress Rehearsal will be Thursday May 3, in the Social Hall, Temple Beth Tikvah. Children's rehearsal begins at 7 PM. Adult rehearsal begins at 8 PM. Be prepared to perform your act or musical number for the dress rehearsal.

See you at the show!

Chris Heaton
Caroline Champagne

SUNDAY SERVICES

May 6: Mayday! Mayday!

May 13: Mothers Day:

M is for the many things she gave me.

May 20: Social Action Sunday presented
by the Social Action Committee

May 22 Salon & All Souls Potluck: Topic: UUs:
Is everything really absolutely relative?

May 27: What Are Fitting Memorials?

Atheism Under Attack: Topic for May 13 Adult RE

Atheists (such as biologist Richard Dawkins, philosopher Daniel Dennett, and neurologist Sam Harris) are under attack these days for being too militant, for not just disbelieving in religious faith, but for trying to eradicate it as a danger to society. Professed atheists are as rigid in their dogma and as intolerant as some of the traditional theistic faith leaders with whom they have obvious differences. Find out who is leveling these accusations. You will be surprised! Come share your thoughts and feelings...especially you atheists among us! Discussion will be held May 13, 9 A.M., in the upper parking lot classroom. Call Dennis Spiro at for details.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING--SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Traditionally our spring congregational meeting has been held in May; this year our board president's and minister's calendars necessitate a change to June 3. Members will be asked to approve the 2007/2008 budget and to elect a president and four trustees selected by the Nominating Committee. Candidates' statements will be available.

Minister's Column

Out of My Mind: Terror in Our Hearts

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The massacre at Virginia Tech was an act of domestic terror. That the terrorist was unaffiliated makes no real difference. Cho is from the same population that peoples Al Qaeda, the Taliban and that once filled the ranks of the Bader-Meinhoff Gang. He is of the same ilk that got on our planes with box cutters on 9-11 and wreaked havoc on our society.

No, Cho was not a Muslim extremist. His religion is irrelevant, as is his ethnicity and country of origin. What he has in common with the people who strap bombs on themselves and walk into Israeli pizza parlors, Iraqi market places, Shiah mosques and Algerian hotels is not race, religion or ethnicity, but a radical disaffection, sense of isolation and a desperate loneliness coming from a lack of meaning to their lives.

I say this not to curry sympathy for them. I have none. However, if we are going to combat this anarchy and violence, this death and destruction, we'd better learn to understand what drives these people and how they are able to give our all for their cause.

In truth, their causes are not very important to them. They are not driven by a love of God, Allah, or the "People." Nor is loyalty to tribe or family central to their motivation. They are driven by their emptiness. They run on a vacuum. They have lost any hope of deriving meaning from their lives and so they try to create meaning through destruction. As one character remarked in Thornton Wilder's *Skin of Our Teeth*, "If I can't be loved, I'll be hated."

Some years ago a maniac took a pickaxe to Michelangelo's great and sublime statue, *The Pieta*. Lacking the talent and patience to create a work of genius, he sought immortality through immorality. Unable to create, he destroyed. It is one thing to build a wall or design a great building, and so much easier to deface it with a spray gun and graffiti. It is a sign of weakness not strength. It is an admission of abject failure, not power.

This is what the suicidal terrorists are doing. They are different from the insurgents and foot soldiers for whom death is a risk, not a goal. They are not killing and dying for anything other than to be remembered for their ability to destroy the lives, hopes and accomplishments of others. They are vandals running on empty.

Such was Cho. As the other terrorists, the ones we think we can easily recognize by their religious or political rhetoric, Cho was driven by his sense of failure, his loneliness, his envy of those whom he thought succeeded in life and whom he saw as popular. So abject was his sense of failure that he couldn't even link up with a greater cause, a religious or political cover story. He hated and blamed the world for his agony, particularly the "rich kids."

One of the persistent myths about terror is that the terrorists are the wretched of the earth, the radically dispossessed. It is not at all true. The 9-11 terrorists were not simply mostly Saudi; that is not the important common thread running through the warped fabric of their lives. They were all educated and middle class. They were people who

were educated beyond the ability of their society to use them well. Lacking an important role in the lives of their nations, they turned to death and destruction to seek some greater meaning.

There is a saying in Sub-Saharan Africa that the most dangerous tribe is the Bantu. No, not the Bantu, but people who have "been to" school in England, France or America, young people with degrees and no real use for their skills, their creativity, their lives. So, alienated from their own lives, they turn to death for meaning.

The disaffected and frustrated can come together far too easily today and organize through the sophisticated communications fostered by the web. Anyone with a grudge or grievance can Google their perversity and create an affinity group to make a self-reinforcing echo chamber of righteousness.

There is no way we can make our world safe from the radically disaffected. No airport security will be perfect. No port inspections can catch everything. Nor can racial or religious profiling keep us safe in the long run. What the terrorists have in common is not their religion or ethnicity. Yes, so far, we know what terrorists have looked like here. But it is not the true common denominator. It is rather the organizing principle.

Empty and unhappy people of different religions and ethnicities are being drawn to radical Islam—both Shiah and Sunni. Some are native to the religion and some are converts—from secularism, Christianity, Marxism and even Judaism. What they share is the vacuum—and it sucks the life out of civilization.

I am not advocating understanding as forgiveness or compassion. I am saying that we need to find ways of identifying people who are candidates for these cults of death—which is the real thread running through the lives of terrorists from Al Qaeda to the Taliban to Shiah, from the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka to the members of the Shinning Path. We need to profile and find the loners who fail at connecting with life, meaning and others, because we know that their failure to connect make them far more likely to destroy themselves and take others with them.

Cho was a freelance terrorist but made of the same lonely stuff as the organized kind. Part of our tragedy today is that he was not invisible. His English teacher spotted his agony and tried to get him help. She didn't have the power to intervene. The administration didn't have either the power to compel him to remain connected with the mental health system as a condition for remaining a student. The bottom line is that many heard this bomb ticking. They could not get him the help that could have saved him and 32 other people.

He shows what one person acting alone can do to destroy the dreams not only of the 32 students and teachers who were murdered but all those who loved them. Our power to destroy is awful and awesome. We cannot, in this age of mass destruction and mass communications, make our world, our land, our children or our selves truly safe. We can start however by finding the empty and the broken, the under-employed, the ticked off and the ticking and get them help—help for our own safety's sake.

Foreign Foods Friday

Bon Giorno! Foreign Foods Friday UUs will be dining at Lomeli's Italian Restaurant on May 18, at 7 p.m. Lomeli's is located in the southwest corner of Morningside Plaza at Bastanchury Rd. and Brea Blvd. There are those who would say that Italian food is now mainstream American, not foreign at all. Maybe that's so with pizza and pasta, but other more Italian eats are good at Lomeli's, You can get a better idea of the place by visiting their web site: www.lomelisrestaurant.com. This group is open to all, a fun time is guaranteed. Reservations will be taken in the social hall beginning April 29. Look for the FFF sign on the table near the coffee urn.

Many Hands Make a Church

Pledge Drive Update

April is the month our church conducts its annual canvass. We are counting on pledges for about \$148,000 of our total budget of \$178,000, so the pledge drive is critical to the success of our church. This year, we are conducting a face-to-face canvass, with over 30 "volunteer" canvassers (only mild stress positions were used to induce cooperation) each contacting at least 3 congregants to solicit pledges and to take a survey of skills and interests.

For those of you who have made your pledge, THANK YOU. For those who are still considering their pledge, please do so SOON. We have heard testimonials during the services as to the benefits of giving money to the church and supporting its activities. If this community is important to you, it deserves your financial support. If by some chance you have not yet been contacted, and want to make a pledge, please call Bill Reeves or Margee Hills.

And thanks, too, to the canvassers who have engaged themselves in contacting their fellow parishioners to solicit support for the church. If you haven't yet met with all of your assignees, now is the time to finish up. Meeting face-to-face with our church members and friends is a wonderful way to make connections and solidify our church community. Many hands make a church. Bill Reeves & Margee Hills, 2007 UUCF Canvass Co-Chairs

FULLERTON INTERFAITH EMERGENCY SERVICE (F.I.E.S.) PRESENTS:

Food-Loving Guys....Raising Funds for FIES.

Date: Sat. May 12, 2007 from 7pm to 11pm at Astor Classics Event Center, Anaheim

Cost: \$50 per person, reservations required by April 23

You'll enjoy an outstanding array of appetizers, salads, entrees, side -dishes and desserts prepared by amateur community chefs followed by the opportunity to meander around 300 beautifully restored cars.

Music by Andrew Marks.

HELP end hunger and homelessness--by supporting FIES!!!!

Music Notes

Judi Herz is singing with the Orange Community Master Chorale in Carmina Burana at the annual Spring Concert, Friday, May 18, 7:30 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church in Orange. Tickets are \$20. There will be a 46 piece orchestra. For information, call Judi.

uuworldWeekly uuworld.org's weekly email newsletter Monday, April 9, 2007

OH <http://www.uuworld.org/> "How Jesus claimed me

"SPIRIT: One Unitarian Universalist's religious journey. By Victoria Weinstein

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) at its 2006 General Assembly passed a responsive resolution asking congregations to address the issues of racism and classism. At our April Board

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) at its 2006 General Assembly passed a responsive resolution asking congregations to address the issues of racism and classism. At our April Board meeting Patrick Barbush reported briefly on a conference he had attended in Long Beach on this topic. The Board subsequently authorized him to form a committee to look into the issue of lack of diversity in our church and how we can ameliorate this lack. (*Patrick is currently seeking members for this committee, please contact him if interested*).

In a quick online investigation into resources on this topic, I found a project that seems interesting. Project Implicit, under the auspices of Harvard, the University of Washington and the University of Virginia is a virtual lab to research implicit social cognition: those basic attitudes and beliefs that are not necessarily available to conscious awareness or control—one's hidden biases, as it were. The project presently provides a unique opportunity to try procedures that can show these implicit biased attitudes that we're often unaware of. A body of research has grown out of this study, which began in 1998 and currently attracts about 15,000 respondents a week. More than a dozen online Implicit Association Tests (IAT) are available, covering domains of race, gender, ethnicity, overweight, age, religion, disability, and sexual orientation. Participating in the study involves a short task of pairing pictures with words by pressing one of two computer keys; respondents remain anonymous. If you wish, you can try out some sample tasks at <https://implicit.harvard.edu>

I've long been fascinated by tests and questionnaires. Some time ago I learned of the Belief-0-Matic inventory, accessible at <http://www.beliefnet.com/>. By answering 20 multiple-choice questions, you receive an immediate analysis of how closely your beliefs match up with each of nearly 30 different religious groups. It's striking how many of my friends and relatives, not (yet) affiliated with UU, hold views that line up closely with our denomination. If you haven't tried out this resource, you may want to do so. Getting to know more about ourselves is a good thing, as it can spur us toward introspection and the potential for growth.

In peace and fellowship,
Mary Rhodes

Social Action Committee Report Crittenton Services

Crittenton Services for Children and Families is located in Fullerton where two campuses offer housing and counseling for children and adolescents in need of help with recovering from various kinds of abuse and neglect. Crittenton offers a highly structured environment, in which dependable volunteers play a vital role. Donations of pillows, toiletries, clothes and blankets are especially appreciated. The Crittenton website, <http://www.kidsmatter.org/>, explains their programs concerns and goals.

RUBY JUBILEE NEWS

This will be the last column before the big events of **June 2 and 3** in celebration of our 40th year as a congregation. Saturday evening there will be a party for all age groups, commemorating our birth in the Sixties, and a special worship service will be held the following morning. Definitely be sure to **SAVE THESE DATES!!!**

Here are the answers to last month's questions about 1967 trivia: (1) What important event occurred in Elvis' life? He married Priscilla Beaulieu on May 1. (2) Who were the president and vice president? Lyndon Baines Johnson and Hubert Horatio Humphrey. (3) What U.S. population milestone was reached? Two hundred million. (4) What significant accomplishment involved Thurgood Marshall? He was the first African-American appointed to the Supreme Court.

Religious Education NEWS

The children's sermon entitled "*Travel in Time*" was presented on Sunday, April 22nd. Please look for photos in next month's column.

Upcoming Events in R.E.

- May 6th: Regular Curriculum
Committee Meeting
- May 13th: Regular Curriculum
Mother's Day
- May 20th: Regular Curriculum
- May 27th: To be Announced



R.E. Needs You! Volunteers are needed in July and August for our children's R.E. summer program. If you have a special talent, experience, or just want to share time with the younger members of our congregation, please call Liz Heaton

'AFTER HOURS" Teen Group New Date and Hours!!!

- Tuesday, May 1st from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Garner's home.
- Sunday, May 20th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the McNenny-Hartsough home.

Thank you Christina Garner for your ongoing commitment to the after hours teen program. You have generously opened your home and your heart to our teens and their families. A special thank you to Jim Gallaher for understanding the importance of teen program and offering his leadership and experience as the adult dean in Sofiya Alper's absence.

Snack and Volunteer Reminder

Parents and friends, please mark your calendars:

- May 6th: The Mahaffey Family
- May 13th: The Key Family
- May 20th: The Johnson Family
- May 27th: The Ventura-Cruess Family

If you did not sign up for a date to assist in the R.E. program, a date may have been assigned to you. We ask that families with children in R.E. volunteer about once every quarter. Kindly, let Barbara Burns know if you are unable to assist R.E. on your scheduled day. We can now reimburse families for up to \$20 for providing snacks! Please see Liz Heaton for more information

UUCF Calendar May 2007

May 1	Tue	7:00p Tuesday Night Talk with Teens	Meet at the home of the Garners
		Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Contact Marlies Worley
May 3	Thu	6:00p Talent Show Dress Rehearsal	Contact Chris Heaton or Gary Daniels
		7:00p Choir Practice	
May 5	Sat	Talent Show	Don't Miss This Event
May 6	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Mayday! Mayday!	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:00p Youth RE Committee Meeting	Contact Liz Heaton
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	Marie Callender's , Placentia. Pat Woodhull .
May 7	Mon	9:30a Fuddy Duddies	Contact Jan Lillibridge
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	Contact Barbara Keller
May 8	Tue	7:00p Board Meeting.	Held at Temple Beth Tikvah .
May 9	Wed	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton
May 10	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
May 12	Sat	Circle Suppers and Family Circle Suppers	Contact Barbara Burns or Marcia Taylor
May 13	Sun	9:00a Adult RE: Atheism Under Attack.	Meet in the classroom upstairs. Dennis Spiro
		10:30a -11:45a Mother's Day: M Is For The Many Things She Gave Me	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:00p Social Action Committee Meeting	contact Bill Bryant
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	Marie Callender's , Placentia. Pat Woodhull .
May 15	Tue	7:00p Discussion with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Topic TBA. Meet at the Temple
May 17	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
May 18	Fri	7:00p Bridge Night	Contact Claude Coppel
		Foreign Foods Friday	Contact Lou Arnwine for more information
May 19	Sat	3:00p UU Choral Festival	In Rancho Palos Verdes. Judi Herz for details
May 20	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Social Action Sunday	Presented by the Social Action Committee
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	Marie Callender's , Placentia. Pat Woodhull .
		Teens Gather	At the Home of Erica Hartsough
May 21	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	Tue	5:30p All Souls Potluck	No Pork or Shellfish Please
		6:30p Salon Discussion Group	With Rev. Jon Dobrer Topic: "UUs: Is Everything Really Absolutely Relative?"
May 24	Thu	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton
		7:00p Choir Practice	
May 27	Sun	10:30a -11:45a What Are Fitting Memorials?	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	Marie Callender's , Placentia. Pat Woodhull .



UUSC Human Rights Forum

Economic Justice for Working Families:

Saturday, June 2, 2007

at

**Orange Coast
UU Church**

1259 Victoria St., Costa Mesa
(949) 646-4652



Immigrant Workers

Conference Program

Alexia Salvataierra, Executive Director,
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
"Justice for Immigrants / Sanctuary"

Joe Tyndall, End Corporate Rule
"The Role of Corporations"

Bill Lakin, Board Member, UUSC, S. CA. Unit
"A Living Wage"

Dr. Betty Brooks, Professor and KPFK
Commentator
"Wages for Women"

Display Tables

Conference runs **10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.** Registration at **9:30 a.m.**

All day attendance **-\$20 with pre-registration mailed before May 25**
\$25 at the door

Students with ID, \$10 advance, \$15 at door; no one turned away for lack of funds.

More info call Lucia: 714-545-4006; Birdie: 714-969-1824 or Ruth: 714-567-0188

Fill out registration, **make checks payable to UUSC.** Send to: Ted Shapin, 5110 E. Elsinore Ave., Orange CA. 92869
Please use a separate sheet for each attendee with a different address.

Name(s): _____ How many attending? _____ Amount Enclosed? _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ Need child care? _____

City and Zip: _____ Number of lunches required? _____ Want vegetarian? _____

email: _____

Sponsored by: The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Southern California Unit

Directions to Orange Coast UU Church :

From the north: I-405 to Brookhurst off ramp (Fountain Valley). Brookhurst south to Hamilton. (Victoria is called Hamilton at Brookhurst.) Left (east) on Hamilton over bridge, up the hill to church. Parking lot is first driveway on right as you approach crest of hill. Blue and white sign and white guardrail can be seen from street. Church is set back from road.

Alternatively: Access the 55 freeway to Costa Mesa/Newport Beach exit at Victoria and go west. (see below)

From the south: 1-405 to *55 (Costa Mesa Freeway). Take 55 south toward Newport Beach. Exit at Victoria Avenue. At the second light, turn right, through the residential area. (You are now on Victoria.) As you start downhill from a plateau, church will be on left.

UUCF Info

President: Mary Rhodes

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

Church Information Phone: (714) 871-7150

The deadline for the next issue of the
CommUUnicator is NOON, May 18th

Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick AND 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.



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

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are an active, involved, vibrant congregation, there was considerable more material for the newsletter than would fit in the allotted 8 pages, so most items that were not time sensitive or regular features will unfortunately have to wait. - RLH