

The UUCF *September 2007* CommUUnicator

Web Edition



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

[Jon Dobrer, Minister](#)

Sept 2: **From Fundamentalism to Freedom** Sermon by Marc Adam
Sept 4: No first Tuesday (Jon out of town)
Sept 9: **The Meaning of Water** (Plus Gathering the waters of Summer)
Sept 11: Board
Sept 15: Pot Luck Kick Off (see announcement)
Sept 16: **Regret, Repent or Repair?**
Sept 18: Tuesday salon, “**Ethics without God?**”
Sept 23: **God & Government**—the great challenge of the 21st Century
Sept 30: **The Greater Meaning of the Fall**

Welcoming Congregation Program Kick Off

Last winter our church embarked on a formal process of becoming more welcoming of bisexual, gay, lesbian and/or transgender persons by forming a Welcoming Congregation Committee. This committee, co-chaired by Tom Thorward and Lesley Mahaffey, has planned a series of workshops, movies and other activities to raise awareness of these issues in our society and help congregants examine their beliefs and fears regarding persons having a different sexual orientation.

The Welcoming Congregation Program officially kicks off this month with the first two workshops in a series of six. An overview of all planned workshops may be found on the church website at <http://uufullerton.org/WelcomingCongregationWorkshops.html> and hard copies will be available at church on the bulletin board. The series of six workshops are part of an on-going process that builds towards a goal of becoming an official UU Welcoming Congregation. Therefore, congregants are encouraged to participate in as many of these workshops and related activities as possible. Attending these events is the best way to express questions and concerns and to expand our collective consciousness on this important topic.

All workshops will be on Sundays from Noon - 1:45pm in the Social Hall. Light lunch provided. Please save the following dates:

Sep. 16 - Introduction and Expectations

Sep. 30 - What We Know and How We Learned It

Oct. 14 - Common Elements of Oppression

Oct. 28 - Gender Socialization and Homophobia

Nov. 18 - Religion and Homosexuality

Dec. 2 - Experiences of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People

No jokes or pictures this month but lots of information as we all look forward to the fall line-up for living, learning, celebrating, foot tapping, shouting out the good news, heeding the bad news and loving the UU way! - editor

I love philosophy and theology. I really enjoy going over the great questions of life and death, being and nothingness. I revel in debating arcane issues of interpretation and nuances of understanding. I'm interested in the origins of life and the ultimate fate of the universe. All of this is far more entertaining and involving than TV, computer games and most sports. None of it, in my view, is intrinsically important.

Sure I'd like to know if God exists and if said God is outside the universe directing the fate of every individual or simply the architect who designed this wonderful universe and now is off somewhere trying to improve on it (or on us). I'd like to know if, as per Spinoza, God is inside of creation, sanctifying the material and imminent in all creation from the farthest star to the magic that is mind. I don't know the answer to these traditionally "Great Questions."

Does the absence of answers mean that there are no rules, no reason to be good—or at least to try to be better? Is that old assertion true that "If there is no God then all is permitted"? My answer is "No".

There are some things we can know—even if without logical certainty. We are, for a moment, present at an extraordinary event. Of all the infinity of time, we get this little moment. Of all the vastness of the known universe—not to mention unknown universes—we are alive. Wow! Out of nothing came existence and some of it moves on its own accord, breathes and sometimes thinks. Some of it, for a few moments, can reflect on this miracle. Some of it not only lives but also has mind—awareness of self, of time, of finitude. Some of it can hate with ferocity beyond mere instinct and also love with fidelity beyond instinct. All in all, we are pretty marvelous creatures present in a miraculous moment.

While the Greek Cynics thought of human life as dogs tied to horse carts—dogs deluded into believing that the world only went to the end of the rope, the leash attached to the cart that was history. While in Pharaonic Egypt the Scarab symbolized life, not as a dog, but a dung beetle—a beetle who spent its life walking backwards while absurdly collecting an ever-growing ball of dung. Another cheerful and inspiring metaphor.

I look around my world—yours too—and feel like we have stumbled into an amazing party. There is a wondrous estate to explore—and maintain. There are people to talk to, to debate, as well as to dance with and mourn with. Most importantly, there are people to love.

A good guest knows that there are no perfect parties, no events filled with people all of whom I may like. Still, a good guest, for the sake of manners, makes the effort to get along with a spirit of generosity that might not be entirely natural. And yes, sometimes some guests do get out of hand, over-fed, over-liquored and start bothering others: cutting in the buffet line and getting sloppy. Yes, sometimes we do have to act firmly—but that doesn't mean meanly. We can still be considerate of their persons—even as we remonstrate with them.

Sometimes I myself may sing off key, but the group sing-a-long is a correction to my individual small voice. Sometimes, in the passion of the dance, I might stumble and fall, step on a toe or two, but an attitude of good will, graciousness and forgiveness covers a multitude of sins.

I don't understand how I got to the party. I don't know who called it or set the table, but while I attend, it seems like a good idea to use guest manners, to be considerate of the my fellow party-goers, to help each other clean up spills, pick up trash and offer to help clear the table and do the dishes. I try not to be rude to the others who are in attendance. And while I don't know how long the event will last or when I will have to leave, an attitude of gratitude seems called for.

I'd also like to thank the host before I go, but the scale of this event is so grand that I know I won't be able to do an adequate job. My best thanks is having a good time, with joy and consideration, that is clearly intended by the bounty present. I will continue to look for the host with appreciation for all that is before me and within me.

Jon Dobrer - minister

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—SEPTEMBER 2007

At the first Board meeting of the church year we welcomed new trustee Catherine Gallaher, who fills the slot in which Carolyn Champagne so ably served for the last four years. We all owe many thanks to Carolyn for her dedicated, enthusiastic service, and to Catherine for her willingness to take on this additional responsibility.

As part of our “back-to-school” orientation, we discussed our role in how best to accommodate growth and empowerment of the congregation. Rather than the Board’s dealing as a full body-- “a committee of the whole”--with each and every issue from the outset, it will be increasingly effective to move toward the dissemination of power, responsibility, and authority. Under this model, suggested proposals would typically originate from or be routed first through the appropriate committee(s), task force, or interest group for review and recommendations to the Board, which would then consider how the issue fits within our UUCF policies and procedures.

A number of suggestions have recently been submitted to the Board by some of the nine congregants who attended the June UUA General Assembly, offering ideas for possible improvement in various aspects of our church life. The suggestions appear to fall into several major areas. With Jon’s help we will be planning how most efficiently to address their feasibility for implementation, involving relevant committee members in the process.

Randi Hetrick presented a proposal that we set up a partnership with the Nairobi Unitarian fellowship in Kenya. She received preliminary approval from the Social Action Committee; the Board has now authorized paying \$50 for institutional membership in the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council as an initial step. Randi outlined a number of ideas for joint projects. Benefits to our congregation include the opportunity to develop greater global awareness, to examine religious beliefs in context with Unitarians from another culture, to develop international family friendships, and to have the chance to promote a faith alternative that hasn’t been available to Africans until very recently. There will be more information forthcoming about this exciting venture—be on the lookout for it.

In peace and fellowship,

Mary Rhodes

Women's Wisdom Circle will resume on Monday, September 17, 7 PM at Barbara Keller's. Topic is **SHARING**. Everyone is asked to bring a snack or drink, a brief anecdote about an occasion in her life when she gained some wisdom, miniscule or large, and a suggestion for a topic for a subsequent meeting. All women who come to church are joyously welcome!

Drumming Circle: Natives view their drums as spiritual beings. Come join us in the sacred circle as we drum, play, pray, meditate, dance, learn, and remember, to share the interconnectedness of life. Please call Judi Herz if you would like to participate. No experience necessary!

Join Us for Our Traditional Fall Potluck on Saturday, Sept. 15th
Start Off The New Social Season at Our First Gathering

All are welcome... members, friends and guests! This is always our official beginning of the Social Season and Circle Suppers here at UUCF. The event is entitled, "Not Just Sundays" with the theme being a focus on all of the ongoing Activities & Special Interest Groups we have on days other than Sunday! We will enjoy some introductions of some of these groups so that we may become more aware of what our community offers. For example, did you know that we have a Drumming Group? Or have you ever wondered about FFF ?

When? Sat, Sept.15th

Time? 6 pm

Where? Social Hall

What to bring? Last names beginning with:

- A-F bring a main course
- G-M bring a dessert
- N-S bring an appetizer
- T-Z bring a salad

(Remember...NO Pork or Shellfish)

Also, please bring your dishes ready-to-serve and with serving utensils.

"Come, come whoever you are" - join our Fullerton Civic Light Opera (FCLO) theater group for the exciting 2008 season! Tickets are just \$156/person for 4 SHOWS which are: West Side Story, Oliver!, Oil City Symphony, and Oklahoma. Please call Judi Herz for details.

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism:

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

Religious Education NEWS

Be sure to look for Part Two of the "Travel in Time" Kids' Newspaper over the next few months.

R.E. in September

- September 2nd: Elementary Group - Who Owns the Earth? – Snakes
Middle and YRUU (High School) Group - What is Spiritual?
- September 9th: Elementary Group - The Web of Nature – Kites
Middle and YRUU Group - All People are Important
- September 16th: Elementary Group – Our Principle Workshop – Session 1
Middle School Group – TBA
YRUU Group - TBA
- September 23rd: Elementary Group – Our Principle Workshop – Session 2
Middle School Group – TBA
YRUU Group - TBA
- September 30th: P.J. Day and Brunch

"AFTER HOURS" YRUU Group

The high school and middle school youth were splishing and splashing away at their end-of-summer barbeque and pool party. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Gerri, Neal, and Erica who graciously hosted the event.

YRUU's (high school teens) should look for e-mails announcing dates, times, and meeting places for upcoming meetings and events. The middle school group will also soon begin meeting after hours for special group activities and service projects. Parents of teens and tweens, please be sure to check your e-mails!

Parent Volunteers

R.E. needs parent volunteers to assist in the classroom, bring snacks, and light the chalice. Please contact Liz Heaton to sign up for open date(s) listed below.

- September 2nd: The Schneider and Wieghorst Family
September 9th: The Key Family
September 16th: The Clements Family
September 23rd: **OPEN**
September 30th: **OPEN**

We also need several volunteers for P.J. Day on September 30th. Contact Liz Heaton to help!

Our Principles and How We Live Them

Susan Perlson will be leading several children's workshops this September, which focus on our seven principles and how we live by them. Elementary-aged children will participate in this two-part program on September 16th and September 23rd. Your child's attendance and participation is important. **Workshop dates for our older children and youth will be announced soon.**

Parent Meeting: A special meeting will be held in October, giving parents an opportunity to learn more about this school year's curriculum and register their children for the R.E. program. Date and time will be announced.

UU Church in Fullerton Calendar for September 2007

Sep 2	Sun	10:30a -11:45a From Fundamentalism to Freedom	Sermon by Marc Adams
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Team Teacher Training	
Sep 3	Mon	9:30a Fuddy Duddies	Contact Jan Lillibridge <u>CHANGED TO SEPT 10TH</u>
Sep 6	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
Sep 9	Sun	9:00a Adult RE	UUA Principles and Purposes Workshop
		10:30a -11:45a The Meaning of Water	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		10:30a Water Communion	
		12:00p Social Action Committee Meeting	Contact Bill Bryant
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Youth RE Committee Meets	
Sep 11	Tue	7:00p Board Meeting.	Held at Temple Beth Tikvah .
Sep 13	Thu	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrow's in Fullerton
Sep 15	Sat	6:00p Fall Potluck	In the Social Hall
Sep 16	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Regret, Repent, or Repair?	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:15p Welcoming Congregation Workshop in Social Hall	Introductions and Expectations
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		RE Teacher Training	Middle School
Sep 17	Mon	7:00p Investment Club	Contact Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull .
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	Contact Barbara Keller for topic and location
Sep 18	Tue	7:00p Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Topic: Ethics Without God?
Sep 20	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
Sep 21	Fri	7:00p Bridge Night	Contact Claude Coppel
Sep 23	Sun	10:30a -11:45a God & Government--The Great Challenge of the 21st Century	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Teacher Training	Pre-School
Sep 25	Tue	5:30p Welcoming Congregation Workshop	Meet in the Social Hall. Contact Lesley Mahaffey
Sep 26	Wed	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton , every 4th Wednesday.
Sep 27	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
Sep 28	Fri	7:00p Foreign Food Friday	Location TBA. Contact Lou Arnwine
Sep 30	Sun	10:30a -11:45a The Greater Meaning of the Fall	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:15p Welcoming Congregation Workshop in the social hall	What We Know and How We Learned It
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		RE teacher Training	Elementary

BOARD LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES 2007-08

Board members serve as a conduit from / to specific committees, and are typically invited to those committee meetings (*Spirit of Life*, bless you every board member)

LOU ARNWINE	Membership Sunshine
TIM BLAINE	Music Worship / Program Hospitality
CATHERINE GALLAHER	Social Circle Suppers
WILL NETTLESHIP	Budget Finance Investment Compensation
SUSAN PERLSON	Religious Education Adult RE
MARY RHODES	President (no liaison responsibilities)
KATHEY SCHUSTER	Service Auction Pledge Drive deBenneville Pines Nominating Ministerial Relations
TOM STARK	Newsletter Web Page Advertising / Publicity
MIKE STEINER	Social Action Welcoming Congregation

. "Voices from GA"

Selected quotations from the 2007 UUA General Assembly.

By Kenneth Sutton, 8.10.07 (Fall 2007)

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/36940.shtml>

Looking for another reason to hang out with UU's - Foreign Foods Friday will resume in September, date, time and location to be announced

UUCF Info

President: Mary Rhodes

Board members: Lou Arnwine, Tim Blaine, Catherine Gallaher, 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, September 21th

Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick


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 deleted from this version of the newsletter for publication on the internet.



Sunday Task Volunteers September, 2007

Greeters	Set Up Sanctuary	Take Down Sanctuary	Flowers	Refreshments	Milk for Coffee Service (1 Quart)
2nd					
Donita Fitzpatrick & Eleanor Nichols Jeanne Preble & Tom Thorward	Michael & Chris Mahaffey	Tim Blaine, Terry Selby, Bonnie Roncyolo	Dana Bianco	Patrick Barbush Doris Dressler-Clark _____*	Patrick Barbush
9th					
Patrick Barbush & Lou Arnwine Dick Cole & Gwen Fyke	Doug Schneider & Tom Thorward	Tom & Aaron Stark	Catherine Gallaher	Donita Fitzpatrick Janie Resco Barbara Keller	Marcia Taylor
16th					
Del Blanchard & Linda Summers Judy Sterling & Sandy Mills	Dean Fischman	Charlie Everett & Mike Steiner	Katie Hettinger	Mike Steiner Eleanor Nichols _____*	
23th					
Tim Blaine & Amy Whelan Patrick Barbush, Bev Covertino	Claude Coppel Gordon Lillibridge	Deborah & Harry Langenbacher	Dana Bianco	Glad Sharp _____* _____*	
30th					
Dick Cole		Tim Blaine		Jane & Don Livezy Alice Dyer _____*	Pem Candelaria

*Volunteers Please! Don't miss out! Sign up in social hall or contact Catherine Gallaher or Dana Bianco