

The UUCF CommUunicator

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

December 2007



Jon Dobrer, Minister



Services begin at 10:30 am

Dec 2: On Civil Society

**Welcoming Congregation workshop still to come, following service:
Experiences of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People**

Dec 4: Discussion and movie

DEC 8: HOLIDAY PARTY. Social Hall at 6 PM. Catered prime rib dinner. Pasta for Vegetarians. Adults: \$20. 7th grade and older: \$15. 6th grade and under: \$5. Childcare provided for preschool children. Contact Catherine Gallaher right away to sign up. Scholarships are available. See Rev. Dobrer.

Dec 9: Chanukah: The Persistence of Light

Dec 16: Freedom From Fear – Congressional meeting

Dec 23: Happy Birthday to Hope (Family Christmas Celebration)

Dec 30: **LAY LEAD SERVICE.** A New Year is Coming.

Our minister Jon Dobrer welcomes your calls and is available for appointments on Tuesdays and Sundays. He is also available any time in emergencies



Fair Trade The holidays are looming. Need a gift idea? Fair Trade chocolates, coffees, teas, etc. make a wonderful gift basket. In order to have enough items in stock, please let Doris Dressler-Clark or her "helpers" know on Sunday mornings what you will need in December. (Editor's Note: I gave some baskets out at Thanksgiving and tucked in CD's, small books, and homemade shortbread wedges - a definite hit.)

Okay, now that I've gotten your attention, let me tell you what we are going to be voting on December 16th and why it is important. And yes, the title is NOT misleading; it is about sex, sexuality and gender identification.

We, as a congregation, have been taking part in the UUA's Welcoming Congregation program. In this process of meetings, workshops and discussions we have looked at ourselves—both as individuals and as a religious community—and at the larger society and how we deal with the issues of sexuality.

Sex and sexuality are almost always difficult issues. Most of us are uncomfortable discussing and sharing our feelings. While the UUA program focuses rightly on the active discrimination in our larger society against gays, lesbians and transgendered people, there is also more than too much sexism directed at women and men.

Most of our sexual mores derive from the interest of communities, families, tribes and nations to be numerous. People were power. In nomadic tribes, a critical mass of men could assure survival. In agricultural societies, children were workers and grew to be life insurance, social security and medical care, all in one.

Most of our sexual traditions come from the interest of the community in making sex conception efficient. Acts that did not or could not lead to procreation were discouraged or forbidden. These concerns are among the reasons that many religions often have taboos against sex as just pleasure, birth control, and homosexuality.

We live in a different world today, but our feelings coming from these ancient traditions evolve at different speeds. We also have to admit that sexuality is usually dealt with denial and closing our eyes—and that is not automatically a bad thing. If picturing gay people having sex is a disturbing image, know that so too are most sex acts. Few of us want to picture our parents having sex. Almost none of us are comfortable with the sexuality of our children—whatever their ages. I am personally very comfortable with my discomfort.

I know that most people consider themselves to be normal and that anyone more, let's say, "adventuresome" than we, is a pervert; while anyone less "adventuresome" is up-tight. Our sexuality and affection run along a spectrum far wider than our closed categories of hetero and homo can begin to express. It begins in attraction, then moves to affection, on to eroticism and then to sex. Even then, there is space on the spectrum to take in a hundred other categories and labels—all inadequate to describe our human diversity and complexity.

Our vote on Sunday the 15th will be whether to continue this journey of self-examination, understanding and open heartedness and officially become a UUA certified Welcoming Congregation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—December 2007

Looking back at last December's message, I see that at that time we were just starting to gather a Welcoming Congregation committee as result of the Board's desire to move forward in providing this growth experience. Now, after the passage of a year, much has been accomplished-- a series of educational programs as well as a review of the inclusivity of our procedures and offerings. Participation in the workshop sessions and discussion events has given many of us a stimulating opportunity to think about how much societal, religious, and parental training has influenced our beliefs about our own gender and sexual roles, as well as to look at our own prejudices and to gain understanding about those whom we may view as being unfamiliar or different from us. I personally have grown from attending each of these events and have enjoyed being able to share and exchange ideas and opinions on this emotionally charged topic in a safe and comfortable setting. Others have shared with me the very same reaction to having experienced the training—how rewarding it is to be able to delve into a complex and sensitive

area without any pressure to self-disclose beyond one's comfort zone and to have the opportunity to explore in some depth one's inner attitudes and those of others.

I am gratified that we've experienced this Welcoming Congregation process and feel that it is adding valuable breadth and depth to what our church has to offer. Yes, to be sure, we already are by tradition a liberal group, committed to accepting and welcoming diversity. However, our adding this additional level of self-study and analysis and applying for the designation of Welcoming Congregation makes explicit that our inclusiveness extends to those of differing sexual preferences and/or identities. This, to me, is a good thing.

Many, many thanks to Lesley Mahaffey and Tom Thorward, co-chairs, who have worked hard in developing the planning, arranging logistics, and shepherding us through this new course of action. Thanks are owed also to those volunteers who so ably led individual sessions.

In peace and fellowship,
Mary Rhodes



FISH is seeking drivers to help homebound seniors, call Nancy Kinney if you would like to volunteer; any help is deeply appreciated and allows people to remain more independent.

FULLERTON COLD WEATHER SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS AT THE ARMORY on the corner of [Brookhurst and Valencia](#) in Fullerton. Meet every Wednesday at 5:30 PM to help out. Contact Bill Bryant

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism:

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

Service Auction February 9, 2008

Believe it or not, it is time once again to start thinking about the UUCF Service Auction. Remember all the fun you had last year; tacos & beer, the silent auction, the raffle, the funds raised for UUCF? Well, this year promises to be even better.

How about the food? The dinner will be a catered barbeque by Blake's Place in Anaheim. Say, can you pass me a napkin?

There are several ways for you to help out with the auction this year. Of course, we will need volunteers to help out that night with everything from data entry to bartending. And we need lots of service donations. So start thinking now about what service you can offer. Can you give a dinner or a game night? Can you provide transportation, host a pool party, share your vacation home, baby sit, plant a garden, or teach someone how to use a computer program? The list of services that can be offered is endless. Try to be creative and come up with new ideas that have never been tried before.

Another way that you can help is to talk to some of the businesses that you frequent and ask them if they would like to donate a gift certificate to our auction. Business donations received so far include: Camelot Golfland, Pasadena Playhouse, the Birch Aquarium, and a scrap booking basket from Tall Mouse Crafts. You will be very surprised at how many businesses will be happy to give a free haircut, a pound of coffee, or a couple of free movie tickets in exchange for some free advertising in our program. You will be hearing more about this later this month. Forms will be provided for you to use for this purpose.

Besides donating and helping out that night, the most important thing you can do to make the auction a success is to attend. So put the date on your 2008 calendar now. Remember, if you aren't there, you won't be able to fill your calendar with all the wonderful social events that will be offered for auction. So you will not only miss out on the fun on February 9, but you will continue to miss out all year long.

Cathy Boon,

Service Auction Chairperson

"Winter holiday
resources"



**Looking for help celebrating the winter holidays with your family,
Unitarian Universalist-style?**

<http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/2337.shtml>

Religious Education NEWS

Halloween UNICEF Collection

How do UUCF kids say trick-or-treat? By raising \$286.91 at our annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF event. Thanks to all our fellow congregants who donated so generously. A huge thank you goes out to Karen McDaniel, Celeste Mendelson, and Colleen Wieghorst for hosting the best children's Halloween party ever.



Religious Education for December

Sunday, December 2nd: Regular Classes

R.E. Committee Meeting at 12:15 p.m. in the Youth Chapel Childcare is Provided!

Sunday, December 9th: Regular Classes

Sunday, December 16th: Regular Classes

Opening Santa Lucia Procession by the Children and Youth

Sunday, December 23rd: *No Classes or Childcare* **Special Intergenerational Holiday Service**

Sunday, December 30th: No Classes – *Childcare will be Available*

“New Year’s Eve Party” for Children and Youth

“After Hours” YRUU Group

In October, teens were treated to a “Magical Mystery Tour” with their advisor, Christina Garner. Using a series of riddles, they group traveled around Fullerton searching for the spirit of fallen Halloween. Teens visited a place where everyone lives in small apartments, but no one talks to one another ... and picnicked at **Loma Linda Memorial Park!** Another stop was the **Arboretum Pumpkin Patch** – where babies are born. Finally, a brief visit was made to **Le Potage** to visit the ghost of Fullerton’s first mechanic -- Lillian Yeager.

The teens also spent time planning future events over pizza when they met in November. Shopping in downtown Fullerton was also part of the November fun. Teens have a number of upcoming events for December. On **Sunday, December 2nd**, the group will be shop, prepare, and serve the meal to the homeless as part of their annual service tradition. Then on **Monday, December 3rd**, it’s off to the **House of Blues** and time to rock out to **Motion City Sound Track!** Finally, mark your calendars for **Thursday, December 13th** from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. so you can support our teens while shopping at **Barnes and Nobles Bookstore**. Middle school and high school youth will be on hand that evening to wrap your B&N purchases as part of a community event to raise money for their teen programs.



Kids Still Not Registered!?!

All children and youth in the Religious Education program must be registered each year. At the time of registration, parents are asked to sign up for at least eight volunteer hours in the program. Please see Susan Perlson or she will find you if you have not registered your child or signed up to volunteer. We need your help to run our R.E. program – its success greatly depends on the generosity and time from volunteers. It is also extremely important that R.E. has the most current health history information about your child. The R.E. committee would like to complete all registration by Sunday, December 16.

UU Church in Fullerton Calendar

December 2007

Dec 2	Sun	10:30a -11:45a On Civil Society	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:00p Youth RE Committee Meeting	Contact Liz Heaton
		12:15p Welcoming Congregation Workshop in the Social Hall	Topic: Experiences of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People. Contact Lesley Mahaffey
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Dinner provided for Homeless	
Dec 3	Mon	9:30a Fuddy Duddies	Contact Jan Lillibridge
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	At the home of Fran Doble Topic: What Rights Should The Father Have in Cases of Unwanted Pregnancies?
		UUCF Teen Group Outing	House of Blues Pop Rock Concert.
Dec 4	Tue	Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Contact Marlies Worley for title, time, and location
		Dinner Provided for Homeless	
Dec 6	Thu	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton , every 4th Thursday.
		Dinner Provided for Homeless	
Dec 8	Sat	6:00p HOLIDAY DINNER	In the Social Hall. Prime Rib dinner. Storyteller. Harpist. Don't miss this. Contact Catherine Gallaher
Dec 9	Sun	10:30a-11:45a Chanukah: The Persistence of Light	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 .
Dec 11	Tue	Dinner Provided for Homeless	
Dec 13	Thu	Dinner Provided for Homeless	
Dec 14	Fri	Drumming Circle Event	
Dec 16	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Freedom From Fear	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:15p Service Auction Meeting	Following the congregational meeting
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Santa Lucia	
		Congregational Meeting	After the service
Dec 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
Dec 19	Wed	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton , every 4th Wednesday.
Dec 21	Fri	7:00p Bridge Night	Contact Claude Coppel
Dec 23	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Happy Birthday To Hope Family Christmas Service	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
Dec 30	Sun	10:30a -11:45a A New Year Is Coming	Lay led service with music, readings, inspiration and gratitude
		12:00p Pancake Brunch	Happy New Year
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .

The Fullerton Interfaith Ministerial Association

Invites you to attend our seventh annual

Longest Night Service

An 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.

Saturday, December 22, 2006, 7:00 PM

Temple Beth Tikvah
1600 N. Acacia Avenue
Fullerton, CA



Event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

UUCF President: Mary Rhodes

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

Unitarian Universalist Church in Fullerton

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The deadline for the next issue of the CommUUnicator is NOON, December 18th, 2007.
Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick .

The ComUUnicator is published monthly.

Visitors will receive a free newsletter for five months.

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edition of the newsletter, for publication on the world wide web.