

The UUCF

April 2008

CommUUnicator – 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

April 5 Fellowship Dinner

April 6: The Preacher's Vanity - sermon

April 13: Rev. Dianna Bell* - guest speaker

April 20: Passover as Metaphor - sermon

April 22: Passover Seder

April 27: The Cruellest Month—Memory & Desire - sermon

***April 13: Our guest speaker on Sunday, April 13 will be Rev. Dianna Bell, Senior Co-Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Fullerton. A native of San Diego, graduate of Occidental College and Princeton Theological Seminary, she became the first woman chaplain in U.S. military history, serving in the Navy. Since ordination in 1973 she has had pastorates across the nation, both as head of staff and as co-pastor with her husband, Donald.**

Save the date - Sat. May 10th "Food Loving Guys Raising Funds for FIES" at the Astor's Classic museum.

This repeat event was a sell out last year. Appetizers, salads, side dishes, entrees and desserts will be prepared by 25 amateur community chefs, including our very own BILL BRYANT. Six professional chefs and food critics will judge the entries and First Place and Runner-up will be presented in each category. Guests will sample all food and see a 300 beautifully restored classic car display, including Clark Gable's 1936 Ford, Rita Hayworth's continental, Howard Hughes' Cadillac Limo, Model A's, Rolls Royce and more. The Astor Classics Museum also includes a collection of antique radios and televisions.

And all proceeds from the event will go to FIES, Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services, and its programs to help end hunger and homelessness in our community. Tickets for the event are \$50. Reserve your ticket by calling 714 680-3691, FIES main office. For a preview of the event site, visit their website at <http://www.astorclassics.com>.



As I confessed Sunday—after 6 funerals and no weddings in the past two weeks, I was ready for Easter, for Spring and for Passover. All of these holidays and holy days celebrate hope and rebirth—rebirth of the earth, of the spirit and of hope. Neither religion, nor the human heart, can ignore the fact of death, of loss and the sorrow of separation. Whatever our theologies might be, even if we believe that the dead go to heaven, a golden shore, or the Ritz Carlton, we get to miss them. We know that it is hard to move our loved ones from in front of our eyes to inside our hearts. We look for them. We long for them, and have to be satisfied with the whispers of their voices in our dreams.

We also know that the acute pain does fade, and our hearts do heal. We know that the tears in the fabric of our lives can be mended with shared memories, but they do not replace completely those whom we love. The patch shows. Their loss leaves a scar, as it should. We are blessed in life if we have people whose leaving breaks our hearts. Our wonderful Spring holidays remind us that the spirit heals, the cold gives way to life and the shadows that we have walked through fade away in the sunlight.

The great and comforting 23rd Psalm has what seems a peculiar locution. It says, “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.” I remember thinking: What, You couldn’t prepare a table in a quiet place? You couldn’t find a peaceful garden for a nice picnic where I wouldn’t have to look over my shoulder for enemies? The answer to my questions is, I think, that we are always moving in light and shadow. We always walk through the “valley of the shadow of death.” But with all the threats, all the imperfections, the enemies such as war, hatred, greed, illness, lack of access to healthcare—we are still in a miraculous garden and a table is set before us. We should enjoy.

That we walk through shadows is just fine, because shadows imply light. It may be cold and dark in our lives; it may be winter in the soul, but the sun still shines—even when it does not shine on us. And we move in life toward the light, the sunrise in the east of Easter and the re-birth out of darkness in Egypt and towards the Promised Land again in the east.

Springtime for the earth reminds us of springtime in our hearts; that out of the depths we reach out to each other to help and offer our good company to each other. We bring the light of love to each other. We, each of us, can be the spring.

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. ~Hal Borland



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—APRIL 2008

This month's message is on generosity, a timely topic as we begin our annual pledge drive campaign. I considered amassing quotes from various experts on the value of stewardship, but then realized it might be more helpful to let you know something of where I'm coming from—a very personal story. I'm going to talk about money, a topic we all tend to shy away from-- the last Unitarian taboo. This may be more than you want to know, but it feels like the right message for me to share.

When I joined the church in 2001 and eventually was handed a pledge card, my first thoughts were "Of course I'm being asked to contribute, that's expected. I'd better start out on the modest side because I know they'll be urging me to increase my pledge year after year and I want to leave plenty of leeway for that." And so I made a nominal pledge. Turns out the next year, there was no high pressure to up the donation, but I did give a little more, and so each year with our low-key canvass approach I inched along. I felt I was doing an acceptable job of contributing, probably doing my share, but didn't have any particular rewarding feeling of being generous. During this time, my friendships, participation, time involvement, and sense of community with our church were increasing steadily. UUCF was becoming an ever more valuable part of my life. Last spring, for some reason, a message popped into my head - not the negative old "Give 'til it hurts", but a much more meaningful one: "Give

until it feels good!" And so I increased my pledge significantly and experienced what that means—feeling good about being generous. I was attaining an inner sense of having given freely to an organization that is so meaningful to me: a kind of ego trip, perhaps, but a satisfying and beneficial one. By the way, at this church the amounts of our pledges are kept quite confidential: the minister, the board, the administrator do not know what each of us contributes. Thus, what we choose to give is between us and our consciences.

I'm looking forward this coming year to even more exciting things happening at UUCF, especially in the areas of worship, music, and religious education. As we grow in size and in what we offer, everyone's support in terms of time, talent, and treasure is vital. With this in mind, I've given thought to what would for me at this time constitute "giving until it feels good" and have decided to increase my own pledge by 25%. Yes, I'm retired on a fixed income, and contribute to various other organizations as well, but I want the inner satisfaction that comes with giving generously, and I want to see our church community prosper. I encourage each of you to consult your conscience, and determine what "giving until it feels good" would mean for you.

By the way, in addition to the pledge, I plan to donate to our church that promised May tax rebate check from President Bush. Anyone want to join me?

In peace and fellowship, Mary Rhodes

"UUA presidential campaign begins with two candidates" By Christopher L. Walton, 3.17.08
<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102252.shtml?n>

"Laurel Hallman, candidate for UUA president"

NEWS: Minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas emphasizes comfort with religious language, UUA services.

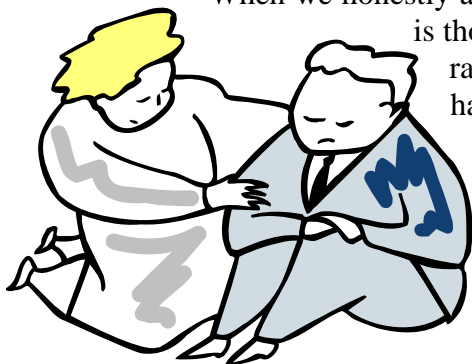
By Jane Greer, 3.17.08 <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102213.shtml?n>

"Peter Morales, candidate for UUA president"

NEWS: Minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colo., sees growth, social justice as priorities.

By Jane Greer, 3.17.08 <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102214.shtml?n>

FISH of Fullerton needs volunteer drivers and dispatchers. We drive Fullerton residents who have lost their personal transportation to doctor visits, hospitals, etc. We are sponsored by the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Council. If you are a Fullerton resident and can spare one half day per month to provide this service to other Fullerton residents, or one day per month to man your phone scheduling drivers, your efforts will be deeply appreciated. Please telephone 714/533-3113, if you can help. You will be given a short lesson on instructions and then you'll join those of us who are helping make a difference in the lives of elderly and handicapped Fullerton residents!



When we honestly ask which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in our hours of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not-curing, not-healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness... makes it clear that whatever happens in the external world, being present to each other is what really matters."

- Henri J. M Nouwen Out of Solitude

A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

Religious Education NEW Earth Day and Our 7th Principle

Unitarian Universalists talk about "the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part," they are usually talking about the way people are of part of nature. Kids and their families at the UU Church in Fullerton put our seventh principle into practice by planting trees at Carbon Canyon Regional Park to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day (April 22nd) is a special holiday to remember our responsibility to the "interdependent web of all existence." But, of course, it would be even better to make every day Earth Day.

One of the most serious problems facing our planet is global warming – the world is getting warmer because of human use of fossil fuels like oil, gasoline and natural gas. While having the earth get a few degrees warmer might not seem like a huge deal, it really is. For example, polar bears are starving because the sheets of ice where they have always hunted seals are melting, and warmer seas also mean bigger storms. Learn more (http://tiki.oneworld.net/global_warming/climate_home.html) about what global warming (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eek/earth/air/global.htm>) is and what you can do about it.

So celebrate the Earth and do something for a cleaner, healthier planet!

This year, the **Tree Planting Ceremony** has been postponed to May so that teens in the OWL program may attend the Tree Planting. Look for more information in next month's R.E. pages.

Alternative Egg Hunt for Charity

AN EASTER EGG HUNT IS ALWAYS A FUN TRADITION. THIS YEAR R.E. PUT A NEW SPIN ON AN OLD TRADITION, THE KIDS HAD A GREAT TIME, AND EVERYONE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP PEOPLE, OR RATHER ANIMALS, IN NEED AT THE SAME TIME. INSTEAD OF HAVING OUR REGULAR EASTER EGG HUNT, PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH WERE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE CHANGE, NOT CHOCOLATE. WHILE TEENS HID THE EGGS, THE REST OF THE CHILDREN PLAYED PRINCIPLE ONE JELLYBEAN BINGO AND MADE CRAFTS. **\$151.10** WAS COLLECTED FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES DURING OUR ALTERNATIVE EASTER EGG HUNT ON MARCH 23RD. THANKS TO THE GENEROUSITY OF ALL WHO DONATED – YOUNG AND OLD. YOUR DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARD PURCHASING COLLARS FOR PUPS AND KITTENS TO MAKE THEM ADORABLY ADOPTION READY.



Nurturing Your Spirit – More Ways to Connect to our Animal Friends

Animals are an important part of the interdependent web of life – and an important part of many of our lives. Animals had a special place in the life of Beatrix Potter too. For much of her childhood, animals were the only friends Beatrix had and later she used her animals as the central characters of her beloved stories. Whether it's a pet cat, dog or fish, or whether it's a wild animal you love, animals can teach us a great deal about whom we are and how we relate to the world. You can nurture your spirit by just spending time with an animal, or by trying this online animal meditation <http://www.gratefulness.org/p/animals.cfm> .

Religious Education for April: regular classes meet all weeks except April 20th, Yoga with Juana “Om, Namah Shivaya - I bow to the Divine within”

*“After Hours” YRUU Group: Please join teens and other UU walkers at the annual Fullerton **CROP Walk** on Sunday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m. The **CROP Walk** helps raise awareness and funds to fight hunger around the block and around the world. Please be sure to register with Bill or Doreen Bryant. The three-mile walk begins at the Fullerton City Plaza. The **CROP Walk** will take you past the FIES Distribution Center, Habitat for Humanity build sites, and New Vista Transitional Living – organizations supported by UUCF. Carpooling to Fullerton City Plaza is available by contacting Chris Heaton.*

Religious Education Committee -The Religious Education Committee will **not** meet in April. The next meeting is Sunday, May 4th at 12:15 p.m. in the Youth Chapel. Childcare is available. The R.E. committee is a great way for parents and interested congregants to get involved with our future church community. Please contact Susan Perlson or Barbara Burns for more information.



April 13 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Help Erik Thomas raise money for his Boy Scout Eagle Project by attending a delicious pancake and egg breakfast on Sunday morning April 13th here at the church. Breakfast will be served before the service from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM and then again after the service until 12:30 PM. Tickets will be \$5.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child. **Erik will be selling tickets after services in the social hall on April 6.** Erik's Eagle Project will be done May 9-11 to benefit Camp de Benneville Pines. Help support our camp and the Scouts by joining us at this delicious breakfast.

April 5-19 we will be Providing Food for the Homeless. Several men and women from Interfaith Shelter Network will be housed at Temple Beth Tikvah from April 5-19. Once again, it is our turn to share some of our food with the homeless. Our congregation will be responsible for dinners on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday during that two week period. It is easier and more fun if 2 parties to share responsibility for a meal which should consist of salad, main course, dessert, and drinks. Meals should be delivered around 6 PM. Please contact Barbara Cutts.

The Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship, Pacific Southwest Chapter will hold its **April** meeting on the **17th** from 1 PM to 4 PM. Contact **Connie Chin** at for more information. Home hospitality is available for visitors.

April 18th, third Friday of April will be the next Foreign Foods Friday dinner. We will be enjoying Moroccan cuisine at Karma Cafe, 305 N. State College. This is a new restaurant in Fullerton with very nice ambiance delicious food from a complete menu. Note that this is the third Friday, moved up a week because several of our regulars will be attending the PSWD Assembly in Del Mar.

SERVICE ASSOCIATE TEAM MEETING APRIL 20 AFTER CHURCH SERVICE: We are expanding our Service Associate Team. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please join us in the sanctuary for a training/refresher session, to include a mini demonstration of "how to" and "how not to" be an effective Service Associate, by our own very experienced and most capable Christina Garner.

CROP WALK IS COMING on APRIL 27TH: Please join Doris Dressler-Clark in signing up on our team's webpage through <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=240754>, click "Register Here", "I Agree", "Join a Team" and select "Unitarian Universalist Church". Add your name to become a team member and begin soliciting funds on line from family, friends, etc. Donations are accepted through credit cards or a check may be mailed. Help our team by contributing to one of our walkers or our team on that website. Thanks for your support for this most worthy cause. Your UU Team Captain - Doris Dressler-Clark



UU Church in Fullerton Calendar - April 2008

Apr 1	Tue	Movie & Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Contact Marlies Worley for movie title, time, and location
Apr 3	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
Apr 5	Sat	6:00p FELLOWSHIP DINNER	
Apr 6	Sun	9:00a UU and You	Contact Dick Cole or Gloria May if you would like to attend.
		10:30a -11:45a The Preacher's Vanity	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Food for the Homeless	Bring your meal to the Temple teen room by 6 PM.
Apr 7	Mon	9:30a Fuddy Duddies	Contact Jan Lillibridge
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	At the home of Donnette Guiltinan. Topic: What would you do if you were given 7.5 million dollars?
Apr 8	Tue	7:00p Board Meeting	
		Food for the Homeless	Bring your meal to the Temple teen room by 6 PM.
Apr 9	Wed	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton , every 4th Wednesday.
Apr 10	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
		Food for the Homeless	Bring your food to the Temple teen room by 6 PM.
Apr 13	Sun	9:30a Pancake Breakfast	Pancakes will be served before and after the service by Erik Thomas as part of his Eagle Scout project.
		10:30a -11:45a Sunday Service	Sermon by Rev. Dianna Bell , Senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Fullerton
		12:00p Social Action Committee	
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Food for the Homeless	Bring your meal to the Temple teen room by 6 PM.
Apr 15	Tue	7p Discussion Group - Rev. Jon Dobrer	Topic: Doing Justice and the Ethics of Dissent
		Food for the Homeless	Bring your meal to the Temple teen room by 6 PM.
Apr 17	Thu	7:00p Choir Practice	
		Food for the Homeless	Bring your meal to the Temple teen room by 6 PM.
Apr 18	Fri	7:00p Bridge Night	Contact Claude Coppel
		7:00p Foreign Foods Friday	Contact Lou Arnwine for restaurant information.
Apr 20	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Passover as Metaphor	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:15p Service Associate Meeting	Meet in the sanctuary. See Doris Dressler Clark
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Passover	No non-kosher food allowed in the Temple
Apr 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
Apr 22	Tue	6:00p SEDER	In the social hall
Apr 24	Thu	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	
		7:00p Choir Practice	
Apr 25	Fri	PSWD Assembly	This weekend in Del Mar. April 25 through 27
Apr 27	Sun	10:30a -11:45a The Cruellest Month-Memory & Desire	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		CROP WALK	

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, April 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.

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