

The UUCF

June 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

June 1: The Madness in Our Selves

June 3: Movie Young at Heart – Dinner

June 8: On Aging: Without Good Answers

June 15: The Three Most Important Words (Not “I love you.”)

June 22: **Voices from the List, A Call of Conscience Leon Leyson***

June 29: Summer Time, But the Liv’n Ain’t Easy

***Leon Leyson** was just a skinny kid during World War II but he was chosen to work for Oscar Schindler, though he was so little that he couldn't reach the handles on the machine. He used to stand on an upside-down box. Schindler developed a fondness for him, nicknaming him little Leyson and showing him many kindnesses. Leyson later recalled: "Occasionally, when he was by himself, he would come and talk to me. He ordered that I get extra rations of food .." When Leyson's vision began to blur from the factory work, he was excused from the night shift. Schindler's most important act was putting little Leyson on the final list. His two eldest brothers did not survive the war, but he, his parents and brother and sister were saved by Schindler. For more visit <http://tinyurl.com/6c9hwc>

Tributes

A tribute to Lois Nettleship and Jim Gallaher for sharing their Knowledge, Judgment and Effort in recruiting our better than average nominees for the UUCF Board. Thank you for your support. Gwen Fyke

A tribute to Mary Rhodes and the outgoing board, thank you for all the hard work and commitment to UUCF; for guiding, nurturing and growing our congregation. Thank you to Judy Sterling for caring about the future of UUCF and her very generous gifts of time and funds. Randi Hetrick

For people of my generation and older, where we stand today was virtually unthinkable—even by liberal activists. The Democratic Party, in the absence of a meteor or violent madness, will nominate a Black man to run for the presidency. Whatever you may believe Barak Obama's merits or weaknesses are, however you are going to vote, this rite of passage is a very big deal. This is not symbolic. This is not a throwaway vice presidential nomination in a losing year. This was fought for and earned by both works and grace. Whether he turns out to be an Al Smith, the first Roman Catholic nominated, or a JFK, the first Catholic elected, we Americans of all races, ethnicities and political beliefs are a part of something new and different, and we are riding together a rapidly moving tectonic plate.

For all our problems, our faults, fears, excesses and yes prejudices, this is a pretty amazing time. No, we do not yet talk straight about race. We do not necessarily even think straight. We are often afraid to talk, to question, or to acknowledge our fears. I read Black pundits who keep warning how racist America is and how we should not count on Americans voting for or against Obama based on his character. They assert that many, too many, will NEVER vote for him because of his color. They warn that we code our racism sometimes with other phobias. Obama is an elitist—another Dukakis, another Adlai Stevenson. He's an egghead, an intellectual, a Brie eating, Prius driving elitist. This is a wonderful charge to make against a Black man, the son of a single mother who was on food stamps. Yeah, he's out of touch with the "hard-working white Americans." Hello irony! Only in America.

I think that some African American pundits do not have the "audacity of hope," and they dare not imagine that Obama can win. They may be afraid that his defeat will cast a pall on them, and that his failure as a candidate will hurt too much. They may fear that should he win, and be found wanting, it would cast a shadow on them. I do understand this attitude psychologically.

When Joe Lieberman (outfitted at the time uncomfortably in liberal democratic drag) was nominated to run for the Vice Presidential position, outwardly the Jewish community was proud. Many of us *qvelled* (Yiddish for to bubble with joy). It felt like an accomplishment, a barrier broken, a great moment in American Jewish history. But there were those who quietly—at least as quietly as anything ever happens in the usually fractious Jewish world—began to express reservations, not so much on policy but on collateral issues. Lieberman, as it turns out, was not much of a threat to politically conservative Jews and seemed like an okay choice for liberal Jews. But there was some fear that if Gore were to lose, it would be blamed on the Jewish community. Some in the Jewish community did worry that were he to advocate for Israel, it would not be seen as even-handed but he would be viewed more as a Jew than a "real American."

I suspect, but do not know, that this is going on in the African American community too. Obama's success would be wonderful and a source of pride; his failure might feel like a failure of a people more than an individual. This is the natural role and burden of people who break barriers. Jackie Robinson was selected as much for his temperament as his athletic skill. He knew he was not a single person being evaluated alone. He was a symbol and would be, in those old and largely unintentionally insulting and demeaning words, "a credit to his race."

We do know that there are racists in our society who will not vote for a Black man. There are sexists who hate Hillary for her gender not her politics. But the gender plate has also shifted radically and irrevocably. Hillary Clinton breached a wall and made an opening for all women. There are probably some young people (any one younger than I) who will not vote for a geezer (anyone older than I) who is assumed to be out of touch with their generation. All of this is true. We remain imperfect. This is unquestionable. We are also much improved in both our dreams and our reality. The very ground we stand on, the assumptions—both romantic and apocalyptic—of our youth shift and we strive to do more than hang on, more than just go along for the ride. We strive to shape change and make the chaos reflect, if only for the few moments of our time on this wild ride, our best hopes, our deepest dreams and our most personally authentic values.

June 25, 2008 - June 29, 2008

UUA General Assembly UUA General Assembly

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

Ft. Lauderdale, FL Participants: Public, Must Register ASAP

Sponsor: Unitarian Universalist Association

Contact: General Assembly Office

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-JUNE 2008

At the end of this month my term of service as board president will be over, and so after 23 priors, this is the last column that I'll be writing. These four years on the board--the last two as president--have been an invaluable growth experience that's provided a great opportunity for learning about the workings of our church. The most rewarding aspect has been the chance to get to know so many more members of our church family, to problem-solve together, and to be in position to better experience and appreciate the unique talents, gifts, and personalities that make up our beloved community.

Working with this current board has been a particular blessing, for they are a skilled and dedicated group who has worked with singular motivation toward what's best for the church. Special recognition is due to Lou Arnwine, who'll be coming off the board after four years, the last three as secretary. She has a talent for summarizing an evening's worth of business succinctly and promptly, as well as managing to still contribute to discussion while taking notes. Having been secretary I know how hard that is.

Many thanks to Mike Steiner and to Kathey Schuster, both finishing two-year terms. Mike was the chair of last spring's Ruby Jubilee --what a fun time that was! Kathey has been vice president this year. My best wishes especially to Will Nettleship, an experienced board member who will make an excellent president.

In peace and fellowship

Mary Rhodes

Thank you Bill Bryan with able assistance from Doreen Bryant and Tom Thorward for your tasty Eagle's Breath Chili served at the Food Loving Guys Raising Funds for FIES on May 10. This most successful event grossed \$45,000 for FIES.



The Interfaith Shelter Network program is soliciting services for its clients. If you are a hairdresser, barber, dentist, eye doctor, etc. and are willing to donate your services to help ISN clients, please contact Robin Cruz. INS houses single homeless individuals in various churches in the Fullerton area. Seven guests were housed at the Temple for two weeks in April during which time UUCF provided meals for six nights.



Treasurer's Corner

Soon there will be some very important financial matters that will be voted on at two congregational meetings scheduled during the month of June. On June 1st, 2008 members will be voting on the 08/09 fiscal year budget, and on June 15th 2008 members will be voting on long term lease proposal. This article is intended to provide additional information available at this time regarding the church finances to assist members in voting on these very important financial matters of the church. This article is not intended to be the exclusive source of information in making your decision on how you decide to vote on these very important matters.

First, in order to fully understand the church financial picture it is important to take a few steps backwards in time. Approximately 5 years ago the church investment assets (excluding operating reserves) were approximately \$60,000. Today the church has approximately \$140,000 in investment assets (excluding operating reserves), which is approximately an \$80,000 increase from just 5 years ago. This \$80,000 increase in church investment assets primarily came from two sources. The biggest source is approximately \$50,000 from return on the church investment assets, where the church averaged over a 10% rate of return during the last 5 years. The remaining source was primarily due to the 05/06 fiscal year where there was a surplus profit of approximately \$13k, plus an additional \$16k from the life insurance contracts.

It is important to point these facts out, as when looking at the "complete" financial picture of the church during the last 5 years "total" income has exceeded expenses by approximately \$80,000. Below is an actual breakdown history of the church fiscal year results:

03/04 Surplus profit \$2,382.47
04/05 Surplus profit \$8,121.73
05/06 Surplus profit \$13,045.06 plus \$16,442.53 from life insurance contracts
06/07 Deficit loss -\$4,198.07
07/08 Projected Deficit loss -\$8,500 (estimated as this fiscal year has not ended)

Total projected "net" profit during the above mentioned five year period is \$27,793.72. This amount is in addition to the \$50,000 increase in church investment assets from the 10% rate of return during the last 5 years. Combining these two amounts equals \$77,793.72 and represents the "net" income of the church during the last 5 years from "all" sources of income.

At the time of this article was written there are plans to utilize a small amount (exact amount yet to be determined when this article was written) of the church investment reserves for the 08/09 fiscal year budget in order to balance the budget. This is necessary due to the recent 08/09 canvass drive results coming up short. Because the income of the church comes from various sources, and we have had surplus profits from previous fiscal years (mentioned above), it is reasonable to consider using some of the church reserves to balance the current proposed 08/09 fiscal year budget. It is important to point this out because a church is not intended to be a "profit" driven entity. It is also important to point out that the amount being recommended from cash reserves to balance the 08/09 fiscal year budget is **not** being based on whether the long term lease proposal is approved or declined.

It is also important to note that there is no income or expense line item in the proposed 08/09 fiscal year budget regarding the long term lease proposal. The \$100,000 long term lease proposal is intended to initially be funded by present and future donor contributions, as well as church cash reserves (exact amount yet to be determined). It is also important to note that at the time this article was written there is currently \$41,000 in donor pledges already received specifically towards the long term lease proposal.

(Continued)

(Treasurer's corner, continued)

Although it is believed that additional long term lease donor pledges may come in should the long term lease proposal be approved, it is important to note that the church can financially afford any remaining balance owed from the long term lease by utilizing its cash investment reserves to pay such remaining amount. It is because of the last 5 years results of significantly increasing the church investment assets that we can financially afford considering the long term lease proposal.

The important point to keep in mind is that although we can financially afford utilizing a portion of the church investment reserves for both the 08/09 fiscal year budget, as well as any amount not covered by donor pledges towards the long term lease proposal, going forward it may mean that we cannot continue to utilize the church investment reserves in order to balance future fiscal year budgets. It is important to note that going forward that should future canvass drives come up short it will very likely mean that we will be required to reduce church expenses in order to balance future fiscal year budgets.

The information in this article is intended to assist members on how they wish to vote on the very important financial matters of the church being presented for their vote during the two congregational meetings scheduled during the month of June. Please note that this article is neither an endorsement for or against the upcoming financial issues of the church being voted on in June. Should anyone have any questions, please feel free to contact Frank Thomas (Church Bookkeeper), or Will Nettleship (Church Treasurer) and we will be happy to answer anyone's questions.

Respectfully Submitted:

Frank Thomas

The Interfaith Shelter Network program is soliciting services for its clients. If you are a hairdresser, barber, dentist, eye doctor, etc. and are willing to donate your services to help ISN clients, please contact Robin Cruz. ISN houses single homeless individuals in various churches in the Fullerton area. Seven guests were housed at the Temple for two weeks in April during which time UUCF provided meals for six nights.

Congratulations to our fundraising walkers! The 2008 Fullerton Crop Hunger Walk grossed \$62,000. Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services receives \$15,000 of that. UUCF raised more than our fundraising goal \$2000!!!



The Pledge Drive Is Ending!! Please pledge generously. Our Church programs depend on your contributions. We are in good hands this year with our co-chairs, Mike Mendelson and Doug Schneider. Fill out your pledge card today!!! We will accept your stimulus package tax rebate, it will certainly stimulate the UUCF budget Remember: "This pledge drive is dedicated to go where no pledge drive has gone before."

Religious Education NEWS

Yippee! This month we welcome summer -- a time to celebrate getting out school! June is also a time for being grateful. Pagans celebrate gratitude for the generosity of the Earth at the Summer Solstice. And we all can celebrate gratitude for dads - biological, adoptive, foster, step and totally-unrelated-but-acts-like-a-dad—deserve this day of honor and thanks.

Nurturing Your Spirit (Kids Talk, June 2007)

Since June has so many holidays associated with gratitude, it seems like a good month to remind ourselves of the spiritual practice of gratitude. Feeling grateful for the good things of our lives not only reminds us to live more gently in the world by replacing greediness with gratitude, it also helps us to feel happier and more at peace. In bed, right before you drift off to sleep, is a perfect time to think about the things you are grateful for. You could remember parts of your day that went really well, or think of at least three things which you are grateful to have in your life or in the world in general (like friends, pets, chocolate, health, talents that you have, things you like to do, sunshine, trees, parents, cheetahs, comfortable pajamas, etc.).

Principles in Practice (Kids Talk, June 2007)

Our third UU principle is "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." In other words, UUs strive to accept people the way they are, but also try to help people to be better, kinder, more loving, and more responsible. That's a good principle to remember this month, since June also brings us Gay Pride Day. Marking the anniversary of the Stonewall riots, a time when gay men fought back against police harassment, Gay Pride Day is a time to honor the different ways people form relationships and families.

Many people don't accept gay folks—they think it is wrong or disgusting for a man to fall in love with a man, or a woman to fall in love with a woman. Lots of people, teenagers especially, use insulting terms for a gay man as a general insult. If, as UUs, we work to accept everyone the way they are, it makes sense that we would accept gays (men who fall in love with men) and lesbians (women who fall in love with women), and not think that they should have to pretend to be different than who they are. And while we can accept people's different views about gay men and lesbians, we can also encourage spiritual growth by letting people know when their words are thoughtless or intentionally cruel. For instance, when someone expresses prejudiced views or uses rude terms, you can say "It makes me really uncomfortable to hear people insulted like that." You don't have to change his or her minds, but when you make it clear that you don't like any kind of prejudiced behavior then everyone in the situation will probably experience some "spiritual growth."

Religious Education for June

- ❖ **June 1st: Regular Classes Meet**
- ❖ Congregational Meeting Following Service – Childcare Available

- ❖ **TREE PLANTING at 2:30 p.m. at Carbon Canyon Regional Park**

- ❖ **June 8th: Regular Classes Meet**
- ❖ **TEACHER APPRECIATION AND BRIDGING During Service**

- ❖ **June 15th: Regular Classes Meet**
- ❖ Congregational Meeting Following Service – Childcare Available

- ❖ **June 22nd: Summer Program Begins**

- ❖ **June 29th: Summer Program**

“After Hours” YRUU Group An end of school year beach bonfire for YRUU group is being planned for Friday, June 13th from 5:00 p.m. – 10 p.m. We will get a fire pit, grill hot dogs and marshmallows, and ceremoniously burn old school year papers, getting rid of the old and ready for the new. Incoming 9th graders, who have just finished up their junior high career the day before are also invited. Watch for a flyer and check e-mail for details.

RE Summer Program

RE will again offer two age appropriate programs plus childcare this summer. A science adventure theme is being planned for younger children. Older youth will have a chance to attend adult sermons and gather with peers to explore faith and the connections to the world and the web of life. Look for details on the summer program in a separate upcoming brochure.

Our RE program is growing by leaps and bounds, a thank you to all the teachers, helpers, snack providers, art and music instructors and newly added infant care volunteers who sallied forth and made this such a successful RE program 2007-2008.

UU Church in Fullerton Calendar, June 2008

Jun 1	Sun	9:00a Adult RE Planning Committee	In the Classroom Upstairs.
		10:30a -11:45a The Madness in Ourselves	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		2:30p Tree Planting Ceremony	At Carbon Canyon Regional Park.
		New Member Recognition Ceremony	During the service
		Congregational Meeting	Vote on budget and new board. Discussion and Q&A
Jun 2	Mon	9:30a Fuddy Duddies	Contact Jan Lillibridge
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	Home of Fran Doble Topic: What did you learn as a child that is no longer true?
Jun 3	Tue	Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	Contact Marlies Worley to make a reservation for dinner at Rutabagorz at 6:30 PM. Movie Title "Young at Heart".
Jun 4	Wed	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	Meet at Carrows in Fullerton , every 4th Wednesday.
Jun 8	Sun	9:00a Adult Religious Education	Contact Ed Tschabrun for Topic
		10:30a On Aging: Without Good Answers	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		10:30a Teacher Appreciation Day	During the Service
		10:30a Bridging Ceremony	Be sure to attend to congratulate Aaron Stark
		12:00p Social Action Committee Meeting	Contact Bill Bryant
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
Jun 9	Mon	7:00p Worship Committee Meeting	
Jun 13	Fri	5:00p -10:00p Teen Bonfire	To be held at Huntington Beach
Jun 14	Sat	Circle Suppers	Contact Marcia Taylor
Jun 15	Sun	9:00a Adult RE Planning Committee	In the classroom upstairs.
		10:30a -11:45a The 3 Most Important Words (Not "I Love You.")	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
		Congregational Meeting IMPORTANT	After the service. Vote on lease proposal. Child care!
Jun 16	Mon	7:00p Investment Club	Contact Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull .
		7:00p Women's Wisdom Circle	Contact Barbara Keller for topic and location
Jun 17	Tue	7:00p Board Meeting	New and old Board members.
Jun 19	Thu	11:45a Men's Lunch Group	
Jun 20	Fri	7:00p Bridge Night	Contact Claude Coppel
Jun 22	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Voices from the List, A Call of Conscience	Sermon by Leon Leyson
		12:00p RE Coming of Age Potluck	In the social hall
		12:30p Lunch Bunch	At Marie Callender's , Placentia. Contact Pat Woodhull .
Jun 24	Tue	5:30p All Souls Potluck	Meet in the social hall. No pork or shell fish please.
		6:30p Salon Discussion	Following the potluck. Topic TBA.
Jun 25	Wed	UUA General Assembly	June 25th through June 29th
Jun 27	Fri	7:00p Foreign Foods Friday	Contact Lou Arnwine to sign up/restaurant information
Jun 29	Sun	10:30a -11:45a Summer Time But the Liv'n Ain't Easy	Sermon by Rev. Jon Dobrer

President: Mary Rhodes

Board members: Lou Arnwine, Ed Tschabrun, 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, May 18th
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 removed from this edition of the newsletter, for publication on the world wide web.