

The UUCF

July 2008

CommUUnicator

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

JULY 6 - CASSANDRA GRAY FIES Board Member and Business Consultant. Ms. Gray will share her personal experiences and reflections on being a client of FIES and how it enabled her to build a strong and meaningful life.

UUCF Independence Day Celebration Barbeque.

All you can eat hamburgers and hot dogs, soda, and ice cream.

JULY 13 - DR. LOIS NETTLESHIP Patriotism Unitarian style: **What Prominent UU's Thought About Patriotism** As the conclusion to the elections draws ever closer reflection on what constitutes patriotic values and actions becomes one component of the candidate selection process. Since 1991 Dr. Nettleship has taught US History and California History at Fullerton College.

Up2UU orientation following Social Action meeting

JULY 20 - JENNIFER MYERS **Thinking Differently:** Being on the Autism Spectrum" "When her brother was diagnosed with autism, Jennifer didn't know that it would change her entire world. First it led to her own diagnosis with Asperger's Syndrome, then to working with local support groups for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), and further on to articles, talks, and travel around the country speaking to parents, teachers, psychologists, and other professionals about ASDs.

JULY 27 - DR. MIKE STEINER **The Where of Who We Are: Does Place Really Matter** This topic is very timely because "place" is a major determinant of our subjective values and spiritual outlook. Dr. Steiner is a professor of American Studies at Cal State Fullerton

AUGUST 3 - SHEIK MOHAMMED FAQIH

Our minister Jon Dobrer will be on sabbatical for the month of July. He will be available again in August for calls anytime and appointments on Tuesdays and Sundays. He is also available in emergencies and may be reached at (818) 995-7731 or mobile (818) 599-8298.

Thank You

Outgoing UUCF Board

[Out of My Mind – Free at Last](#)

I wept as I drove along listening to the news. Usually, if I tear up at all at the news, they are not tears of joy. Today was different. I was listening to KPCC, the National Public Radio Station out of Glendale and Patt Morrison was featuring gay and lesbian couples who had gotten married today. Some had been together a few years, some ten or fifteen. One will celebrate their 24th anniversary on Saturday, when they plan to make it legal. I was so moved by the stories and felt such a sense of wonder and disbelief. I thought that this day would never come. I thought that society would not adjust sufficiently in my lifetime to embrace a broader understanding of love and marriage.

I thought back to the first same sex union I had conducted back in 1970. When two women asked me to bless their commitment to each other, it never occurred to me to say “No”. There is little enough love in the world, and I was not going to refuse the opportunity of saying “Yes” to their love. No, my blessing was not legal. But now it is, and I am thrilled. I certainly understand why some people are turned off. I know the bible well enough to be familiar with the prohibitions on all kinds of sex acts—not just same sex acts. I also know the bible well enough to believe David when he said that Jonathan’s love was better than a woman’s.

I do understand that except for a select few (and I don’t judge them either) most of us don’t like picturing people in intimate acts. Same sex marriage is not about sex. Marriage is not about sex. It is no longer a kind of driver’s license for sex acts. Sex is available all over the world and with the Internet there is nothing you can’t find. So the people who want to marry, who want to commit to doing the hard work of being together and growing together are motivated by more than physical acts. It is not strange that Mayor Newsome of San Francisco married first a lesbian couple who have been together for over 50 years!

I do not accept the argument that ministers, priests and rabbis will be pulled kicking and screaming from their studies and forced to bless unions against their wills. Religious discrimination is forbidden and no rabbi is compelled to marry a Baptist, no priest is forced to conduct ceremonies for Jews or Methodists. But why should clergy be forbidden from blessing same sex unions by the state. If their denominations want to prohibit it, okay. They can and do prohibit the granting of sacraments in many circumstances. But what is the legitimate interest of the state in this? Strangely many good-hearted people who oppose same sex marriage are more or less okay with civil unions. This is strange because the state actually has a legitimate interest in issues of property, taxing and inheritance. But the state does not have the same legitimate interest in the sacraments.

What I do not understand in the criticism of same sex marriage is how it threatens the institution of marriage, how my marriage or my children’s marriages are put at risk because two people love each other and want the same rights and respect we get automatically with a marriage license. I know that on July 3rd, when I perform my first legal same sex marriage, I will be among those who cry for joy. Jon Dobrer, Minister July, 2008

Update on the Long-Term Lease Proposal

On Sunday, June 15, the congregation voted 67 to 7 in favor of authorizing the board to designate a committee to continue negotiations with Temple Beth Tikvah in regard to the long-term lease. At their June meeting the board discussed how best to choose this committee.

A subset of board members, Will Nettleship, Lesley Mahaffey and Al Danzig will identify candidates who will then be ratified by the board. This team will consist of no more than 7 members, three of whom will be involved in direct negotiations with the Temple. The team will solicit input from church members regarding additional space usage, services or other matters to be considered during the negotiation process.

**Ray Bradbury, “I believe the universe created us –
we are an audience for miracles, in that sense I guess I’m religious.”**

During this last month I have had several occasions to reflect on friendship: how we acquire friends, how friends enlighten and enrich us, and what a gift friends are in our lives.

Lois and I spent some of the month in the East visiting friends. In New York we joined some fifteen other people for a meal humorously called an "FOT dinner". FOT's are Friends of Tim, all of us brought together by a common friendship with a man who was my college roommate. Tim was a musician and a raconteur, and his circles of friends were so disparate that many of us never met until after his death in 2005. What a lively evening with people from theater, literature, music, art, academia, business and church, all sharing thoughts of the passing scene. By common agreement, we toasted Tim at the outset, and then talked of other things because the gift that Tim gave us was a new circle of friends and his own love of life.

Then we went to Boston for the 45th reunion of the Phillips Academy Class of 1963. A different kind of friendship: though we might share intellectual ideas, or might not, we are bonded together by a common experience, four years spent side by side in a pressure cooker school. We care about each other because of that shared experience, whatever our differences might otherwise be. Forty-five years makes one think of passing time, but twice that many years truly puts time in perspective. The assembled reunion classes included a man from the Class of 1918, back for his ninetieth reunion. He is 107 years old, cheerful and thoughtful, an inspiration.

Then we visited friends in the Washington area. One was a retired colleague of Lois's and his wife. He is still full of thoughts and plans, and he shares a common career path. The other a friend of Lois's whom she has known since they were in the sixth grade. She is disabled and not fully mobile, but remarkable for her spiritual balance and insights. She's a sister in soul for Lois.

Finally we returned home, just in time to partake of Tom and Anne Thorward's Pine Nut Festival. There was a large group, and these are friends chosen by their membership in UUCF. It was an evening of excellent food and stimulating conversation. Our friends are truly a gift, and the Church as been a source of friends for us. I wish everyone a happy summer and good times with your friends.

Will Nettleship Incoming UUCF Board President

→→→→→→→→→→ **Up2UU** is being developed to offer multiple services to individuals striving to regain financial independence. This program is being developed under the auspices of Social Action. The mission is to uplift our community's transitory sheltered homeless population through career development and life skills classes.

CareerWise, a group of UU volunteers, is being established to provide the following:

- 1) CAREER COACHING: Resume and application help, interviewing and networking skills, education and high school completion
- 2) TRAINING: Tutoring: GED/high school, computer skills
- 3) LIFE SKILL CLASSES at the shelters cover: Budgeting, low-cost, quick meals, parenting, cooperative childcare, financial planning, group therapy and exercise

Our Social Action Committee has provided **CareerWise** with cell phone service for appointment set up or immediate assistance. Kathey Schuster is spearheading **Up2UU** and will host an orientation session on July 13 at 12:15PM in the sanctuary following our regular Social Action Committee Meeting. Following the orientation, Ms. Schuster will set up training sessions for specialized areas. **Now it's Up2UU ↑↑↑↑↑**



[Foreign Foods Friday](#) group will take a summer hiatus for the months of July and August. The next meeting will be September 26. In the coming year we will be revisiting some of the cuisines we have enjoyed in the past, as well as one or two of the restaurants that many of us have especially enjoyed these past two years. As usual, suggestions are welcome for new places for us to try.

Welcome to the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey

<http://religions.pewforum.org/?gclid=CLL6oe7x5JECFQjSHgodd2t5iw>

Based on interviews with more than 35,000 American adults, this extensive survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life details the religious makeup, religious beliefs and practices as well as social and political attitudes of the American public. A few highlights are in the newsletter; go to the web page for full reports.

A major survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that most Americans have a non-dogmatic approach to faith... This openness to a range of religious viewpoints is in line with the great diversity of religious affiliation, belief and practice that exists in the United States..

This is not to suggest that Americans do not take religion seriously...the *Survey* also shows that more than half of Americans say religion is very important in their lives; attend religious services regularly and pray daily. Furthermore, a plurality of adults who are affiliated with a religion want their religion to preserve its traditional beliefs and practices rather than either adjust to new circumstances or adopt modern beliefs and practices. Moreover, significant minorities across nearly all religious traditions see a conflict between being a devout person and living in a modern society.

Religion in America: Non-Dogmatic, Diverse and Politically Relevant

The Landscape Survey confirms the close link between Americans' religious affiliation, beliefs and practices, on the one hand, and their social and political attitudes, on the other. Indeed, the survey demonstrates that the social and political fault lines in American society run through, as well as alongside, religious traditions. The relationship between religion and politics is particularly strong with respect to political ideology and views on social issues such as abortion and homosexuality, with the more religiously committed adherents across several religious traditions expressing more conservative political views. On other issues included in the survey, such as environmental protection, foreign affairs, and the proper size and role of government, differences based on religion tend to be smaller.

Most Americans agree with the statement that many religions – not just their own – can lead to eternal life. Among those who are affiliated with a religious tradition, seven-in-ten say many religions can lead to eternal life. This view is shared by a majority of adherents in nearly all religious traditions, including more than half of members of evangelical Protestant churches (57%). Only among Mormons (57%) and Jehovah's Witnesses (80%) do majorities say that their own religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life.

Most Americans also have a non-dogmatic approach when it comes to interpreting the tenets of their own religion. For instance, more than two-thirds of adults affiliated with a religious tradition agree that there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their faith, a pattern that occurs in nearly all traditions. The exceptions are Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, 54% and 77% of whom, respectively, say there is only one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion.

[Judi McEvers Is Moving On](#) Long-time UUCF member, Judi McEvers, is leaving our congregation for the UU group in San Jacinto. Judi joined our church in 1980 after she and her late husband, Dick, were married. He was one of our very early members, joining in the 1960s. While the McEvers were living locally they were very active and Judi, among other things, was the coordinator for the service associates. Dick built the nametag cart which we still are using. In 1998 they moved to Riverside County. Judi had maintained her connection with our congregation although the distance has prevented her from attending very often. From 2002 until very recently she had been maintaining the list of people who get the church newsletter by mail and had been preparing the mailing labels for them. **Thank you Judi** you have been one of the pillars of UUCF.

[The Sierra Club](#) has released its first-ever national faith appreciation report, "[Faith in Action: Communities of Faith Bring Hope for the Planet.](#)" Highlighting fifty exceptional faith-based environmental initiatives, one from each of state, the report illustrates the growing momentum of the "creation care" movement and recognizes local leaders.

[ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS NOW BEING HELD BEFORE CHURCH SERVICE, AT 9:00 AM, ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.](#) The next session will be on July 13 on the "Jefferson Bible" and will be conducted by Jim Fyke. On August 10 a session on "The Manichean Influence on Western Religious Thought" will be conducted by Ed Tschabrun. Further sessions in the series will deal with subjects relating to religious thought, UU history, philosophy and mental health issues. Contact Ed Tschabrun for more details.

New Interest Group!!! [Mindfulness Meditation Group](#) meets every Wednesday at 7 PM. Location changes. If you are interested in group meditation, plan to attend. This is an open group. All are welcome. Beginners welcome. Contact Geri McNenny, the presenter of the June Adult RE program for more information.

Religious Education NEWS

Did you know that you wouldn't be alive today if ancient stars had not died and blown apart? Even the Earth would not exist. You are made of star-stuff! Star-stuff is all the chemical elements that were inside stars that died. These exploding stars hurled their elements out into space in gigantic clouds of dust and gas. Then over time, some of these elements formed the Earth and the Sun. Some of that star-stuff ended up in YOU!

Stargazing presents a unique opportunity to experience the mystery and wonder of life that we are all a part. Our modern scientific understanding and technology do not diminish the awesomeness of the universe. If anything, such knowledge enhances the magnificence of all creation, and calls even more for our care and attention.

Tanabata: A Legend of Star-Crossed Lovers

*The Church of the Larger Fellowship - **Summer Connections**, May 2002*

Before the days of modern astronomy, stargazers made up stories to give meaning to what they saw in the skies. One such legend, which comes from China, grew into a festival, which is celebrated each summer in Japan. The festival is called Tanabata and the legend goes like this:

Long ago, when the world was young, one bright star from the constellation of the Eagle came down to Earth disguised as a cowherd. He was the star, Altair. One day Altair heard a voice saying, "See those seven maidens bathing in the stream? The loveliest one is Vega, brightest star in the constellation of the Harp. She and her six sisters weave the garments of the gods, and have left their looms to come down to bathe in this stream."

Altair looked and saw the lovely Vega. Her beauty and grace charmed him, and so it was that the herdsman and the waving maiden fell in love. For three years the star people lived happily together on the beautiful earth. Meanwhile the loom of heaven was neglected; no garments were woven for the gods.

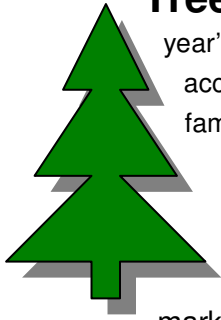
The heavenly herds wandered untended. Greatly angered, the gods ordered the couple to return at once to their heavenly duties. But neither Altair nor Vega obeyed, for they cherished their earthly lives. In a fit of fury the Heavenly Mother-in-Law

took out her great silver hairpin and swiftly drew through the heavens a line that caused a turbulent river to separate the lovers. So swift and treacherous were the waters that neither could cross. They were forced to live on opposite sides of the river that became known as the Milky Way.

For years and years the tragic lovers grieved for one another. Finally the story of their longing reached the Jade Emperor on his heavenly throne and, in his mercy, he decreed that on one day of each year, on the seventh day of the seventh moon when their constellations drew near together, the pair could be reunited. The birds in their joy flew up to create a bridge for Vega to cross to Altair. And so it still happens that each year, on the 7th of July, the people of Japan hold the romantic and joyous festival of Tanabata in honor the reunited couple.

Tree Planting Thank You

A huge thank you goes out to the Johnson family for organizing this year's tree planting ceremony at Carbon Canyon Regional Park. After moving the dates around a bit to accommodate other events on the church's calendar, June 1st prove to be the **perfect** date. Thanks to all the families who attended and made this one of the best intergenerational events!



YRUU Beach Bonfire

Christina Garner once again pulled a rabbit out of her hat and hosted a magical night for teens to mark the end of the school year. School papers being ceremoniously tossed into the flames fueled the huge bonfire. As one teen put it, "Other fires may have been bigger, but we were the only group with a fire juggler!" Is there anything that Ms. Garner cannot do? Thank you, Christina for making this a memorable event! Be sure to check e-mails for more YRUU events this summer.

Religious Education for July This summer, we are pleased to announce three summer programs, each tailored for specific age groups. The pre-school and elementary-age program focuses on our seventh principle and reminds us all that we are part of a wonderful web of life through hands-on science fun. Junior high youth will continue discussions on religious freedom and how connections to the world and the web of life sustain us on our spiritual journey. High school teens will meet as a group to discuss current events and participate in the regular adult service. Childcare will be provided for children through three years of age.

- **July 6th: You're Saved by Something Green / Who's in Charge?**
- **July 13th: The Awesome Thing About Poop and Pee / Learning from Others**
- **July 20th: More Awesome Stuff About Poop and Pee / Thinkers and Doers**
- **July 27th: If There Were No Bugs to Bug You / Adult Service**

Congratulations Aaron!



We celebrate with Aaron Stark the transition from youth as he bridges to young adulthood. We wish Aaron the best as he begins a new chapter in his life at Occidental College. As Aaron temporarily leaves our congregation, we hope that Aaron will continue to learn from us and teach us with the wisdom he accumulates along the way.

UUCF REGULAR CALENDAR EVENTS

Interest Group/Activity	Schedule*	Contact Person	Location
Lunch Bunch:	Sunday 12:30PM After the service	Pat Woodhull	Marie Callender's Placentia
<u>Fuddy Duddies</u>	1st Monday 9:30AM	<u>Jan Lillibridge</u>	Rotating
Women's Wisdom Circle	1st & 3rd Monday 7PM	<u>Barbara Keller</u>	Rotating
Investment Club	3rd Monday 7PM	Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull	Contact Gwen for location
Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	1st Tuesday	Marlies Worley or Rev. Jon Dobrer canceled July	See Sunday Announcements
3 rd Tuesday Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	3rd Tuesday 7 PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer canceled July	Temple
All Soul's Potluck & Salon Discussion group	4th Tuesday Potluck 5:30PM Salon 6:30PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer canceled July	Temple Social Hall
Men's Lunch Group	Alternating Wed. & Thurs. 11:45AM	Brad Woodhull	Carrows in Fullerton
Choir Practice	Every Thurs. 7PM (also Sunday 9 AM)	Judi Herz	Temple
Red Hat Society	Once a month	Fran Doble	See Sunday Announcements
Bridge Night	3 rd Friday 7PM	Claude Coppel	Contact Claude for location
Circle Suppers	2nd Sat. (times vary) (Oct., Jan., Mar., May)	Mary Rhodes	Rotating
Foreign Foods Friday	4th Friday	Lou Arnwine No FFF this summer	Contact Lou for restaurant
Adult Religious Education	2 nd Sunday at 9 AM	Ed Tschabrun	Upstairs classroom at Temple
Social Action Committee Meeting	2 nd Sunday after the service	Anne Thorward or Patrick Barbush	Sanctuary

Always check monthly church calendar (on the website) and announcements in the Order Of Service for exact time and location of events. There are occasional changes. Announcements will usually give you more details about the groups or you can ask the individuals listed above. If any of this information is incorrect please contact Donnette Guiltinan. Last update: 6/08.

July 5th The Red Hat Society aka "Fullerton Fluuzies" will take the Metrolink train from Orange to San Juan Capistrano. We are leaving from the City of Orange metro station. New members always welcome. We will depart at 10am and have lunch at Sarducci's on the patio and then tour Old Town in our bright finery. Call Queen Mother Fran Doble so we can count you in.

July 14: New Vista Open House and Tour. New Vista Transitional Living Center, the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services temporary housing complex for families with children, will offer an Open House Tour to UUCF congregants on July 14 at 10 AM. New Vista houses up to 13 families for a period of 3-6 months. The program provides all basic necessities of home, including furniture, clothing, bedding, food, and child care as well as life skills classes and career counseling. Please join us to learn more about their program and to see where qualified clients live. The address is 514

W. Amerige Ave., Fullerton. You will have an opportunity to sign up for the tour on **July 6**, after our church service in the social hall.

☀️ Please check circle and return if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

UUCF Phone Numbers President: Will Nettleship Board members: Al Danzig, Catherine Gallaher
Lesley Mahaffey, Gloria May, Susan Perlson, Tom Stark, Tom Thorward, Ed Tschabrun

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

Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick livelihood@msn.com
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