

The UUCF

September 2008

CommUUnicator

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

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.



[Jon Dobrer, Minister](#)



Labor Day Parade Main Street, Buffalo, New York, circa 1900

Sept 2: Movie [Swing Vote](#), see on your own /Dinner

Sept 7: UUCF teens will present a special sermon honoring our labor union heroes, past and present, as we remember the first Labor Day.

Sept 8: Note date change: [The Women's Wisdom Circle](#) 7 PM at the home of Barbara Keller. "Is it ethical to spend a lot of money on a pet when so many children are suffering?"

Sept 9: Board Meeting

Sept. 13 Annual Fall Potluck "Round Up" Feel free to "Go Western" for this round up!!



**Sept 14: Sermon: The Waters of Life!
(Water Communion—bring water from vacation)**

Sept 21: Sermon: Being a Religious Liberal in an Illiberal Age

Sept 23: All Souls Potluck & Salon: The great issues before us as a nation

Sept 28: Meditation, Theatre & the Wisdom of Boredom

UUCF to Receive "Assessment Visit"

The UUCF board has asked a professional facilitator from the UUA, a person with experience in helping other UU churches plan for their future, to help gauge the overall health and strength of our congregation. The assessment visit, planned for the weekend of October 17-19, will involve our board, minister, committee members and the congregation as a whole. Meetings will take place in individual homes and at the Temple.



We would like everyone, from our longest term to our newest members to participate. We want to hear from everyone. We want to consider all of the church's activities. After the visit, our consultant will produce a report with her findings and recommendations of possible "next steps". This report will be made available to everyone.

Please save the dates October 17-19, and plan to take part in this important process. For further information, contact UUCF president Will Nettleship or board member Lesley Mahaffey.

Out of My Mind – How I Spent My Summer Vacation



Well, this was the topic of the first essay of the year virtually every year when I was in school. It still works (I hope). The easy response is simple: I lived. Not bad and while that may seem a low bar, there really aren't any bars more personally important and, of course, necessary to the writing of an essay.

My summer project was getting my new book in shape and ready for publication. This third collection of essays in the Out of My Mind series is made up of pieces mainly from our own Fullerton Observer and select columns from the Los Angeles Daily News. This edition will have thirty-one essays—a few are funny, others middleweight examinations of our societal peccadilloes and some fairly heavy pieces about life and death, science and faith.

Now you might think (as I once thought) that nothing could be easier than just throwing a bunch of previously written essays into a collection. However, selecting 31 pieces from the over two hundred I've written since my last collection is daunting. Then selecting out those that just caught an isolated piece of time and trying to find those, what we call, "evergreens" that maintain value. But, as they say on TV game shows, "That's not all!" There is also re-editing, more fact checking and shaping. Then proofing, re-proofing and fighting second thoughts.

This being an election season, I also kept writing and trying to keep up and understand our political theatre and national psychodrama. Then there was responding to the mail from fans and non-fans. I have found that there is an inverse relationship between vitriolic anger towards me and spelling ability. Most fan mail is well written and most hate mail looks like it was done in crayon by a drunken monkey. One develops thick skin (in all my fields of endeavor).

Most importantly, I got to go up north and see my two granddaughters, and then they came down to visit us in Newport Beach, along with all our other grandchildren. One night we had 12 people sleeping in our three room (not three bedrooms!) suite. It was chaos and completely wonderful. Our vacation was brought to an early end with the early arrival of our new granddaughter Tali Eva Schnider!

To balance all this over the top joy, I did get food poisoning from an oyster. My doctor, showing little sympathy, wondered if I might be ready to go kosher and give up shellfish (I'm nearly ready) and asked, rhetorically, where the "R" was in July? It was probably the food poisoning that led to my heart deciding to rumba instead of waltz. But my doctors assure me that I'm fine, and I'll believe them. Though I was struck by the professional insight that saying "Don't worry," doesn't seem to be the therapy for anxiety.

I guess that I actually stated the bottom line on my summer vacation at the start: I lived.
It's good to be back. It's good simply to be.

Jon

A quote from William Blake, British poet and trouble-maker:
"Prudence is a rich, ugly old maid courted by incapacity."
Submitted by Barbara Kellar

Lois and I frequently visit the Getty Museum, and this month we saw the exhibit of the portrait busts of Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680), the great Baroque sculptor. This exhibit brought to mind ideas about empathy.

The exhibit is on a seemingly modest scale: just portrait heads, perhaps two dozen in all, plus a few paintings and drawings. It's sometimes said that Bernini invented the portrait bust. Strictly speaking this not true, since fifteen hundred years earlier the sculptors of Rome also made busts that displayed the appearance of the patron. But apart from those ancient sculptors, Bernini was the first to concern himself with how a particular person looked and above all with the state of mind of that particular person. Until then, for the most part, sculptors had made types: gods and goddesses or warriors, kings, sages and athletes, all shown as they should be and not as normal people actually are. This was art that treated the particular as an imperfect example of what was sought: the perfect.

Bernini's heads, on the other hand, are real people, all too human with strengths and shortcomings alike on display. The subjects are for the most part princes and popes of the Roman Church in the Counter Reformation era. Far from giving them a saintly gloss or picturing them as embodiments of their roles as churchmen, Bernini shows them to be the shrewd strivers that they no doubt were. Perhaps Bernini himself was just such a person.

One of the most interesting displays is a bust by Bernini and a nearby bust of the same man by another sculptor. Both are equally well done from the point of view of realism, what the man looked like, but Bernini's bust better shows the character and emotional life of the sitter, while the other is more a picture in marble of how the person looked. What is it that gives the Bernini bust its extra vitality, a quality that we can see but not readily explain? I would say that it is Bernini's showing us the state of mind of the sitter bringing out in us an empathy that we normally reserve for a living person.

It seems to me that what makes our church work is the support we give one another. While there are many differences between religion and art, something that is common to both is the gift of empathy. The exhibit is on until October 26th.

Will Nettleship UUCF Board President

LEARN WHAT OUR LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS DO AT UUCF

Sunday, Sept. 21 please come to services and hear more about what we do and how we are together in community. After the service we will have many tables set up in the Social Hall giving information



about our church, our ministry to one another and those outside our doors. What does our Membership Committee do? What is Social Action involved in? What is the Women's Wisdom Circle, the Red Hat Society, Foreign Food Friday? What Is the Sunshine Committee and what do they do? Do you want to come and learn more about Religious Education? This is the place to be!!!

For those of you who wish to simply ask questions, please come and delight in our community and the efforts we make together. For those wishing to have a segment of table to present your committee or interest group information, PLEASE let me know so there is ample room for everyone.

Marlies Worley, Volunteer Recognition & Support

CIRCLE SUPPER PROGRAM – REGISTER AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS



What's a circle supper? A long-standing tradition of UUCF and many other UU congregations is the circle supper. This small-group, in-home potlucks bring friends, newcomers, and members of the community together for a unique opportunity to share food and to get better acquainted. Generally those participating in the circle supper program take a turn as host, though it is not a firm requirement

When are they held? Eight to ten simultaneous potlucks are scheduled on the second Saturday of the month, five times a year. Please calendar these dates now: October 11, January 10, March 14, May 9 and June 13.

What's involved in being a host? Hosts are sent a guest list several weeks in advance, from which they invite as many as can be accommodated at their table. The host plans with guests what to bring (appetizer, main dish, salad, bread, dessert, wine). On occasion a host may prefer to arrange with the invitees an alternate date or different format (e.g., breakfast, picnic). After setting the table, the hosts can sit back and let the party come to them!

What's my role as a guest? Respond promptly when a host calls. Determine what to bring and in what quantity. Jot down the date and address and phone number of the party. Should your plans change, notify the host ASAP. Go and have a great time, make new friends but keep the old!

How do I sign up? Mary Rhodes is coordinating the suppers this year, she is also developing a brand new database, so contact her to let her know you'd like to be included. Though the suppers will be adult-only, we do look forward to parents participating with us. This is a very rewarding program for seasoned as well as new congregants alike and we look forward to a large, active participation.

Up2UU UpDate

Thank UU Volunteers!

Food Budget

Two of our youth developed a grocery-price research project to help shelter residents make purchasing decisions *Volunteers:* Michael Poole and Paige Mahaffey

Hot Line

The SAC provided Up2UU with a hotline that lets local homeless people make appointments with career support volunteers. *Special thanks:* Doris Dressler-Clark and Donnette Gultinan

Career Wise

This Up2UU group focuses on helping people find work and develop the basic skills.

Skills assessment, resume writing, interview coaching, job search: Dana Bianco, Donnette Gultinan, Doris Dressler-Clark, Randi Hetrick, Justice

Life skills classes: Paige Mahaffey, Paula Spiro, Jeanne Preble (group and private counseling), Lynne Spencer

High School subject tutors (GED exam prep): Jim Fyke, Claude Coppel, Barbara Keller,

Life skills classes: Paige Mahaffey, Paula Spiro, Jeanne Preble

Computer skills tutors: Mary Botts, Marcia Taylor

Others who have offered help

Barbara Cutts, The Lau Pavlicek Family, Art Partridge, Bill Pryor, Alice Dyer, Catherine Gallaher, Gladys Sharp, Jim Antonow, Patrick Barbush, Gina, The Bryants, Carolyn Champagne

In addition, many have donated greatly-appreciated teaching supplies and equipment.

Foreign Foods Friday To quote Erma Bombeck, "I am not a glutton--I am an explorer of foods,".

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This UUCF group starts its third year of exploring foreign food restaurants in our area on September 26. At the recommendation of Alice Dyer, the fourth your place. Everyone is welcome Friday of September will find us at New Koruba, Thai Cuisine, The Authentic Thai Food, 5031 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Anaheim. We will gather there at 7pm for food and fellowship. Sign up in the Social Hall after church beginning on September 7, or call Lou Arnwine to reserve.

FIES will host the annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser on September 28 at Angelo and Vinci's Ristorante, 550 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton this year on Sept. 28. This will mark the 15th year for the event with dinners generously donated by owner, Cynthia Peck. The Social Hour and Silent Auction will begin at 4:30PM, the Welcome and Dinner will begin at 5:45PM and the Live Auction, called by the inimitable and dynamic Henry Jones, will begin at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$60 per person. Seating is limited! Call the FIES main office at 714 680-3691 or contact Doris Dressler-Clark at the Coffee/FIES table after church for tickets or res.



And speaking of the coffee table, don't forget the availability of great products, it generates some fundraising, supports small farmers with equitable compensation for products produced and pays for the superior coffee we now drink for all socializing.

FIES continues its Bed, Bag and Beyond program. There are 13,000 homeless children in Orange County. Approximately 24,000 parents and their children are homeless in Orange County on any night! The mission of FIES, Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services, is to reduce or eliminate hunger and homelessness. Thanks to generous Community Supporters, a dollar for dollar matching grant for the first \$15,000 of a \$100,000 goal will make your donation go twice as far. Your financial support is critically needed. Donation checks may be made to "Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service". Doris Dressler-Clark, our UU representative to the FIES board, will accept your donations during the month of September after church services at the "Fair Trade Coffee/FIES" table in the Social Hall. Checks may also be sent directly to FIES, P.O. Box 6326, Fullerton, CA 92834 with the designation BBB on the bottom of your check.

Pathways to Partnership - update on becoming a partnership church or UUPCC drags its feet again! The new (and very much evolving) Paths program is designed to allow for programs that are manageable by smaller groups within a congregation, and thus to get more UUs connected to international UUs.

Cathy Cordes, UUPCC informed some of us very interested in advancing the agenda of UUPCC, "We will be holding information sessions this fall and winter in various regions of the country to let people know about these programs. Paths to Partnership have several critical components above and beyond our customary emphasis on congregation-to-congregation partnership:

- family to student education/scholarship sponsorship of children in orphanages;
- UUPCC sponsored travel to meet and learn more about UUs around the world;
- support of established microfinance programs that include financial training and lending circles, partnership for community organizing and planning (community capacity building program);
- traditional long-term church-to-church partnerships;
- a "bricks-and-mortar" fund for building UU church buildings around the world.

This program will have a long lead time to develop and we do not expect funds to be available for at least 2 – 3 years. "

African congregations have not been included in the planning to date. UUPCC needs to hear from us to encourage the coordinators to include African congregations in the initial stages of planning and to provide the leadership to begin the process of partnering with an African congregation.

<http://www.uupcc.org/partnership.htm>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS UU CAN USE

What do you know about Labor Day? For a lot of kids in the US, the only thing you might associate with it is that it marks the end of your summer vacation. Which kind of makes sense, since "labor" means work, and many kids go back to school (work) around Labor Day.



Labor Day is really about honoring workers, and the important campaigns for workers' rights that have been carried out by labor unions across the years. Matthew Maguire, a machinist from Paterson, New Jersey, and Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter from New York are credited with suggesting a day to honor working people. They started the first Labor Day parade in New York City in 1882. And it was a man called Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, who did much to make organized labor respected. He is remembered with other contemporary labor leaders, like César Chávez and Dolores Huerta on Labor Day.

Ramadan, **رمضان** is a Muslim religious observance that takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, believed to be the month in which the Qur'an began to be revealed. This year it begins on September 2ed. It is a time for Muslims to focus on purifying their soul through prayer and self-sacrifice. During Ramadan, more than a **billion** Muslims around the world observe one of the Five Pillars (duties) of Islam: Fasting, choosing not to eat or even drink water is an ancient and important spiritual practice. Children, pregnant women and the sick don't have to fast; but it is common for kids to skip a meal while their parents are fasting for the entire day. Once the sun goes down the fast is broken and people stay up late into the night eating and being with friends and family.

Another one of the Five Pillars of the Muslim religion is called "zakat," which means giving to the poor. Although Muslims are encouraged to share with the poor all through the year, the end of Ramadan is a special time when everyone in the Muslim community is expected to give 2.5 percent of their income to charity. Does your family give a percentage of its income to the UUCF and/or other charities?

Of course, adults don't have to be the only ones to share their money with those in need. Do you earn money through a job, babysitting or doing chores? Do you get an allowance? If you have money coming in, you can certainly figure out a percentage to give to an organization in your community such as a food bank or shelter for the homeless that helps those in need. 2.5 percent of a couple of dollars a week or month may not seem like much, but if everyone contributes a little, it can add up to a lot. In our country we have a saying, "time is money", and giving of one's time is another generous act that helps others and makes us feel good for helping to make someone's life better.

Religious Education for September

The summer program has been extended to run through September. Parents, please look for registration packets in early-September. We are hoping for 100% registration this year. If everyone registers by October 5th, the first day of the fall program, we'll have an Ice Cream Sundae party to celebrate! (Some bribes or baksheesh do help get the job done!)

R.E. September Weather Report: Hailstones weighing up to 1.67 pounds fell in Coffeyville, Kansas on September 3, 1970, setting a world record!

UUCF REGULAR CALENDAR EVENTS

Interest Group/Activity	Schedule*	Contact Person	Location
Lunch Bunch:	Sunday 12:30PM After the service	Pat Woodhull	Marie Callender's Placencia
<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> Sept. circle will be 2ed and 4th Monday	Rotating
Investment Club	3rd Monday 7PM	Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull	Contact Gwen for location
Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	1st Tuesday Swing Vote	Marlies Worley or Rev. Jon Dobrer	See Sunday Announcements
3 rd Tuesday Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	3rd Tuesday 7 PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer	Temple
All Soul's Potluck & Salon Discussion group	4th Tuesday Potluck 5:30PM Salon 6:30PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer	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 Resumes in October	Rotating
Foreign Foods Friday	4th Friday	Lou Arnwine	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 Gultinan. Last update: 6/08.



There remains interest in reviving the drumming circle, if you are interested contact Judy Herz or Randi Hetrick, if you have some background in drumming your assistance would be profoundly appreciated.

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, for more information.

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

UUCF Board: 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 theCommUUnicator is NOON, SEPTEMBER 18th.

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

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