

# The UUCF CommUUnicator

## December, 2008

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



**December 2** First Tuesday Movie/Dinner Group: Milk (*The Harvey Milk story*)

**December 6:** *Holiday Dinner* **There** will be special music, a catered dinner and family entertainment.

**December 7:** Laughter and Tears, Jon Dobrer Following the service Jon will read, sell and sign his new book: *Out of My Mind: Memory, Morals & Mortality*

**December 9:** Implementing the Consultant's Report Discussion for All (7 PM Downstairs at Church)

**December 14:** Gifts Worth Giving, Jon Dobrer 9 AM Adult RE, Raphe Margolin will present an overview of mental illness including ways to understand, support and advocate for the mentally ill.

**December 20:** Longest Night, Fullerton Interfaith Service, Jon Dobrer is participating in this annual service we share with our greater community



**December 21:** The Holidays of Light, Jon Dobrer

**December 24:** **Candles, Carols, and Cookies** Come join us for a special UU Christmas Eve family service on Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. If you have a short special holiday reading (2-3 minutes in length) that you would like to share, please call Judi Herz with the information. Everyone is invited to bring a plate of cookies/brownies (finger food).

**December 28** Madrigal choral music of the renaissance by The Paul Delgado Singers – a fine group of local musicians dedicated to sharing the beauty of choral art with the world"

**January 4, 2009** "Reflections on the New Year by Rev. Ellen Livingston, Minister Emerita, Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Montclair."



**JOIN IN THE SECOND ANNUAL UU CHURCH OF FULLERTON HOLIDAY ORCHESTRA/BAND** - all ages & all abilities welcome! Beginners to professionals please join in the fun. Youth and teenagers especially encouraged to participate. Call Anne Thorward & let her know what you play. Rehearsals TBA & began late Nov.

Our minister, Jon Dobrer, will be gone from December 22nd until January 3, 2009. Until December 22nd he is available for calls or at least e-mails 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.

## Out of My Mind: Wow!

**Jon Dobrer, Minister**

Okay, I know that in most religions pride is a sin. Thank goodness I'm not orthodox. I am just so proud of this congregation, this beloved community. Time and again you come through, pull together and reach out—all at the same time!

When there is need, you are there with rides, with help, with building and cleaning, sometimes with money. You are there with covered dishes and errands. We say every week that "Service is our prayer," and there you are, praying in the form of active love.

When these fires struck so close, there you were—with calls, offers of rides, of refuge. Over 17 families came forward to open their homes to any who might have been evacuated or just had to get out because of the bad air. You opened your eyes to the problem, your hearts to the plight of so many and your homes.

There are too many people to name and thank, but thanks to all who stepped forward, who coordinated communications, jumped into Sunshine Committee with both feet, kept me informed, called people in peril to check on them and offered prayer in the form of service.

I know people have trouble defining and understanding UUs. But as the great philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein wrote: Don't think. Look! We try to put our beliefs into action. We try to incarnate our values in our lives—particularly as they touch the lives of others.

All I can say is Wow! I am so proud, so sinfully (but not guiltily) proud.

Rev. Jon Dobrer



A PSWD Fire Relief Fund has been set up to help people who might have financial needs related to the fire. If you have been evacuated and need help to purchase incidentals or pay for a hotel, they can help you. Contact the PSWD directly at 805-485-1780. Or you can contact Rev. Jon Dobrer at 818-995-7731.

**The Cold Weather Armory Program** in Fullerton provides shelter for, and services to, about 100 individuals each night throughout the 120 days winter program. The program is in effect from December 5, 2008 through April 15, 2009. The opening was delayed by three weeks, tough for those in need indeed. You don't need to sign up, just show up at the Armory, 400 S. Brookhurst. If you have clothing or toiletries to donate and won't be coming to the Armory, you can bring them to church on Sundays and give them to Lou Arnwine and/or Patrick Barbush.

**What food banks need most** – Cash, Proteins, Soups and stews, Rice and pasta, Cereal, including oatmeal, Canned vegetables, including tomatoes and tomato sauce, Canned or dried beans and peas reflecting local ethnic community staples. Canned fruits. Fruit juice (canned, plastic or boxed). Prepared box mixes, Shelf-stable milk.



### **Make a Holiday Wish Come True**

The abused boys and girls of **Crittenton Services** rely on the kindness of strangers to make their holiday wishes come true. Contact UUCF member Lesley Mahaffey during the coffee hour to choose from a list of these children's wishes. Then bring the wrapped, tagged gift to church by December 7th. Lesley will deliver all gifts to Crittenton. Thank you for your generosity!

In November Lois and I went to Camp de Benneville Pines together with people from our congregation and UU's from the Las Vegas church. There was also a group of Native Americans at the camp and the UU's could enjoy hearing them gather in a circle to practice their chants.

On Sunday morning there was a service lead by Juana and Judi with readings by Tom and Jim. I found this moving. It was a spirited occasion with everyone joining in and having a good time. We sang some of the old hymns that everyone knows, we listened to the readings that called our attention to the spiritual issues that are at the heart of our religion, and then we retired to the social hall for a pleasant brunch. But it was also moving to me for another reason.

My step-father worked as an engineer for the National Park Service, and I spent much of my childhood in such places as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Glacier Park and Devil's Tower. The settlements where we lived were in their appearance and numbers something like Camp de Benneville: cabins for living, a ranger headquarters, sheds for equipment, and a social hall, all with a population of about forty five souls. Since the nearest town for supplies was usually 80 miles away, we were isolated from the larger world. At that time in the 1950's and early 1960's we could not receive television reception or even radio broadcasts, and so we were thrown upon our own resources for company and entertainment. We sometimes had church services in the social hall. Occasionally there was a visiting minister, but typically we put together the services on our own. Since in a community of forty-five there were never enough of any one denomination to make a majority, these services were non-denominational and non-doctrinal. All were welcome equally. The services were not religious indoctrination, but rather a chance to listen, to speak, to sing, to take a break from the work-a-day week's activities or schooling (sometimes home schooling).

On Sunday morning, sitting in the coffee house at Camp de Benneville, looking out the windows at the lacy pines and the distant canyon vistas, it all came back to me and I found myself thinking that perhaps I have been a UU since my childhood, thinking of religion as an opportunity for people to be together in order to quietly think about our lives, where we come from and where we might go.

The fires in Brea and Yorba Linda that started that same weekend remind us that Orange County, like de Benneville Pines, is after all just a clearing in the wilderness. Orange County's cities are a large clearing true, but like all such openings in the wilderness still vulnerable to nature's power to threaten. As in our mountain camp, so in our homes every day, our church can bring us together to make us friends and neighbors helping one another.

Will Nettleship UUCF Board President

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I am an NBA fan. The season started Tuesday night and the Boston Celtics were given their championship rings. On them is inscribed the word:"ubuntu." "UBUNTU" means, "Umuntu Ngumintu Ngabantu"--literally translated: - "a person is a person through other human beings (I am because you are, you are because we are)." Neville Bews  
(Submitted by Linda Crowder) Ubuntu is from the Bantu language in South Africa RH-editor

### CHOOSE JUSTICE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thinking about holiday gifts? Our Fair Trade Coffee Project is a one - stop shop. Give a gift basket of coffees, teas, chocolates, cocoa and nuts to your employees, your teachers, your boss, friends, neighbors and relatives. Your gifts support fair prices for farmers, sustainable agriculture, and community development. Everyone benefits!



Place your Holiday Gift Order with Doris Dressler-Clark by November 30 for you to create your baskets mid December.

**“A ‘New and Native’ Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene”** is on view from Oct. 18 through Jan. 26, 2009, in the Mary Lou and George Boone Gallery at The Huntington... “Charles and Henry Greene believed architecture to be no less than a design language for life, imbuing their houses and furnishings with an expressive sensitivity for geography, climate, landscape, and lifestyle.” The UU Neighborhood church in Pasadena is a Greene and Greene building, this is a very rare opportunity to see so much of their work. .January 23ed some UUCF members and friends will be going as a group, we will be eligible for a group discount with fifteen or more participants. Contact Randi Hetrick if you wish to join us.

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?**

- Dentist's Hymn..... Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn..... There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn..... The Church is One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn..... Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn..... There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn..... Standing on the Promises!
- Optometrist's Hymn..... Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn..... I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn..... Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn..... Send The Light
- The Shopper's Hymn..... Sweet Bye and Bye
- The Realtor's Hymn..... I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
- The Massage Therapist's Hymn..... He Touched Me
- The Doctor's Hymn..... The Great Physician

**Bridges into Africa** Pre-report from Janice Brunson before she leaves for Africa



UUCF will provide \$500.00 for the fellowship in Burundi primarily for the lay minister to expand revenue generating enterprises with Janice Brunson’s supervision. We are fortunate to have a liaison to mentor and monitor, an outcome that has not developed with the Partnership Church Program.

I will carry \$8,000+ to Africa, money that has been laboriously raised dollar by dollar from UU congregations in Arizona, Washington D.C., Colorado, California and other states, and from friends and colleagues. Of this total, \$1,500 is from the UU congregation in South Berkshire, to be used specifically on a development project aimed at children who have been orphaned by AIDS. I also hope to have an additional \$3,000 which was pledged this past summer by a UU couple in California, to double the size of the date oil production in Burundi.

All money finances development projects that provide jobs and income to individual UU congregations in Africa. All projects are generated by individual congregations who come up with ideas, suggestions and recommendations during long conversations. Projects are funded only after research confirms financial viability. To date, everything has succeeded, although some more than others. For example, the cow in Manga provided milk for the poor and for sale, had a calf and then died when refugees during the 07 violence took refuge with their animals where our cows were herded. Ours died. We now have two new cows there, thanks to two men from the Glendale UU church in Arizona.

The primary projects include the purchase of a van to provide transportation services in Nairobi, a mill to process grains in Nairobi, fish farms in rural Kenya, vegetable gardens and maize farming in Kenya, cow, rabbit and chicken breeding in Kenya and date oil production in Burundi.

Most projects are in Kenya because we have many, many small congregations there and I have spent the most time in-country, nearly three months total, and another month between January and February. This is also the most difficult country to work with. There are competing forces, all clamoring for money and power, and this has caused me to severely limit who I will now work with in Kenya.

New projects will not be funded until I arrive in Africa and then, working with individual congregations, we will fund only those that hold the most promise for success. I will also assess existing projects, both as to productivity and confirming how many are being assisted. The goal is jobs and income to extremely impoverished people. No one project has generated enough income to worry about distribution to the community. All funds are now used for salaries with the solitary exception of Burundi where profit from the date oil pays the monthly Internet connection the congregation owns.

Only one project has involved construction of a church building, an open air structure of tent poles with canvass roof in Ruai, a slum just outside Nairobi. This was funded by a UU couple in Sedona, Arizona. We hope to start a chicken/egg breeding project among orphaned Kenyan children with the money from South Berkshire. A UU woman in Arizona and a California woman each donated \$500, which will hopefully be enough to open two day care centers, one in each of the Nigerian churches in Lagos.

All efforts at pioneering partnerships between U.S. and African congregations have not yet materialized for numerous reasons. I am working with the following congregations in the U.S., including Fullerton, Calif.,-Burundi and Columbus, Maryland.-Congo, Glendale, AZ.-Manga, Kenya, and have just begun talking with a congregation in Texas.

While I have sent money to Congo, no projects have been started there and I am unable to visit because Kenyan Air no longer flies to Congo. I have personally pledged \$100 monthly to Congo to help with rent for a meeting place. I will visit Uganda for the first time on this trip and hope to work with Mark on both the orphanage and other development projects. From my experience, we cannot expect Africans to grow into strong UU communities when they remain unemployed, hungry, sick and with little access to schools. My primary objective has been to help provide income, small as it might be, to as many as possible.

I will be leaving December 31, 08, returning to the U.S. around February 28, 09. While I plan to continue working on this project, I will be unable to travel to Africa again in the near future. I'm broke! Know that every single penny donated is used to help improve life for our religious cousins. I pay for all my own travel and other expenses.

Respectfully Submitted, Janice Brunson

**Thank you** for helping to **Grow Our Spirit** through your generous contributions to the UUA's Association Sunday 2008! UUCF held its Association Sunday on October 23rd and raised **\$1,236** for this program. Wow! As of November, 425 UU churches had raised almost \$250,000, and 147 more churches will soon be adding to this total. All of these funds will be used to support the UUA's:

- Lay Theological Education programs (funding grants which focus on spiritual and theological deepening)
- Excellence in Ministry programs (scholarships for promising students preparing for our ministry and the Diversity of Ministry Team's Initiative to support our ministers of color).
- Three subsequent Association Sundays (one per year) will be devoted to the following themes: growth in diversity, growth in witness and growth in leadership.

# Religious Education NEWS

Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other winter holidays are fast upon us. But the oldest holiday of this season is the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice is really a scientific holiday because it's not based on any particular story or belief system, but rather on honoring the point in the year when we have the shortest day and the longest night.

Did you ever wonder why the days are so long in the summer and so short in the winter? The length changes throughout the year. In the summer, around June 21 or 22, we experience the summer solstice, which is the longest day of the year. And in the winter, December 21 or 22 is the winter solstice, or shortest day. But wait! If you live in Australia, you experience the opposite—the longest day is in December and the shortest is in June. Why?



The answer all depends on Earth's tilt. Over the course of one year, Earth orbits around the sun. It does not complete this trip, however, with the North Pole at the top and the South Pole at the bottom because Earth is tilted. The Earth tilts just about 23.5°, and so at different times of the year, either the northern or the southern hemisphere is tilted toward and is therefore closer to the sun. If you live in the northern hemisphere, like we do, Earth is tilted *toward* the sun in the summer and *away* from the sun in the winter. At the solstice the sun appears to stand still in the sky for a few days before and after. The word solstice, even comes from the Latin for *sun + to stand still!* (This is an excerpt from Fact Monster. To read more about the solstice, please visit [www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com).) Happy Winter Solstice Everyone!

## Religious Education Program for December

Volunteers are need for Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> for the children's religious education program. If you have a special talent that you would like to share with our children in pre-school through grade 6, or would like to volunteer your time, please see Liz Heaton.

Youth in grades 7 through 12 will be attend the regular adult worship service on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. As an alternative, teens may sign up to help with the children's program on those Sundays. Please see Liz Heaton if you would like to help out.

## **Chalice Circle Retreat for Coming of Age Teens**

Coming of Age teens will continue to examine their own lives while bonding with the group at the Chalice Circle Retreat on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The retreat will culminate with a special challenge low ropes / high ropes course. The cost of the all-day event is \$50 per teen and includes materials and lunch. Registration is required. Please contact Liz Heaton for more information.

## **Winter Camp in deBenville Pines**

12/05/08 – 12/07/08: Junior High Coming of Age Winter Camp

12/27/08 – 01/01/09: Senior High Camp Digital Love

02/14/09 – 02/16/09: Elementary Winter Camp

Visit [www.pswd.uua.org](http://www.pswd.uua.org) for more information.

## **Youth Photo Contest**

### **Celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Human Rights with the UUSC**

Are human rights important to you? Are you 12-18 years old? UUSC invites you to share your photo about human rights with the world. Prizes will be awarded to top entries. Visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) for more information.

## **Got Kids? Get Registered!**

All children and youth in the Religious Education program must register each year. Please see Susan Perlson if you need a registration package. do not attend.

## 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 <b>Nov. 3 Alice Dyer's</b>	<u>Barbara Keller</u> <b>home</b>	Rotating
Investment Club	3rd Monday 7PM	Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull	Contact Gwen for location
Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	1st Tuesday <b>Movie <u>Milk</u></b>	Marlies Worley or Rev. Jon Dobrer	See Sunday Announcements
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 7PM	Claude Coppel	Contact Claude for location
Circle Suppers	2nd Sat. (times vary) (Oct., Jan., Mar., May)	Mary Rhodes <b>Nothing scheduled for Nov. and Dec.</b>	Rotating
Foreign Foods Friday	4th Friday <b>canceled for</b>	Lou Arnwine <b>December</b>	Contact Lou for restaurant
Adult Religious Education	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9 AM	Ed Tschabrun or Jennifer Meyers	Upstairs classroom at Temple
Social Action Committee Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the service	A. Thorward or P. 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 usually 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.

**HERE IS A GREAT IDEA** - Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel (*of course you do*) to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area? The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 29 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. (Always interesting to attend the local UU church or fellowship as well).

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations. Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2009 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

☼ 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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Website: [www.uufullerton.org](http://www.uufullerton.org)

The deadline for the next issue of theCommUUnicator is NOON, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick [livelihood@msn.com](mailto:livelihood@msn.com)

The ComUUnicator 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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