

# The UUCF      March, 2009

## 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

### March 1: Jon Dobrer



**Very, very important congregational meeting to present for a vote by the congregation the mission statement and vision statement created from the Share the Dream workshop.**

### March 8: Jon Dobrer

### March 10: Movie Night Discussion note date change

### March 15: Jon Dobrer

**Adult RE:** "From Jewish Cult to Roman Ideology' How did Christianity become the dominant religious meme in the western world? Understand more about how Christian influence permeated our world. Ed Tschabrum will teach this class. 9AM in the upper building on the side towards the Temple."

**March 22 Justice Sunday** Our Justice Sunday worship and social activities will highlight the intersection of human rights principles and UU values – the imperative to affirm the worth and dignity of every person – captured in the UDHR. With the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, we will offer meaningful advocacy actions, so together we can move the world closer to justice.



At 10:15 Sunday mornings, “Meditative Music” as well as “Private Candle Lightings” is intended to assist our congregation in preparation for the Worship Service. Jim Gallaher, resident Native American flautist, is providing quiet music. To allow for contemplation in the sanctuary during this time arrangements have been made for the Social Hall to be opened at 9:00 a.m. for conversation and mingling.

---

As reflected throughout this issue of the newsletter many members and friends of UUCF have worked especially hard this last month on big projects to nurture UUCF, how very blessed we are to be part of this loving, giving and very dedicated community. -editor

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism: <http://www.uua.org/visitors/?n>

## On My Mind: What I Do

*Jon Dobrer, Minister*

My wife Helene has no idea what I do. I mean she sees me reading, studying and writing. She passes my office as I prepare classes and lectures. She hears the phone ring and notices that I take the calls in another room. I keep her out of the politics and personal problems that occur in our community as they occur anywhere people gather together. I do not share the content of many of the things that occupy my time as clergy.

I didn't really realize this till last week when the phone rang and someone we know (not a church member) made an appointment to come over and talk to me about care for his aging parent. Since this was public, I told Helene the purpose of the meeting and she asked, "Why would anyone talk to you about that?" I replied that it was really central to what I do. However, I reasoned that if she doesn't know, then maybe one or two of you might not know.

I am regularly, and appropriately, called upon to meet with people going through the great transitional passages of our lives. Of course I marry people. Naturally, I also bury people. I attend to the sick—visit hospitals, homes, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Sometimes children grow into teens and I talk with the parents or the teens.

I talk with families as they face disease, death and dying. I am frequently consulted in planning decisions on senior care—on every nuance from restricting driving to administering drugs reliably. Sometimes the legal system comes into play as conservatorships need to be established. Sometimes the legal system comes into play with restraining orders and, yes, I visit jails. All very difficult and painful stuff. And no, I do not have easy answers or infallible guidelines. I offer only company, counsel and 40 years of experience with these situations and conversations.

Anything I know of a personal nature I assume to be confidential unless confidentiality is waived or there is an immediate threat to self or others. And if you were to call on me in one of these situations, you may be confident that I do not share any information— not in sermons, not as gossip and not even at home. Jon

---

**FOOD LOVING GUYS RAISING FUNDS FOR FJES**, in support of Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services will be held on Sunday evening March 29 from 6PM to 9PM at the Coyote Hills Golf Club in Fullerton. Please mark your calendars and ATTEND! As in previous years, 30 nonprofessional chefs prepare and serve "tastes" of their signature dishes, i.e. appetizers, salads/side dishes, entrees or desserts, which will be judged by professional chefs and/or food critics. Guests participate in the "tastings" as they meander past all the delicacies presented. Awards will be presented to the winners. This has sold out in the past; there will be food, fun, live entertainment, a silent auction and opportunity drawings. Ticket cost is \$50 per person. Please see Doris Dressler-Clark Sundays at the Fair Trade coffee table or call FIES at 714 680-3691.

---



---

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— On doing the dishes**

---

A disciple lives with a master for a year. During that time the master says nothing to him. Finally, on the anniversary of his arrival the disciple speaks to the master: "For a year I have lived with you in order to learn the Way. Now that I have been here this long, I believe I am entitled to ask outright: What is the Way?" The master said: "Did you have your breakfast this morning?" The disciple said yes, he had. "Have you washed your breakfast dishes?" the master responded. "Not yet," the disciple answered. "Then do the dishes," the master said, "That is the Way."

Our church just held its annual service auction. The evening was festive. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. And we had some excellent donations, in particular the dinners we sponsor for each other. All those are fun, and it's important that they be fun as a way of building our church community. But there is also an earnest side to the auction, one that is as important as the cheerful good time we had and usually have when we work together. That is the "doing the dishes" part of our community activities. The service auction is the most important fundraiser we have all year. While the pledge drive raises the bulk of the funds we need, the auction is also vital to keeping the rent and our staff paid. The background to the good time we had at the auction is many weeks of "doing the dishes". I would like to thank Cathy Boon for stepping forward as she did last year to shepherd the auction along to a successful conclusion, and I would like to thank Bill Lau for his assistance, and all of you who took care of the myriad details from assembling lists, to making signs, to manning the computers at the auction. And thanks, of course, for the donations and for the bids.

We are about to have our Searching for the Future weekend. I trust that this will have its pleasant side, but it has had and will have its "doing the dishes" side as well. There will be much more on the weekend in the future, but for now let me point to the many hours already devoted to this weekend, to the many dishes washed, especially by Lesley Mahaffey and Anne Thorward. With this spirit, I believe we can indeed accomplish whatever we set out to do. So thanks for the fun, and yes, thanks for doing the dishes.

Will Nettleship UUCF Board President

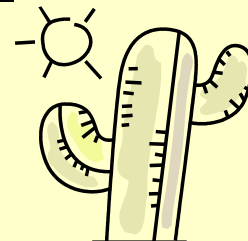
Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can -- there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did. Sarah Caldwell



Meditative Practices Group will meet at the home of Christina Garner on Wed., March 25 at 7PM. The last two months we explored sacred singing and meditative music led by Christina Garner and Chris Heaton. Thanks so much for your inspirational voices! This month's practice will be revealed soon--keep an eye on our announcements for further details. Any questions? Contact Marlies

---

**DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2009**  
**—the annual gathering of Unitarian**  
**Universalists in the Pacific Southwest**  
**District—will be in Mesa, Arizona**  
**May 1-3, 2009**



---

## SERVICE AUCTION REPORT

The books are officially closed on Service Auction 2009. Yes, this has been a lot of work. It has also been a tremendous joy and privilege to serve as your Auction Chair. We arranged the Social Hall, opened the doors, and I watched in awe as this group of incredible people once again accomplished something amazing. First, 116 of us attended, plus lots of young children in tow. That is a record attendance by about 15-20 people. Second, we raised \$17,774 for our Church! That is a record profit by a large margin.

I want to once again thank EVERYONE who volunteered, donated, attended and/or purchased. Each one of you helped to make the Auction a HUGE success. If I missed giving any one of you a hug and a 'Thank You', catch me after church some Sunday.

Special thanks go to several people who went above and beyond: Jodi Biloon (food prep and service), Jim Fyke (member donations), Jim Garner (computer software), Liz Heaton (childcare and so much more), Harry Langenbacher (computer hardware), Linda Lillibridge (donations data entry), and the two elves who helped so much with Silent Auction preparation. I literally could not have done this without you.

Each year, our congregation and our Service Auction grow bigger and better. I'm excited to see what next year will bring!

With warmest regards,  
Cathy Boon 2009 Service Auction Chair

Unofficial UUCF Not-Really-a-Mai Tai Recipe - wow Cathy shared her "secret recipe"

3/8 cup fresh lime juice  
1 cup Triple Sec  
1 ½ cups light rum  
3 cups Pineapple juice  
1 ½ cups Pineapple-orange juice blend



Chill ingredients. Place 1 -2 cups ice in a large pitcher. Add all ingredients. Stir well and enjoy!

---

The Armory Homeless Winter Shelter program is well under way. Mercy House, the provider of services is new this year and they rely much more on volunteers than in previous years. We are really needed and appreciated. As you may be aware, the number of people needing this service has increased. Come once or come every Wednesday from 5 to 8 pm. There are jobs for those who are active and for those who need to sit. Questions?? Call Lou Arnwine



---

Foreign Foods Friday meets this month at House of Tandoor, 600 S. Brea Blvd., Brea. Mary and Carolyn have eaten there and recommended it for our group. Come join us at 7 pm on March 27. Everyone is welcome to this UUCF interest group. For more information see Lou Arnwine, or sign up in the Social Hall beginning March 8.



***And on the lighter side...*** Little Rachel came into the kitchen where her mother was making dinner. Her birthday was coming up and she thought this was a good time to tell her mother what she wanted. "Mom, I want a bike for my birthday." Now, Little Rachel was a bit of a troublemaker. She had gotten into trouble at school and at home. Rachel's mother asked her if she thought she deserved to get a bike for her birthday. Little Rachel, of course, thought she did.

Rachel's mother, being a concerned, loving, nurturing parent, wanted her to reflect on her behavior over the last year, and write a letter to God (spirit of life) and tell him/her why she deserved a bike for her birthday. Little Rachel stomped up the steps to her room and sat down to write God (spirit of life) a letter.

**LETTER 1:**

**Dear God (Spirit of Life):**

I have been a very good girl this year and I would like a bike for my birthday. I want a red one.  
Your friend, Rachel

Rachel knew this wasn't true. She had not been a very good girl this year, so she tore up the letter and started over.

**LETTER 2:**

**Dear God (Spirit of Life):**

This is your friend Rachel. I have been a pretty good girl this year, and I would like a red bike for my birthday.  
Thank you, Rachel

Rachel knew this wasn't true either. She tore up the letter and started again.

**LETTER 3:**

**Dear God (Spirit of Life):**

I know I haven't been a good girl this year. I am very sorry. I will be a good girl if you just send me a red bike for my birthday.  
Thank you, Rachel

Rachel knew, even if it was true, this letter was not going to get her a bike. By now, she was very upset. She went downstairs and told her mother she wanted to go to church. Rachel's mother thought her plan had worked because Rachel looked very sad.

"Just be home in time for dinner," her mother said.

Rachel walked down the street to the church and up to the altar. She looked around to see if anyone was there. She picked up a statue of the Virgin Mary, slipped it under her jacket, and ran out of the church, down the street, into her house and up to her room. She shut the door, sat down, and wrote her letter to God (Spirit of Life).

**LETTER 4:**

**I GOT YOUR MAMA.**

**IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, SEND THE BIKE.**

Signed, YOU KNOW WHO

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

On March 20<sup>th</sup> at precisely 11:44 a.m. UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) the Sun will cross directly over the Earth's equator. In the Northern Hemisphere,



this moment is called the vernal equinox. Equinox literally means, “equal night” - day and night are about equal length all over the world during the equinoxes.

People have celebrated the vernal equinox and the coming of spring for thousands of years. Early civilizations celebrated for the basic reason that their food supplies would soon be restored. Early Egyptians built the Great [Sphinx](#) so that it points directly toward the rising Sun on the day of the vernal equinox. And there’s a myth that the day of the equinox is the only time when it’s possible to balance an egg on its end. While it may not be true, it’s still fun to try – but you might want to use a hard-boiled egg just in case.

**Classroom News** We are so fortunate for the help and support our classroom teachers and Coming of Age mentors bring each week to the Religious Education program. About twice a month (on mentor Sundays) as many as twenty adults volunteer their time, share their wisdom, and build relationships with the children and youth in our congregation. I am left in awe and deeply touched by the outpouring of support by so many. Yet with all this help, it’s hard to imagine that even more is needed!

Each Sunday four or five children under the age of three are in the hands of two competent and caring individuals. Twelve or more pre-schoolers and kindergarteners gather round three tables to light their chalice, add a ring to the attendance chain, and celebrate friendship. Down the hall, another ten children gather to learn about UU principles through the beloved stories of Dr. Seuss. On the other side of the room, half-dozen older elementary children use tools as a metaphor to reflect on the qualities of our faith. Perched on the slope, middle school children examine spirituality and values through the eyes of Homer Simpson and his family. Next door, more than a dozen teens, often with an equal number of mentors, meet to share experiences.

So what can you do? You can help by pledging your time – once a month, every six weeks, or a few times a year. Offer your lap to hold an infant or a couple of hands to catch a toddler coming down the slide. Help one of many volunteer teachers in their class by helping little hands work a pair of scissors or squeeze out some glue. Be an extra set of playground eyes. But, please take the next step and turn kind words into good deeds. Invest in our future, help in RE, and get to know the wonderful children in our congregation.



## **Coming of Age Community Service Project**

Teens have committed to raise \$1,500 to help re-build Cabin 1’s deck at deBenneville Pines in May. Over the next couple of months, please bring in plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling. Be sure to watch for announcements about the upcoming Coffee House event. We’ll also be sharing ways you can rent a teen for yard work, window washing, babysitting, and more in exchange for your donation to the deck re-building project.

**Next RE Committee meeting on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:15 in the Youth Chapel, meetings both keep you up to date and help facilitate growth of our RE program, one of the foundations of a strong and successful church community.**

## 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		
Investment Club	3rd Monday 7PM	Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull	Contact Gwen for location
Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	<b>2st Tuesday this month only</b>	Marlies Worley or Rev. Jon Dobrer	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7 PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer	Temple
All Soul's Potluck & Salon Discussion group	4 <sup>th</sup> 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	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. (times vary) (Oct., Jan., Mar., May)	Mary Rhodes	Rotating
Foreign Foods Friday	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Lou Arnwine	<b>House of Tandoor</b>
Adult Religious Education	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9 AM	Ed Tschabrun 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 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.



"Adult RE is looking for a few good brains (not in jars either)! If you have a topic you would like to teach in an Adult RE meeting, contact Jennifer Myers at [jenn\\_myers@earthlink.net](mailto:jenn_myers@earthlink.net) or (714)256-1811. We are also interested in any suggestions from the congregation for topics and possible events you'd like to see. Speak up and be heard!"

☀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

Church Information Phone: (714) 871-7150

Email: [uucf@uufullerton.org](mailto:uucf@uufullerton.org)

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

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

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

The CommUUnicator is published monthly. Visitors will receive a free newsletter for five months. Annual subscriptions (paper) are \$25 or are free to members.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF FULLERTON  
P.O. BOX 4151  
FULLERTON, CA 92834-4151  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED