

The UUCF CommUUnicator

May, 2009

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

Lots to digest in this issue - read on!

May3: Mayday! Mayday! Why Torture is a complex moral issue, [Jon Dobrer](#)

May 5: movie discussion with Jon Dobrer

May 10: End of Life Hard Choices, [Jon Dobrer](#)

[ADULT RE:](#) 9am, upper classroom. Jeanne Preble, mental health therapist will address 'Coping With Stress In Tough Times.' Tough times are inevitable; let's learn more about how we can cope."

May 9: Circle Suppers

May 12: Board meeting

May 15: this month only Foreign Food Friday 3ed Friday

May17: Around the Maypole, [Jon Dobrer](#)

May 24: Why Memorial Day Matters, [Jon Dobrer](#)

May 26: Salon Potluck "When Values Collide

May31: Our Renewable Nation – A Cross Country Eco-Adventure by the McCullough Family, Unitarian Universalists from Massachusetts (www.OurRenewableNation.org)"
Multimedia Intergenerational Service

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

If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never. And what wine is so sparkling, what so fragrant, what so intoxicating, as possibility!

Soren Kierkegaard

Alert: Our administrator extraordinaire is taking a two week vacation May 15-30 and will be celebrating a milestone birthday. You may wish to print out this newsletter as electronic announcements will be suspended the final two weeks of May. Marlies will be assisting with some admin duties.

[Foreign Food Friday](#) will be enjoying Latin American/Spanish food *Ola!* at Cafe Hidalgo, 305 N . Harbor #111, in the historic Villa del Sol building in downtown Fullerton. Check out their website at www.cafehidalgofullerton.com. There is plenty of parking in the parking structure just behind Villa del Sol on W. Wilshire. We will be meeting this month only on the third Friday, May 15. Everyone is welcome, just reserve on the sign-up list in the Social Hall beginning May 3, or call Lou Arnwine.

I missed you all on Sunday morning. I got knocked down by a bout of nephritis—which is a kidney infection. It comes on suddenly with deep chills and violent shaking. These get replaced in short order by a high fever. It isn't quite as much fun as it sounds.

The good news for me was that I had written a sermon manuscript, and while you know I don't read them on Sundays, word for word preparation tends to be a good thing, and Doug Schneider does a consistently wonderful job of channeling me.

The last time I had an attack it struck before I had written my sermon. I did make the effort. Running a temp of 102, (Fahrenheit fortunately not Centigrade) I wrote for a couple of hours. When I'd finished, I had the good sense to ask Helene if I had made any sense and how she thought the sermon would work. As I watched her read it, her face gave me her response. Somewhere between grave concern and embarrassment, she made clear that this sermon—even by sermonic standards, which outside of the UU World, can be pretty low—should never see the light of a Sunday. My wife can play Mahjong but should never even try poker.

I share this with you not as a “poor me” (We all have our issues, troubles and infirmities), but because so many of you have expressed concern for me by phone, card and email. I am prone to these infections (though ironically they render me supine) because of nerve damage from my back surgery. I guess the hip-bone is connected to the leg-bone. Since more than one bout a year gets us into a bad area, my specialist is searching for an anti-biotic that can be used prophylactically. I am hoping to get this worked out soon and I won't have to do this again. Meanwhile, thank you for all your loving concern.

Jon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE –May 2009

On living a complete life

We recently lost a long-term member of our church, Ed Lillibridge. There was a kindly spirit at his service, marking the passing of a long, engaged life surrounded by family.

I write this on the 19th of April, and today my family also suffered a loss, the death of my step-mother, Mae Banwell Nettleship. The bare facts of a life tell us little, but she did have an interesting journey. Born and raised on a southern Ontario farm, she was able to attend John's Hopkins Medical School and become a Pathologist. She practiced in Arkansas alongside my father, also a Pathologist, and for many years the two of them supplied the only Pathology medicine in the region outside of the local VA hospital where my father was chief of lab. Eventually Mae became the chief of staff at a large, regional hospital and she participated in the growth of modern medicine in that part of the country. In what is a truly fitting memorial to the two of them, there is named professorship at the University of Arkansas Medical School in both of their names.

But those facts are only a resume. Over many years she was helpful to her patients of course, but that does not describe her contribution to the people closest to her, her children and grandchildren and Lois and me. I think the most powerful thing that she gave us was an example of grace and perseverance. Though she left her Canadian farm roots far behind, she was always uncomplaining, and she was realistic in the way that people who farm are, people who know that their effort might come to naught for something as whimsical as the weather. She was loving, but she kept her own course through the challenges of life. I remember once mentioning to her that I was reading about the Battle of Dunkirk. She commented that many of the young men in her high school class had fallen there, While most of the Allied forces were successfully evacuated to Britain, the cost of that evacuation was the stubborn resistance of the rear guard, many of them Canadians, who gave their lives so others could live on to fight another day. There was something of that unblinking dedication to duty in Mae as well.

It's a painful loss for me and my siblings, but I am sure that if I could talk to her just once more, she would say that she had a complete life, that she was satisfied to have contributed to those around her, and that, in the end, her life was enough and it was time for her to go.

Will Nettleship UUCF Board President

Summary of April 21, 2009 long-term lease meeting.

As presented to the congregation previously, the long term lease would be an agreement between the Church and the Temple to lease for five years with options to renew for an additional five years in return for a \$50,000 up-front payment when construction starts. Looked at as rent increase, this would be \$833 per month for the sixty month term of the lease. We would have increased use of the main facility, placement of two permanent signs, full time use of a dedicated office space in the new building, room in the new building for choir practice and for RE classrooms, and room for long term storage of church files.

The temple is planning to build the additional building with or without us - they do have the money to break ground for construction. It was noted that while there is always uncertainty with construction, the plans at present are for a one year construction cycle and there will be a rent reduction to the Church should construction exceed that. The Church funds will be returned if the building project is abandoned. The temple must also agree to the lease with a congregational vote so this is not a done deal. The boards of both institutions have agreed to the lease.

There was agreement it would be better if the lease was slightly more specific on size of office space. There is a room on the blue prints drawn as a church office (19 by 22 feet). This is about the size of a two-car garage; we can confirm that the blue-prints have not been altered to reduce this room. This room faces the south parking lot, we will have a separate entrance and can use it for counseling, club meetings, etc.

So far as the use of Sundays, as before, we will have the use of the facility every Sunday except the few in the Jewish calendar that overlap major Jewish holidays. Known days of conflict are noted for the upcoming year and others will have to be noted in future years. There was an interest in our being able to use the facility earlier on Sundays if we grow in the future and need two services. What specific classrooms we would use has been left open so RE and the temple could come to the best arrangement. We will lose the teen rooms and the adult RE space during construction.

We do not know the details of how many parking spaces there are at the moment, how many will be available once the site plans are built out, or what the sequence of landscape improvement construction will be.

The issue of pledges dedicated to the lease fund was discussed. As the present time, \$38,000 is available of the required \$50,000 and \$12,000 would have to be taken from the reserves

The lease will give us stability in our present place as well as the use of a much improved facility with our own office once construction is complete. The whole Temple campus will be improved, the landscaping, parking, signs and lights as well as the new building, giving us much more curb appeal. It seems clear to the members of the negotiating committee that the status quo is not an option at this point, that the Temple would like us to participate as a "little partner", and this lease though costing us funds up-front does guarantee access to an improved facility over the long term. However, going forward we must persist in our Searching for the Future planning process. This is a good solution now and in the next five years follow-up on strategic planning and, based on our growth pattern, the impetus to develop location options for 2014 are an important mandate. Paperwork is now in place, thanks to Anne Thorward, for planned giving. ***A big, big thank you to the committee: Will Nettleship, Doug Schneider, Lesley McHaffey and Al Danzig, this was hard work.***

[UUSC as One Portal of Practicing “Planetary Consciousness”: the Intersection of UDHR and UU Principles Thank you Jim for this incredible article \(slightly edited by editor\)](#)

I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words about the intersection of evolving human rights principles and evolving UU principles—how to embody our highest aspirations for ourselves, our families and near friends, and to embrace the suffering strangers that we all are, local & global, here & now and into a more just & peaceful future where we hope to inspire and encourage each other to live more consciously in the everyday practical.

The aspirations of the clear but reaching vocabularies found in the summoning documents of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the UU Principles breathe into us their reminders: with the promptings of their conscientiously chosen languages serving as guides and pointers—we are urged to constantly live, personally and globally, into the ideals projected by these documents.

We know as UU’ers in diverse congregations that it can be especially challenging to articulate and embody in everyday practices these highest human aspirations, as individuals and chosen communities, in the absence of specified ideological or dogmatic prescriptions and consensus—but that is exactly what we have chosen to do by becoming UUs.

This UDHR Preamble emerged in 1948 without explicit reference or citation to a traditional natural law pre-text such as Nature or Nature’s God. By the mid-20th century, when the UDHR was drafted, in virtually compelled reflex to the genocidal horrors of WWII, the negotiated language of the Preamble no longer supplied or expressly referenced an antecedent transcendental authority on which to certify its assertions to promote and protect specified human rights. Of course this “indefinite referent” continues today to be both a saving grace to some liberal interpreters who want to encourage as “universal” an application of human rights law as possible and a damnable curse for others of a more “tribal” focus who argue, by commission and omission, that authentic human rights are “local”, always contingent upon particular cultural and social traditions and conditions, including the subscribed religious traditions’ regulations.

Joseph Slaughter, a Comparative Literature Professor at Columbia, has written a brilliant work comparing internationalized “narrative forms of human rights codifications” with the development of the “coming of age” novel, the so-called Bildungsromane. Prof. Slaughter has stated that “many UDHR delegates sensed something improper about a human rights law that contained no express reference to a transcendental authority.” Prof. Slaughter indicates that PC Chang, (who, significantly, was the “only member of the UDHR drafting committee who was not a representative of the Judeo-Christian traditions”) persuasively argued against cultural parochialism to delete “the words ‘nature’” in draft Article 1 “Those who believed in God could still find in the strong opening assertion of the (UDHR) the idea of God and at the same time others with different concepts would be able to accept the text”. Professor Slaughter refers to the idea of God being “encrypted” in the carefully negotiated, universally aspirational language of the UDHR Preamble—a negotiated “encryption” that is not un-familiar to many UU-ers who very carefully seek to negotiate genuine inter-faith conversations and social justice projects with those of a more theologically dogmatic and “local” focus.

How, therefore, do we, as individuals in chosen communities, live into these globally aspirational languages—with special focus on living ourselves into the broadly human, the world beyond our closest personal relations and obligations and enjoyments, to the Larger World of service out there pointed to by the work of UUSC-- and its many affiliate partnerships? It is very useful to reflect and share stories with each other on examples of how UUCF-ers reach out to others in our local lives and far beyond. For example, the writings and work of Randi Hetrick and Doris Clark and many others in the congregation should inspire many a fine conversation within UUCF of various possible internationalized means and ends to relieve suffering and expand human opportunities for all. As conscientiously as we try to contribute, however, we often find ourselves necessarily bogged down inside the tunnels of our lives, necessarily focused as we must be on our marriages, our children, our elder care, our beloved pets, neighborhoods and schools and local churches & communities and states & even the very real sufferings of our own nation in these recent years. But in this increasingly globalized world—at least for now—the beautiful photos that emerged from our outer space projects have inspired many of us to haltingly try to language and live into the sub-conscious

metaphor and reality of the blue-hued images of Planet Earth. So-called “Planetary Consciousness” is a genuine reality in our mind’s eye--a vision that many in our generation feel very deeply moved to cultivate the abilities to respond to and genuinely hunger to live out in practical projects. We feel, and can feel deeply, the call to help, to make a contribution to someone in the Larger World, someone who, consciously or not, shares that indescribably powerful image of the blue-hued Planet that summons us all, silently, from its proximate distance, to think & live & become larger in our lives: lives-inter-connected-to-All.

This sense of the global and the planetary is not merely abstract anymore. Through world-wide migration & trade patterns that bring so many varieties of the human & human artifacts to our doorsteps; through the mind-expanding proliferations of communication and transportation technologies—especially the revolutionary tentacle reach of the Internet - we cannot help but be aware of the calls of the Planetary, the Global. Inevitably, somewhere, somehow, something will move (or scare) you, profoundly, to look up from the local gardens where we sow our seeds—and consider how to connect and possibly contribute, to improving this larger world for those majorities of dispossessed and disenfranchised that live beyond what the poet Carolyn Forché calls the cyclone fence of our borders.

There are so many conscientious groups and organizations out there that would love to have your help world-wide—but clearly one of them for you to consider is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the UUSC, which we encourage you to learn more about. Its website, <http://www.uusc.org/> is a superb place to start learning more about UUSC. Its members and affiliated partners offer dozens and dozens of portals of insight and connection that may contribute, not only to helping others, near & far, but also contribute to your own global awareness & personal spiritual growth.

This profound movement, at the level of consciousness, from an expanding sense of the interdependent planetary to our evolving personal awareness of the interconnections within the deepest parts of ourselves, is addressed eloquently by the teacher Ram Dass, the former Richard Alpert, who, before his stroke, collaborated to write a couple of contemplative books that reflect on how a dedicated commitment to living a life of service is a recognized path to true spiritual growth. In “How Can I Help” (and re-affirmed in “Compassion in Action—Setting out on the Path of Service”), Ram Dass, inspired by his Hindu conversion (but not wholly in bondage to its vocabularies), importantly reminds us that “true compassion arises out of unity”, and that “awakening from our sense of separateness is what we are called to do in all things at all times, not merely in service”.

These exhortations to consciously aspire to unity are important premises for living truly into all of our aspiration for human rights & UU Principle projects. Ram Dass, along with teachers of many wisdom traditions, reminds us that the truest use of serving anyone anywhere is to “transcend the dualism between the server and the served... You are the help, you are not the helper, you are the help, and who, exactly, is getting helped in this exchange of giving and receiving remains open to question.”

UUCF’s UUSC committee, which is currently chaired by Mike Mahaffey, and energized by Anne Thorward, Paula & Dennis Spiro, Brianna Perlson, and many others invite you to consider contributing to UUSC, including, but not limited to, --make a financial contribution to UUSC; --buy fair trade coffee and chocolate at UUCF’s UUSC table (long-staffed by Doris Clark); --attend UUCF UUSC local planning meetings; --stop by UUCF’s UUSC table and learn as much as you can about the never-ending work of UUSC & its huge list of partners; --volunteer to help staff and resource the UUSC table where you will inevitably engage in memorable & inspiring conversations while helping out; --regularly check out the UUSC website (we hope to keep a laptop at the UUSC table in the social hall), and follow up on action items suggested there in its respective focus areas of civil liberties (domestic and international); economic justice; rights in humanitarian crisis; and environmental justice, including the right to clean water.

Before you know it, you may authentically respond to a global issue that arises into your awareness (maybe from the UUSC website or its Right Now publication) and suddenly, deeply, it concerns you very personally; or you might learn of a courageous honest group whose human rights or economic/environmental mission

inspires you to contribute your unique talents; and, on the basis of these inspirations, you may begin a personal journey into a different kind of global-minded service. It remains an open but important question that only you can answer for yourself: how much of the planetary contexts must we know if we are to flourish and prosper to our fullest developments, as individuals mysteriously interconnected to All. Depending on the extent of your inspiration and how far you want to walk the talk, it might very well get a little disorienting and ambiguous and sometimes confusing to journey into other cultures and geo-political/religious histories—but it might also turn out to be exactly what & most of all--WHO you were looking for—deep in yourself—as you make new friends & connect to others, near & far, on this turning Planet. Again, Ram Dass offered helpful words to point in the direction of how service becomes a spiritual path to growth:

“...I help people as a way to work on myself, and I work on myself to help people... To me, that's what the emerging game is all about...the reward, the real grace, of conscious service, then is the opportunity not only to relieve suffering, but to grow in wisdom, experience greater unity, and have a good time while we are doing it”—from, [How Can I Help?](#), Ram Dass & Paul Gorman.

Submitted by Jim Cruess, based on notes from UUCF's UUSC Justice Sunday talk, March 22, 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

“The Earth laughs in flowers.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson~

Recently, our family spent a few days wandering around the Fullerton Arboretum during the annual Green Scene event. The arboretum's 26-acres are home to over 4,000 plants. Gardeners had plants displayed in all types of containers, both traditional and eclectic. I prefer the eclectic and if you root around in your family's junk bin, garage, or “give-away” pile, you may get some creative ideas for interesting pots too. An old rubber boot or out-grown shoe can make a great container. So does an old watering can. Put your plant pot in the new container and cover the old pot with soil or stones so you can only see the plant. Or, drill a hole in the bottom of the container you find, and fill it about two-thirds full with new potting soil. Now plant a mixture of seeds and seedlings like parsley, sweet alyssum, love-in-a-mist, and marigolds. If you use a deep container you can even plant carrots, sunflowers, or other deep-rooted plants. If you use sweet pea seeds, place your container next to a wall, fence, or trellis—they love to climb! Put your fun containers on your doorstep, stoop, or next to your back door to welcome friends and guests. *(Pictures are welcome for a future newsletter)*



(Thanks to Heather Greeley Benson for these fun container ideas!)

Annual Egg Hunt

WHILE THIS YEAR'S EGG HUNT WAS NOT FOR CHARITY AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, THE CHILDREN HAD FUN GATHERING PLASTIC EGGS FILLED WITH TICKETS. THE TICKETS WERE EGGS-CHANGED FOR PRIZES AND CANDY AT THE BUUNNY STORE. OLDER KIDS ALSO ENJOYED COLORING EGGS. [**\(THANKS TO BARRY, CHRIS, ELIZABETH, AND KATE FOR THEIR HELP!\)**](#)

YRUU Teens are Headed for deBenneville (they are so awesome)

Congratulations, teens for raising the \$1,500 goal for the deck-building project at deBenneville Pines! Janet James, the executive director of deBenneville, met with the teens in February to discuss a community service project. The teens, together with Janet, decided that not only would they go to deBenneville for the May 8th – May 10th work weekend, but that our UUCF teens would raise ½ of the money needed to re-build one of the cabin's decks. Money for the project was raised at the March coffee house, through gift table sales, recycling, and from generous donations. Thank you to all who helped in time, money, support, and service! And the Guiltinans for hosting this event.

Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee will meet on Sunday, May 3rd at 12:15 p.m. downstairs in the pre-school lunchroom. Childcare is available. The R.E. committee is a great way for parents and interested congregants to get involved with our future church community. Please contact Jody Bilon or Barbara Burns for more information.

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 9:00AM	<u>Jan Lillibridge</u>	Rotating. Contact Jan for location.
Women's Wisdom Circle	1st & 3rd Monday 7PM	<u>Barbara Keller</u>	Rotating. Contact Barbara for location.
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	See Sunday Announcements
3 rd Tuesday Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	3rd Tuesday 7 PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer canceled month of May	Church—location rotates
All Soul's Potluck & Salon Discussion group	4th Tuesday Potluck & Salon at 6:30 pm	Rev. Jon Dobrer	Social Hall
Men's Lunch Group	Alternating Wed. & Thurs. 11:45AM	Brad Woodhull	Contact Brad for location
Choir Practice	Every Thurs. 7PM (also Sunday 9 AM)	Judi Herz	In the chapel downstairs
Red Hat Society	Once a month	Fran Doble	See Sunday Announcements
Meditation Group	4 th Wed. 7PM	Marlies Worley	Contact Marlies for location
Circle Suppers	2nd Sat. (times vary) (Oct., Jan., Mar., May)	Mary Rhodes May 9 circle dinners, there will be family dinners this month also	Rotating. Contact Mary to sign up to host or attend
Foreign Foods Friday	4th Friday	Lou Arnwine this month only the third Friday	Contact Lou for restaurant
Adult Religious Education	2 nd Sunday at 9 AM	Ed Tschabrun or Jennifer Myers	Upstairs classroom at Church
Social Action Committee Meeting	2 nd Sunday after the service	Rev. Jon Dobrer	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: 4/09.

☀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 the CommUUnicator is NOON, June 19th.

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

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF FULLERTON

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