

The UUCF June, 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

June 2: First Tuesday Movie/ Star Trek – meet at Marie Calendars 126 E. Yorba Linda in Placentia at 6:30pm, reservations suggested, contact Marlies Worley

June 7: Sermon-Jesus v Socrates

June 14: Sermon-On BEcoming an Adult – Coming of Age Sunday

June 21: Fathers Day—Different from Mothers Day? (“ You Betcha Ya, how many moms ask for a bar-b-que grill”) editor

June 23: Salon/Potluck: Nuclear Proliferation—Korea, Iran & the World

June 28: "Aweism" -- the Existential Magic of Life by Dr. Phil Zuckerman, Associate Professor of Sociology, Pitzer College, Claremont."

The UUCF Board for 2008-2009 have worked very hard this last twelve months, big issues and opportunities were before both the board and the congregation: the long-term lease, the strategic planning weekends with Mary Gleason, the growth of the RE program and the congregation in general, the departure of members through relocation or absent through illness requiring others to step-up and take over on short notice, the economic downturn, Whew! Thank you seems inadequate for all your time, dedication, thoughtful stewardship and determination to keep it all together. To the board members going off the board thank you for your service, to the new board members thank you for being willing and able to provide continuing leadership and a peaceful transition of power. - Editor



At 10:15 Sunday mornings, “Meditative Music” as well as “Private Candle Lightings” are intended to assist our congregation in preparation for the Worship Service, please enjoy gentle conversation and mingling in the social hall only.

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

Out of My Mind: Risks, Gains & Opportunities *JonDobrer, Minister*

At Sunday's congregational meeting, we voted for our future. After nearly a year of discussion and negotiations, the congregation approved a five-year lease with the Temple, with a right of first refusal for a second five-year period. Personally, I am greatly pleased and relieved.

Once upon a time when we were much smaller, we had more options. We have grown—and not coincidentally, along with our RE program—to a size that may require experimenting with two services (Not time to panic yet!)

I have been eager to get us into a safe place, a place where we are not on two or three month notice. So today I am rejoicing. Our negotiating committee did a fine job. We have a home. We will have an office and meeting space for our exclusive use. And we will have a sign—a sense of presence and permanence.

The congregation's decision was not unanimous. There was some principled opposition and a real concern for our financial security. The price of our physical security is some financial vulnerability. It is a risk, but, I believe, a necessary one. Our savings would avail us not if we had to pick up and leave. Having studied comparable facilities—both for lease or purchase, they were not viable options at this time.

Yes, we have made a gamble. We have placed our money on ourselves—to grow and to thrive. While it is a stretch, it is also instructive that when the issue of a long-term lease came up, over \$53,000 was pledged without being asked! No program was initiated. No brochures printed. No organized effort was made. The idea was presented to the congregation and the money was pledged—and this was just after last year's canvass.

What this indicates to me is that we will support and fund what we consider to be important. We have the means to make a difference in the life of this community, in each other's lives and in the larger world.

We are generous and put our money where our values are. We value this wonderful community and each other. We have said Yes to our future, and I am proud to be associated with you and relieved to have a home.

So far, so good. But now the work begins. Now we follow our monetary commitment with our time, our skill and our passion. Now we fill our home with more inspiration, activities and life. This is a new beginning. Jon

If you don't have time to do it properly at first, where are you going to find the time to do it over again? -

thanks to Sofiya Alper for submitting this

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— On Relationships

This month's *The Atlantic* magazine (June, 2009) has an article that I found thought-provoking. The article, by Joshua Wolf Shenk, describes a seventy-two year longitudinal study of a group of 268 Harvard men from the classes of 1942, 1943 and 1944. The study has followed this group from their days as college students to the present through periodic questionnaires, face-to-face interviews, and physical examinations. Many of them have died, but a significant number are still alive. On the face of it, one would assume that such a group would be a case study of successful people, and indeed many of them have had full lives filled with family and professional accomplishments, but such outcomes have not been guaranteed by their origins in generally successful families, by their early placement in one of the top universities in the country, and by their lives as part of America's elite in the middle of the "American Century". Many of them developed psychological problems and some died early. The study provides some insights into what characterized those who kept alive their early promise and those who did not. For the last few decades the study, called the Grant Study, has been in the hands of a researcher and psychologist named George Vaillant. Asked what he had learned from the close study of the data from these men as they matured and aged, Vaillant replied: "That the only thing that really matters in life is your relationships to other people." Another quote in the article that I found illuminating, this one a quote used by Vaillant from William Blake: "Joy and woe are woven fine."

Of course our most important relationships are with the people in our family, those we choose through marriage and those we acquire through birth. In addition to family, we have our "tribes", the people with whom we have a voluntary association based on affection and common interests. Our church is such a tribe; we join because here we find a valuable connection with each other: people who care about our hopes and challenges and who are there for us often just to listen, sometimes with concrete assistance like offering a room in their house to those who had to flee the fires. It has been an honor to participate in the leadership of our church over the last year. I am grateful to be with you in what is a "beloved community". I do believe that as we go along in life we choose either to increase the number and complexity of our relationships or to let them atrophy, and that we are better off when we choose to multiply our relationships and to cultivate them. Thank you all for the opportunity you have given me to "cultivate" my relationships with you.

Will Nettleship UUCF Board President

URGENT INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION

I have known Olga Flores for several years through ICUU and had lunch with her at the International UU Women's Conference this spring. This is a letter I received from her very recently: "Thank you very much for your solidarity in this crucial moment of my life.

I am in my 23 day of hungry strike (each day I am becoming weak but my spirit is getting stronger) and it seems that the Bolivian government is still protecting the killers, refuse to accept our petition.



The best thing for help me, is to send letters to the President Evo Morales and the Bolivian authorities expressing your concern about the 3 women in hungry strike and their demands, that consist in: return to us (relatives of disappeared people) the mortal remains of our loved ones, and to also return their personal belongings that are under military jurisdiction and to dictate an order to the army to open the military files for be declassified for our free access to the information of what has happened during the dictatorship period.

If you can ask to some personalities in USA that can send a short letter will help. You can also make calls to the Bolivian embassies or consulates, we don't have ambassador in USA but Bolivia has a representation in the United Nations, this pressure will help a lot because Evo Morales preserves very much his imagine at the international level.

To send letters to the President Morales :
correo@presidencia.gov.bo

A copy of your letter please send to this site:
Bolivianoalaimpunidad@gmail.com

For more information about the hungry strike:
www.noalaimpunidad.mamametal.com

Thanks again, all the best for your work

Olga Flores
La Paz, Bolivia

For more information go the websites listed above or <http://portal.icuuw.com> where there is a sample letter you may send--in English or in Spanish--along with addresses for a wide number of agencies and officials to whom you may write, email or fax, and the latest updates on Olga's status. They have a website where you may see and listen to Olga's latest video message or *respond to this call for social action directly today* by writing President Morales! - editor Randi Hetrick

Minutes & Tidbits

by Susan Perlson, Secy.

This is the first edition of what is hoped to be a monthly article that highlights most recent board meetings. For a full report, minutes from previous board meetings are posted in the social hall.

We seem to have raised about as much in pledges this year as last, which means that again we will need to tap into reserves to fund programs that mean so much to us. Given the challenging economy and recovery, on a positive note, we continue to grow, adding new members and families who enrich us in so many ways. We hope that the growth of our

congregation will help us fund our programs completely through the pledge drive in the future.

The board voted to pay our remaining Fair Share payment to UUA/PSWD because “we can be and do more together than we can be and do on our own.” The board also voted for the 3 delegates who are attending General Assembly to vote their conscience for UUA President. It makes a difference to be there in person to hear the candidates speak and debate.

The personnel committee is working hard to put in place formal procedures for staff given we are growing and require more structure. Our very own Tom Thoward is now President of Camp de Benneville Pines’ Board of Directors. Tune in for more developments next month!

Social Action **walking the talk AGAIN**

Thanks to Gwen Fyke, Briana, and Susan Perlson who helped carry the Team UU banner on May 16, with 5 other UU congregations, raising much needed funds for local services serving men, women and children who are living with HIV/AIDS in OC. While HIV/AIDS affects everyone, joining this worthwhile cause also offered UUCF an opportunity to provide support to bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons, in keeping with our Welcoming Congregation guidelines. And thanks to those who generously supported our walking team with their financial contributions. A total of \$170 was raised by UUCF for our very first year - let’s plan for an even better year in 2010!



HIS House family shelter in Placentia thanks Up2UU members, Kathey and Jim, with reusable shopping bags full of gifts and an appreciation dinner. Jim tutors residents in math so they can finish high school and Kathey helps them with career development.



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If you would like to work with Up2UU, helping local homeless people gain independence, please contact Kathey Schuster.

Kathey and Jim with shopping bags -

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Although it's not exactly a holiday, June is the month of the year in which the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly takes place. Each year delegates from UU churches across the US and participants from around the world gather together for several days of worship services and workshops and – most importantly – voting. General Assembly is where many important decisions about the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) are made, so that all the member congregations get a vote. Delegates vote on everything from business matters to who will be the president and moderator of the UUA to what social justice issues we think are most important for all of us to work on. It's a pretty amazing thing to watch some 1000 UUs discuss and debate and vote on matters important to our free faith. It's a big undertaking, but it's all part of our fifth UU principle: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." In other words, UUs think that everyone has the right to speak their mind according to what they believe is right, and to have a vote about the things that affect them, both in our churches and in the wider world. General Assembly is one place that happens. Can you think of any others?

(From Church of the Larger Fellowship KidsTalk, June 2008)

YRUU TEENS BUILD A NEW DECK DEBENNEVILLE PINES NEXT TIME YOU VISIT DEBENNEVILLE PINES, BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE NEW DECK ON CABIN 1. THANKS TO THE HARD EFFORTS OF OUR TEENS (MICHAEL B., GARRET, ERICA, KATE, PAIGE, RACHEL, ELEANOR, MICHAEL P., DANNY, AND ELIZABETH), CHRIS M., AND ADULTS (DALE, GARY, NEAL, CHRIS, MIKE, LESLEY, MARTY, JOYCE, DOUG, ED, RANDY, AND ROLAND).

Teacher Appreciation

June is a time for being grateful and to show our appreciation to all the volunteers that generously give so much to our youth and children. Please join us on Sunday, June 7th as we celebrate our gratitude to our volunteer teachers.

Coming of Age Sunday

On Sunday, June 14th, youth will have the opportunity to shine and mark an important life passage – the transition from childhood - with a special multigenerational service, Coming of Age Sunday. We will also honor graduating high school seniors at this service.

Summer Program

Our summer program begins on Sunday, July 5th and will run through to September 27th. The curriculum, **A World of New Friends**, is a multi-age program that teaches about the wisdom found in all the great religions of the world. We invite children in middle school to be classroom helpers and supervise activities in one of the three weekly learning centers that focus on visual, kinesthetic, and science. Teens will meet with advisors or attend the adult service.

Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee will meet on Sunday, June 7th 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
Fuddy Duddies	1st Monday 9:30AM	<u>Jan Lillibridge</u>	Rotating
Women's Wisdom Circle	1st & 3rd Monday 7PM	<u>Barbara Keller 1st Monday></u>	
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	Startrek, see on your own, reservations. required for dinner
3 rd Tuesday Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	3 rd Tuesday 7 PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer	Temple
All Soul's Potluck & Salon Discussion group	4 th 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	2 nd Sat. (times vary) (Oct., Jan., Mar., May)	Mary Rhodes Final circle supper before fall	Rotating
Foreign Foods Friday	4 th Friday	Lou Arnwine	Contact Lou for restaurant
Adult Religious Education	2 nd Sunday at 9 AM	Jennifer Meyers	Upstairs classroom at Temple
Social Action Committee Meeting	2 nd Sunday after the service		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.

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

UUCF Board: President; [Doug Schneider](#). Board members: [Al Danzig](#), [Catherine Gallaher](#)
[Doris Dressler-Clark](#), [Susan Perlson](#), [Tom Contreras](#), [Tom Thorward](#), [Ed Tschabrun](#)

Church Information Phone: (714) 871-7150 Email: uucf@uufullerton.org

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The deadline for the next issue of the CommUUnicator is NOON, June 18th. Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick 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 member

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