



The UUCF CommUunicator

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

Jon Dobrer Minister, February 2012

“The consequences of your life are sown in what you do and how you behave. Tom Shadyac

Feb 5: The Rational and Irrational Living Together, ***Jon Dobrer Minister***

Feb 7: Adult RE Part I: Jon & Rabbi Ken: Social Action, Social Justice & Religion

Feb 11: ***Saddle up for the Auction, the SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR 5-9 PM, in the Social Hall. Dust off your cowboy boots and Western shirts! Sing along as the HoUUse band plays your country favorites. \$7 door donation includes Blake's mouth-watering barbeque dinner and dessert. Children under 10 are free. Childcare will be available during the live auction. Cowboy cocktails, beer, wine and soft drinks available for purchase. What will UU find?***

Feb 12: What is this thing called ***Love?*** ***Jon Dobrer Minister***

Feb. 19: “The Moral and Practical challenges of Homelessness and Mental Illness” by Bob Cerince. Bob is a Community Services Supervisor for the City of Anaheim. He recently worked as the Staff Analyst for Homeless Prevention and Planning for the city and has worked on affordable housing and homeless program policy with Orange County public and non-profit agencies since 1999. Bob has a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a Master in Public Administration from Cal- State Fullerton.

Feb 21: Adult RE Part II: Jon & Rabbi Ken: Social Action, Social Justice & Religion

Feb 26: Our Duty to Make a Difference ***Jon Dobrer Minister***

Entertainment 2012 BOOKS are still available; only \$ 35. To purchase Entertainment 2012 contact Al Danzig on Sunday mornings in the social hall.

Out of My Mind: The Illogic of Life

Life doesn't seem to make much sense—and I mean that both in the micro and macro senses. Those of us with enough leisure to consider the question of the meaning of life imply an answer in the formulation of the question, i.e. The meaning. I'm not at all sure that meaning is inherent. Still, I am forced to ask the question and seek the answer—or rather answers. Yet, I must surrender any attachment to there being one final answer. I am trying to become content that my answers are provisional, temporary and the intellectual version of a house of cards.

I have a dear friend who claims to want his epitaph to read: “I don't understand;” wise words indeed. But, of course, I want to understand—everything: life, the universe and, everything. Yet there is a deep illogic in everything I examine—including myself.

I acknowledge that my actions and values can get out of line with each other—and it takes work

to keep them in the same moral zip code. Just this week I was working on an op-ed on the death penalty and I had to try to come to terms with my values (I am against the death penalty) and my impulses (I frequently want to expedite some miscreant's trip to hell. My values move me towards accepting the inherent worth and dignity of all humans. But they only move me towards accepting not actually accepting all my fellow humans. Still, as an aspiration, if not yet a reality, it is a form of movement and progress. My illogic also goes into politics. I want to vote for a candidate and not simply against the worse of two "lessers".

In principle I should be able to throw calculation aside and vote for my ideal third party candidate, but I know that this takes away a vote from the lesser and in effect gives it to my least favorite. What's a political animal to do?

The illogic of what we do with our own lives and bodies make me question the assertion that we are rational animals. More accurately, we are rationalizing animals! We all know about diet and exercise and their beneficial effects on both the quality and length of our lives. But from deep in the freezer I hear the call of the wild Hagan Daz, from the butcher shop, two miles away, the siren song of the sirloin sings in my ears.

In terms of personal relations, I really do know that no one ever wins a fight with a family member. One may silence the opposition, but the issue goes underground only to return at the worse possible moment—like when you need a favor. Nor has anyone ever won a religious argument—because religion is not about logic or reason—and neither are we.

Even so-called rational faiths, Unitarian Universalism, Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism and many branches of Buddhism, that make leaps of faith optional, are based on abiding and irrational faiths. My believing in humanity, as I do, is based on the evidence as logical as believing in Zeus and Thor with their thunderbolts. Believing, as I do, that we are capable of learning to beat our swords into ploughshares, our spears into pruning hooks and study war no more, is really no stranger than believing that after we die we will spend eternity singing with the choir of angels accompanied by Harpo Marx.

In fact, when I hear people arguing about religion and calling some faiths cults, I mostly laugh—unless I weep for their anger, intolerance and inability to see the illogic with their own eyes. As someone who teaches comparative religion, I cannot say that any faith is more logical or less improbable than another. When taken literally, I am no more impressed by the likelihood of Abraham circumcising himself at 98—with a sharp stone and this increasing the likelihood of fathering a child, than Mary conceiving without human help or the angel Moroni delivering a set of tablets sent by God to the Americas.

I am just not willing to debate this stuff. My irrationality is not automatically better and higher quality than yours—it's just mine.

Finally, on the illogic of life and religion: While I do not personally believe in a divine court convening post mortem to review my sins and good deeds, weigh my soul and give me my just reward or punishment, I wonder how those who say that they do hold such beliefs reconcile them with how they live their lives? I'd be all in favor of promoting this heavenly court doctrine if I saw even the slightest evidence that it made believers better.

In other words—and briefer words, as my friend wants as his epitaph: I don't understand. (But I'll keep trying!) *This column/sermon differs in focus from up-coming sermon on the 5th. Jon Dobrer



Drink More Coffee, Eat More Chocolate (a New Year's resolution worth keeping) You don't really want to give up those staples, do you? You can do the world good by making sure your coffee and chocolate honors workers' rights! Join Equal Exchange in linking UUs with small farmers and their families through fair trade. Equal Exchange facilitates your purchase of coffee, tea, chocolate, and other tasty treats in bulk for social action groups, congregations, and community groups — and it supports small farmer cooperatives at the same time. [Check out our Fair Trade table](#)

A guy goes into the confessional box after years of being away from the Catholic Church. He pulls aside the curtain, enters and sits down.

There's a fully equipped bar with crystal glasses, the best wine, Guinness on tap, cigars and liqueur chocolates nearby, and on the wall a fine photographic display of buxom ladies, who appear to have mislaid their garments. He hears a priest come in:

"Father, forgive me for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession and I must admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be". To which the priest replies... "Get out, you idiot. You're on my side".

The ever popular **["Food Loving Guys raising Funds for FIES"](#)** is scheduled for March 18, 2012, 6-9pm. The location will again be the Coyote Hills Golf Club in Fullerton. The "Chef Competition" fundraiser includes delectable portions of appetizers, salads/sides, entrees and desserts from 25 chefs, a silent auction, a live band and some surprise announcements. So mark the date on your calendar and plan to enjoy local cuisine while supporting FIES.

Want to be one of the chefs? Contact Doris Dressler-Clark - UUCF FIES Representative and board member - Dorisclark@fastmail.fm



"Each of us guards a gate of change that can only be unlocked from the inside."

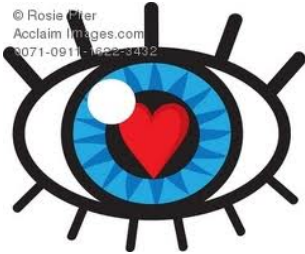
— Marilyn Ferguson



"Reading is everything. Reading makes me feel like I've accomplished something, learned something, become a better person. Reading makes me smarter. Reading gives me something to talk about later on. Reading is the unbelievably healthy way my attention deficit disorder medicates itself. Reading is escape, and the opposite of escape; it's a way to make contact with reality after a day of making things up, and it's a way of making contact with someone else's imagination after a day that's all too real. Reading is grist. Reading is bliss."

— Nora Ephron, *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* **[See what reading the newsletter can do for you!](#)**

© Rosie Miller
Acclaim Images.com
3071-0911-6683-3432



Beginning the Year with Reflections and Gratitude

By Lois Nettleship

The New Year is a good time to take stock and reflect on our past, present and future and to give thanks. When the Planned Giving Committee began in 2009 the idea of having an endowment fund for the UUCF seemed a distant vision, something that would take many years to materialize. Yet here we are, less than three years later, having made a distribution of more than 1,800 dollars to UUCF in 2011, with a balance that has grown to more than 50,000 dollars and a distribution for 2012 in the offing. All this has been made possible by the generosity of members of our Congregation.

We are indeed grateful to the following donors: Al Danzig and Judy Herz, the late Charles Everett, Jim and Gwen Fyke, Jan Lillibridge and Family in honor of Ed Lillibridge, Mike and Lesley Mahaffey and William and Lois Nettleship. In addition, the following congregants have made plans to give gifts to the Endowment Fund: Claude and Lynn Coppel, Jon Dobrer and Mary Rhodes. These gifts and planned gifts have come in various forms including cash, bequests, retirement fund distributions, proceeds from publications, portions of trusts and life insurance. If the Endowment Fund continues to grow, not only will the UUCF reap the benefits of financial stability and support for long range goals, but will continue to receive an annual distribution for the general fund. The Planned Giving Committee is dedicated to strengthening the future of UUCF finances and welcomes gifts small and large. Please see me for details.

FIES Food Bank has a Wish List

As many of you know, the FIES food bank needs donations badly. It is difficult to keep up with need these days, so here is a "wish list" of their most wanted items. If we can jot one or two items down on our grocery lists, we can help feed our neighbors during these hard times.

- Spam, Raisins, Saltines
- Individual Drinks, Individual Snack items
- Baby Food and Formula
- Travel-Sized or Full-Sized Toiletries
- Small cans of tuna or Vienna sausages with pull tops
- Ramen
- Cans of vegetables and fruit (regular and with pull tops)
- Boxes of raisins (large and small)
- Boxes of macaroni and cheese
- Boxes of dry soup mix
- Dry beans or canned beans
- Boxes of cereal
- Cans of evaporated milk
- Small and medium boxes of powdered milk
- Cans of juice
- Small jars of peanut butter and boxes of crackers
- Snack items (granola bars, breakfast bars, fruit rolls, etc.)
- Small dishwashing detergent



To serve human need In January the Social Action Committee was involved in “immigration as a moral issue” in our local community. (Immigration as a moral issue is a theme of UUA and will be the focus of GA this June.) A small group from UUCF attended a seminar at Tapestry UU Church in Mission Viejo to hear about their project to provide visitation for individuals who are awaiting deportation trials and are currently incarcerated. Four OC Unitarian Universalists congregations were represented at this meeting, and discussed beginning with visitations at the James Musick Detention Center in Lake Forrest. There will be a follow-up meeting at Tapestry UU church on February 26 for anyone who is interested. A little closer to home, we had an orientation for members of UUCF who would like to volunteer for the Unaccompanied Minors Program through **Crittenton** www.crittentonsocal.org after first use. here in Fullerton. At Crittenton about 65 children and adolescents who are undocumented are housed as they await reunification with their families, foster placement, or in some cases, deportation. A dozen UUCF members attended this mandatory orientation, and we hope to begin sponsoring monthly recreational activities for the children and teens being served in this program. Also, many thank to those of you who contributed to “share the plate” in January for the program at Crittenton, we all raised \$176. As we move into February, members of our congregation will continue to work with the homeless in our local area at the Armory and through Careerwise. Our “share the plate” for February will be for the local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) on February 19th. Please join us for our social Action meeting on February 12th following the service! We will be discussing the Crop Walk, planning for our new volunteer activities with Crittenton, and planning our fund raiser for Circulo de Amigas in June.

Debbie Langenbacher Social Action Committee, co-chair

Religious Education NEWS

***Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice;
and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.***

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.-



Valentine's Day is a day to show you care. In addition to giving valentines to family and friends, why not make valentines for a nursing home or local shelter? On February 5th, look for an extra-large valentine in the social hall. You can write a special message to the men and women at the armory to remind them that the kids at UUCF care.

Classroom Update

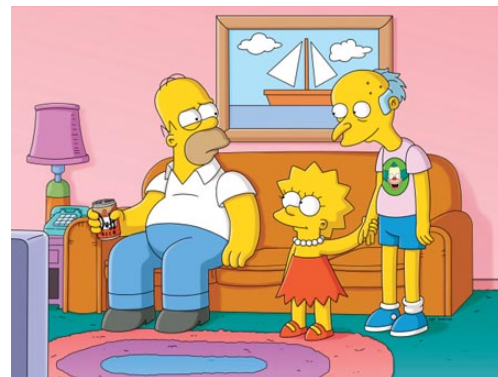
Our preschool started small early in the school year, but things have changed! In addition to our new preschool friends, we're fortunate to welcome several new children to our 3 and under group in childcare. During February, children in preschool and kindergarten will continue to celebrate

their own wondrous qualities and those qualities of the people around them. Activities and stories will focus on the “I Can’s...” of taste, love, and asking questions.

First and second graders are exploring their “faith home,” a home that shares some of the characteristics of a family home, as well as the characteristics of animal homes around us. As part of February’s sessions and hands-on activities, children will share their stories about moving and co-creating a community by doing things together. They will also be introduced to several Unitarian Universalist faith ancestors and explore how their own ancestors have left leave a legacy.

Children in upper elementary, grades 3 through 5 will examine gloves at a metaphor for love to demonstrate that Unitarian Universalism values justice, compassion, and equity in human relations. The canteen and water, together symbolize the spirit of life and convey that UU-ism values acceptance and encourages spiritual growth.

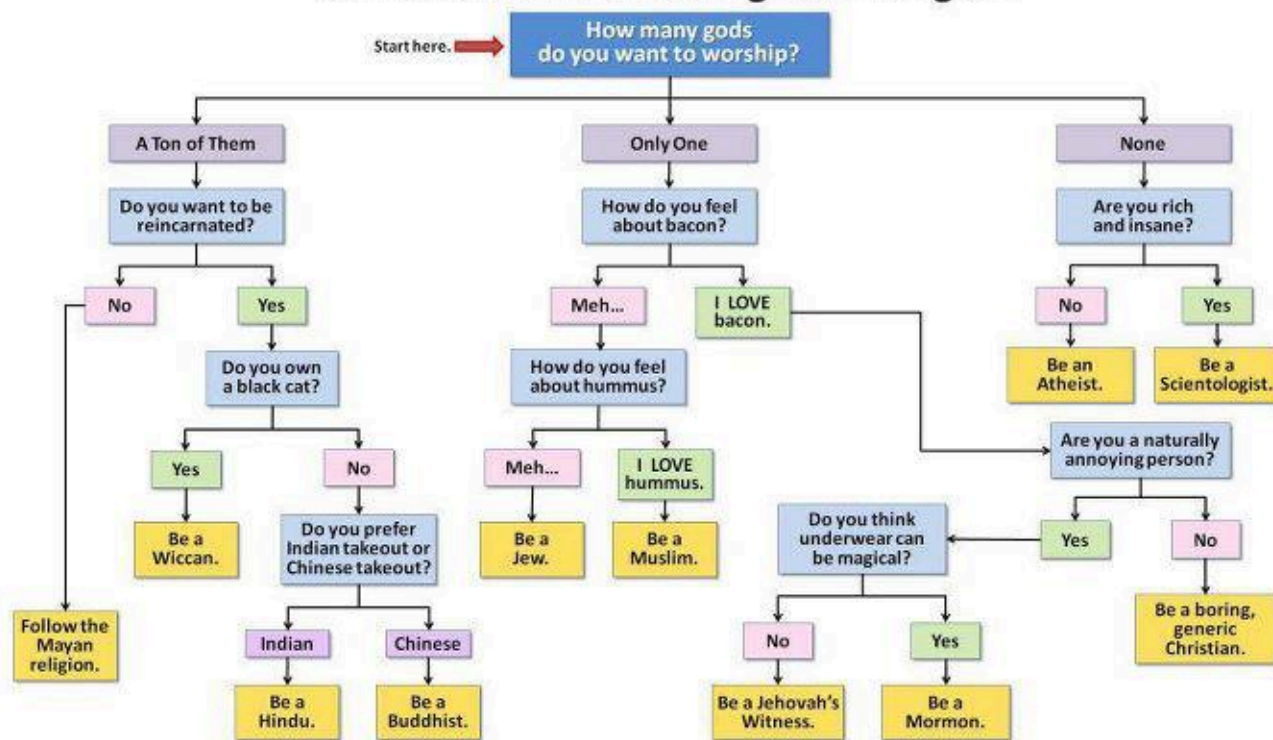
Our group of middle school youth continues to use the popular animated television show, *The Simpsons*, as a means of exploring current events and religious themes. February’s topics will include a discussion on soul, sin, and god. High school teens will begin an exploration of world religions.



R.E. Committee Meeting

The Religious Education committee will meet on Sunday, February 5th at 12:15 in the board room. Childcare is available.

A Flowchart for Choosing Your Religion



UUCF REGULAR CALENDAR EVENTS

Interest Group/Activity	Schedule	Contact Person	Location
Lunch Bunch	Sunday 12:30 PM After the service	Pat Woodhull	Marie Callender's Placentia
Fuddy Duddies	1 st Monday 9:00 AM	Jan Lillibridge	Rotating. Contact Jan for location.
Women's Wisdom Circle	1 st & 3 rd Monday 7 PM	Barbara Keller	Rotating. Contact Barbara for location.
Investment Club	3 rd Monday 7 PM	Gwen Fyke or Brad Woodhull	Contact Gwen for location
Movie and Dinner with Rev. Jon Dobrer	1 st Tuesday 6:30 PM	Marlies Worley or Rev. Jon Dobrer	See Sunday Announcements
3 rd Tuesday Discussion Group with Rev. Jon Dobrer	3 rd Tuesday 7 PM	Rev. Jon Dobrer	Community Room
Men's Lunch Group	Alternating Wed. & Thurs. 11:45AM	Brad Woodhull	Contact Brad for location
Choir Practice	Every Thurs. 7 PM (also Sunday 9 AM)	Judi Herz	Music Room
The Gadabouts	Once a month	Fran Doble	See Sunday Announcements
Meditation Group	2 nd Mon. 7 PM	Marlies Worley	Contact Marlies for location
Circle Suppers Family Circle Suppers	2 nd Sat. (times vary) (Oct., Jan., Mar., May) 2 nd Saturday of every month	Jim & Gwen Fyke Sangeeta Swendson	Rotating. Contact the Fykes to sign up to host or attend Contact Sangeeta to host or attend
Foreign Foods Friday	4 th Friday	Lou Arnwine	Contact Lou for restaurant
Adult Religious Education	3 rd Sunday at 12 PM	Dale Botts Randi Hetrick	Community Room
Social Action Committee Meeting	2 nd Sunday after the service	Debbie Langenbacher or Lesley Mahaffey	Community Room
Board of Trustees Meeting	2 nd Tuesday of the month	Dale Botts, President	Board Room

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 Guiltinan. Last update: 10/11.

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 Guiltinan. Last update: 10/11.

Please call church phone number if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

UUCF Board: President; Dale Botts **Vice president**-- Doris Dressler-Clark, **Secretary**—Dana Blanco, **Treasurer**- Bill Lau. Other Board members are: Laurel Estrada, Carol Kiser, Lois Nettleship, Al Danzig

Church Information Phone: (714) 871-7150 Email: uucf@uufullerton.org Website: www.uufullerton.org The deadline for the next issue of the CommUunicator is NOON Feb. 19, '12 Please submit all items to Randi Hetrick and put **newsletter** in the subject line – you may also request events be put on Facebook or on the web page. Send submissions to livelthood@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.

UUCF Sunshine Committee
How We Help One another

Every Sunday, we welcome our visitors and guests and make sure they feel comfortable and stay for our “carbs and conversation”. Our Social Action Committee takes care of the needs of those outside our congregation, but who takes care of our members when they need assistance? Our Sunshine Committee is there for us 24/7. It is their job to provide a ride to a doctor’s appointment, deliver a casserole, send a greeting card to let a shut in know we are thinking about them, or provide a ride to Church on a Sunday morning. Sunshine is how we take care of ourselves.

Sometimes people are embarrassed to ask for help or are concerned about confidentiality. The members of the Sunshine Committee know how to offer assistance without over stepping their bounds and know how to respect the privacy of those they assist. Sunshine is the glue that holds us together as a community.

How can I be involved? What can I do? Come find out. Rev. Jon Dobrer will be offering a class entitled “Sunshine 101” on March 25th after the service. This class will be for anyone who would like to know how to tell when someone is in need of assistance and how to offer help without offending. You do not need to be a member of the Sunshine Committee to attend this very informative lecture.

Barbara Burns
Chair, UUCF Sunshine Committee

Just some of the Amazing events that will be offered at the Service Auction:

*St Patrick's Day Dinner
5th annual Cribbage Derby
Brunch and Arboretum Tour
Breakfast for people who can't make up their minds
All-American BBQ Dinner
Paella Dinner
5th annual Cribbage Derby
LA Walking Tour
Dealers Choice Poker Evening
Cinco de mayo fiesta dinner party
Beginning Flower Arranging Class
Persian Dinner Party
Ice cream social for the child in us
Charades party
Food Play or how to play with your food
Louisiana Crayfish Boil
Yosemite-Tea (UU-semi-tea)
Ice Cream Social/ Swim party
Mesoamerican Dinner Party
Oktoberfest 2012
Hot Barbecue & Pizza Party II
Three Kings Dinner - Epiphany
Culinary Cinquain
Nuts for Nuts dinner
Cheyenne's Cookin' dinner*

*Girls Just Want to Have Fun party (women only)
Dogs in the Park
Relaxing 60-minute Facial and Lunch
Motorcycle Ride on a Honda Gold Wing
Day Spa with Doris
Outdoor Movie Night
Movie basket that includes child sitting*

*Wonderful things to purchase and savor and cherish: A couple of surprises will be revealed!
Lapis and sterling silver necklace, bracelet set
Sapphire and diamond ring
Jams of the Month Club
Cookies of the Month Club
Jeanne and Lesley's planters and terrariums
David Winter Cottages
Basket of Romance and a girl's Valentine gift
Used Wine Corks (for craft projects)
Two home-made pies
Exercise equipment
Set of golf clubs
Big Mouth Billy Bass
Franciscan Apple Water Pitcher
Vintage blue platter
Collection of Ancient Roman Coins
The four seasons in flora
Retirement Financial Planning
Original watercolors*