



The REACH

Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church

“Seeking truth, Building just communities, Caring for one another.”

1259 Victoria Street, Costa Mesa, California 92627 • (949) 646-4652

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A complete program of Religious Education for children and youth, ages nursery through mid-high, is provided at the 11:15 a.m. service. Young Religious UUs, ages 14–20 meet in Gillan 3 during the 11:15 a.m. service for conversation and community.

Apr 5 “A Rose in the Wintertime” Rev. Karen Stoyanoff
9:30 & 11:15 a.m. We are beginning the Canvass process this Sunday—that’s the time when everyone is asked to give of themselves, both in money and time and effort, to make our UU community flourish. Karen will talk about how we can do this in both ordinary and extraordinary ways.

Music: Guest Artist Pasi3n Gitana.

Apr 12 “April Showers Bring May Flowers” . . . Rev. Karen Stoyanoff
9:30 & 11:15 a.m. It’s Easter once again and we are reminded of the stories of rebirth and renewal that come at this time of year. What is the groundwork that we must lay in order for the renewal and resurgence of spirit? What does it mean to a Unitarian Universalist to consider the stories of this season?

Music: Orange Coast Choir will sing a traditional anthem by an early 18th century American composer whom the Unitarians claim as their own, William Billings.

Apr 19 “Jesus’ True Message” Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford
9:30 & 11:15 a.m. We hear a lot from some people about what Jesus would have people do with regard to abortion, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs - to name a few. But what did he really want us to understand about human behavior and how we should live? Using the biblical scholarship of Dr. Bart Ehrman from his book Misquoting Jesus, we will explore some of the actual ideas that were there and discover our connection to them.

Music: Orange Coast Choir will sing the anthem.

Apr 26 “Music Sunday” Beth Nakao
9:30 & 11:15 a.m. This year’s Music Sunday will have no performances, no choir, no specially-prepared selections at all. Instead, it will include simple chants, sung repeatedly by the congregation, as a form of meditation. Between the chants will be plenty of silence. The service will be styled after the worship music at Taize, an ecumenical retreat center in France. It will be an antidote to the hurried and complex lives we lead in modern-day America. Find more about Taize by clicking here.

May 3 “The Road Ahead” Dale Osborne
9:30 & 11:15 a.m. As we come closer to the reality of a new UU community and a new home, how can we best (gracefully and honestly) deal with the changes we will all face? Dale shares some thoughts and tips.

Music: Our own vocalist Nicole Glasser will share a special song.



REACH Scheduling

Deadlines are on the first and third Sundays of each month. If you e-mail your material, you have until midnight.

The address is *reach@ocuuc*.

org. Please send e-mail to both the editor and the church. Material received later than the deadline will only be included if the layout is not finished. It will be in the next issue if still appropriate.

If you don't have access to a computer, Merrie Lee Wooten, is willing to help you get your article ready for the *REACH* and transmit it. Inserts must be coordinated with Sarah Jones. Thanks.

**April REACH Deadline
April 21**

Merger Taskforce Update

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Joint Merger Taskforce—April 8 (at Tapestry) and April 23 (at OCUUC)

Town hall Meeting—April 26 (After the late service)

Cottage Meetings—Coming Soon!!! Watch the Order of Service for more information on times and dates.

Taskforce Business—The taskforce held a very productive meeting on Thursday, 3/26. The following are some highlights. The Site committee reported they are encouraged by the inquiries being received on the Victoria property. Things are moving steadily forward with interested organizations. On Tuesday 3/17 the OCUUC Board decided to recommend moving forward with Lease negotiations on the 18021 Cowan Property. Tapestry's Board made the same recommendation on Monday 3/23. The site committee will host an Open House for both congregations on 3/28. The Finance Committee is continuing to work on budget plans and options. The committee is relatively certain that budget is "doable" and excited about moving forward with the merger plans. The Culture Committee reported that the Visioning meeting was a success and closed with a sense of having a "Common Ground" that was very encouraging. The committee is working on plans for hosting Cottage Meetings in the very near future to gather more input from the congregations. The Communications committee reported that they are working hard to get information out to the congregation but is still having some difficulties with timeliness of information. The committee is working on a new communication flow process and is working diligently to get the most current and accurate information out to the congregations as possible. The committee is concerned about "rumors" in both congregation and encouraged members of the taskforce to remind congregants to contact the communications committee directly if they have questions. The committee is in the process of developing FAQ about the merger process. The Merger/Ops committee is generally pleased with the merger process. The committee feeling is that though there are always things to improve on, that the merger process seems to moving forward at a relatively good speed. Things seem to be coming together well.

Communications Info

Our web site: *ocuuc.org*

**Office Hours: 9:30 AM–1:30 PM
Sunday–Thursday
Closed Friday and Saturday
(949) 646-4652, 646-9016 fax**

Minister

Rev. Karen Stoyanoff

President

Nancy Loughrey

Director of Religious Education

Katelynn Riva

Youth Advisor

Summer Dadah

Office Manager

Sarah Jones

Music/Choir Director

Beth Nakao

Membership Information

Tom Loughrey

Helping Hands

Gayle Carter

Congregation Nurse

Adair Small

REACH & Web Editor

Richard Scoby

Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Lundholm

Student Minister

AJ Blackwood



Not So Casual Comments

We are getting closer and closer to the merger! It's exciting to be looking at possible sites for our new congregation and to consider all the wonderful things that will happen in our new home. At the same time, it is sad to think about leaving 1259 Victoria. We have had wonderful times and built our beloved community in this space for many years. I'm wondering, as I write this, if there is anyone still in the congregation who remembers moving in, back in 1961? I know there are lots of folk who remember the remodel that brought new bathrooms and our wonderful kitchen. And I hear about those who remember when the chairs faced what is now the back of the sanctuary. It will be difficult to leave all that work, all the love, and all the memories behind. Of course we don't have to leave either the love or the memories when we move—we can take them with us, just as we can bring some plants from the memorial garden and the bricks we bought as part of the fundraising for the rehab we did ten years ago.

It is important that we acknowledge our history, our sadness at leaving, and how meaningful 1259 Victoria has been for us as a faith community, and we will do so. The staff and I are going to spend some

time planning and executing various ways of paying tribute to our home here. But we need your help! If you have ideas for ways we can commemorate this piece of our history, or celebrate this lovely location, please tell me! I want to collect your stories—the memories you particularly cherish—whether they are sentimental, sad, or funny—even if they are exasperating! If you will send me your stories, I'll work to compile them into a pamphlet we can have as a keepsake. Pictures would be nice as well.

And we will have a gala celebration to mark the end of the era during which the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist community has been held in the loving embrace of this piece of property. I don't know right now just when that will be, but I do know that it will be sometime fairly soon. That last Sunday we are at 1259 for services will be devoted to our recognition of the blessing it has been. It will involve music, story, and other elements of worship. In many communities the congregation walks from the old home to the new home as a group, carrying the chalice, their banner, and the other things that are particularly cherished. That isn't likely to happen for us, since the distance to our new place will almost certainly be measured in miles—too many for most of us to walk. But that doesn't mean we can't have a ceremony that carries us forward. We'll figure out how to do it when the time comes! All ideas are welcome.

In the meantime, may you

Go shining,

The First 100 Days Celebration

Our fifth principle invites us to support the democratic process (and the rights of conscience) in our society. Pundits tell us that you can determine the course of an administration by the things they do in the first three months. It's time for us to live out our fifth principle once more. Come join us as we celebrate the first 100 days of the Obama presidency. On Wednesday,

April 29 we'll meet in the social hall for a potluck supper and follow it with our own analysis of what's happened in the first three months of the new administration. Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, or contact the office if you wish to contribute to the "main dish" which will be provided. It's the middle of the week, so we'll do the hard work of meal preparation to help out all those who will be coming straight from work. Gather at 6:30 and continue until we're done!

Pulpit Editorial

UUSC-GAYT Program 2009

My name is Nick Simon.

I'm your representative from this church, the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church (OCUUC) to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). I'm here to report

on the results of the Guest-at-your-table (GAYT) program at our church.

GAYT is a fundraiser for UUSC. You know, the colorful cardboard banks that we pass out at the holiday season to place on the dinner table so that you place your loose change in the bank as you sit down to eat. The idea is to help those in trouble around the world. UUSC has programs for human rights, civil rights, workers rights, and water rights in other countries and right here in the United States.

The donations from the 2008/9 GAYT program were mailed in on March 2, 2009. They totaled \$1323.38. That is just one number, but it does not tell the whole story.

Now I have been accused of being a numbers person and I readily admit it. So let me tell you a story with numbers.

For example: In addition to the \$1323.38 collected, I received 14 Mexican pesos, 800 Italian lira, 11 Canadian cents, 1.05 Euros, 5kc (Cheq Republic), 1coin Thailand, 1coin Malawi, 1coin of erotica, 1coin Thank You from the Guide Dog Foundation.-----PLUS! 1 paper clip, 1 head pin, 1 watch battery, 1 American Legion Pin, Newport Post 291, 1 flat head machine screw, and --- 1 piece butter-scotch candy.

How about that. But that isn't the end of it. I'm just getting started. Since I love playing with numbers here is more fascinating stuff:

\$901.00 of the money collected is eligible for matching funds from the UU Church at Shelter Rock. This raises the worth of our contribution to \$2224.38. The \$901.00 eligible for matching funds

was donated by only seven families. This means that 7 families were responsible for \$1802.00 of the \$2224.38 total. That is 81% of the total donated by just seven families.

So let's do some speculating. There are about 216 individual or family units in the church. If say just 10% (22 units) donated \$100.00 that would be \$2200.00 or \$4400.00 after matching. Then, if the rest just donated \$40.00 each (membership level) that would be an additional \$7760.00 for a total of \$12,160.00. Now isn't that interesting?

One more thing: Last year we collected ~ \$800.00 that I sent in as a package. Others sent their contributions in directly adding ~ \$600.00 for a total of \$1400.00. If the funds were matched in the same ratio, that would increase the total to \$2520.00 last year. And if this year's direct contributions are in proportion to last year's results, we may see a total effective contribution this year of \$4168.00. Not bad.

But we still have a long way to go. If all church families would donate just \$100.00, with matching, that total would generate \$43,200.00 for the work of UUSC around the world!

Actually, you can make donations to UUSC year round. I will still accept GAYT contributions and send them in to UUSC. Please consider donating.

Contemplative Services

April 8 "Contemplative Service"

7:00 p.m. Meditation Orientation, 7:30 p.m. Service, 8:15 p.m. Social Gathering

The Meditation leader will be AJ Blackwood. The Meditation form will be a evening of celebrating Spring. We will be planting flowers and exploring the earth as a source of meditation.

April 22 "Contemplative Service"

7:00 p.m. Meditation Orientation, 7:30 p.m. Service, 8:15 p.m. Social Gathering

The Meditation leader will be AJ Blackwood. The Meditation form will be a evening of poetry by Rumi. "The meaning of poetry has no sureness of direction; is like the sling, it is not under control." —Rumi

Please join us for a time of reflection. If this is your first time attending the service please arrive at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions please contact *AJ Blackwood* at *InternMinister@ocuuc.org*. Childcare will be provided with an R.S.V.P. to AJ.

April Recipient of Church Funds

The intensity and expense of caring for a child with special needs is dramatic. Parents need an occasional break from the high demand of parenting their special needs child. **Special Sitters and Saturday Club** are programs that connect parents of children with disabilities to specially trained teen sitters who want to work with children. **Camp Fire USA—Orange County Council** recruits and trains teens that are then matched with families who need babysitting help for children age 12 and under. **Special Sitters** receive CPR and First Aid training

along with instruction on communicating with parents, responsive play, behavior basics, understanding developmental disabilities and the use of adaptive equipment. Our donations will help to meet the costs of training and placement of dedicated teens. For more information about this unique program, see Kathleen McFarlin or contact Ericka Waidley at Camp Fire, (714) 547-5200.

The Community Service Committee welcomes new member Naomi Blackwood to the task of encouraging the nomination of organizations and programs that provide needed services to Orange County residents. To assist you with nominating a recipient for OCUUC donations, see committee members Naomi Blackwood, Kathleen McFarlin, or Maurice Giss.

ADR Report

from Birdie & Charlie Reed

Important Dates:

Saturday, May 16—AIDS Walk, Orange County. Anaheim Stadium. To volunteer and help raise money see Mark Miller.

Saturday, May 16–Sunday, May 17—Long Beach Gay Pride Celebration and Parade. See Charlie or Birdie.

Wednesday, June 24–Sunday, June 28—UUA General Assembly, Salt Lake City, Utah.

To be a delegate, see one of us. We will be electing the next President of the UUA. See the description of voting below.

How do we vote for UUA President?

Every congregation gets a number of votes equal to the number of delegates to GA allowed it. These votes may be cast three ways:

- By GA delegates. They may be instructed by the congregation or not.
- By absentee ballot. Congregations may decide how

they want to instruct their delegates to cast absentee votes.

- By a combination of both the above. In any case the number of votes per congregation is fixed.

Youth Group News

The Youth-Young Adult BBQ Potluck was cancelled due to a conflict with the joint vision meeting with Tapestry. We plan to reschedule this event and schedule another event with Tapestry youth. Stay tuned to see what they've got cooking!

There are Youth Scholarships (up to \$500) for District Assembly! This is a great time for youth to bond with other youth in congregations around the district. Please see me for more details or go on the PSWD website <http://www.pswduua.org/>.

Calling all prospective Youth Advisors! Have you ever thought about working with young people but thought it might be too much of a time commitment? Use this summer to experience youth advising, and ease into this position to see if you like it. If you enjoy your summer advising, you can join our fabulous youth advisor team in the fall! I guarantee you will have the time of your life advising our incredible young people! Plus, you will be ready when our Youth Group doubles in size! So, come join us. You won't regret it!

Cheers,

Summer Bayati-Dadah

Youth Advisor Coordinator

Thinking About Theism (TAT)

This discussion group meets every third Saturday morning at OCUUC. The next meeting is April 18 at 10:30. For information, contact Maureen McConaghy.

Young Adults

Come join us in our activities!!! The more the merrier.

This month we will host the Contemplative Service on Wednesday 4/8 and 4/22. This is a time to focus on meditation and connect with our community. We also get together every

Sunday after the 11:15 service for IUUunch. In April we will be going to Taco Mesa, Souplantation (don't forget to purchase Scrip), and Stonefire Grill. Stop by the Young Adult table for more information.

Our ages range from 18 to 35, but we encourage all to participate in anything we do, the young and the young at heart. Come visit our table on the patio on Sundays where we have donuts if you didn't get breakfast, \$1 each. Questions? Email YoungAdults@ocuuc.org Visit our group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OCUUC-YA> Or, contact anyone on the YA Committee: AJ Blackwood, Molly Rossow, Jacob Matthews, Tim Medley.

You Are Invited

Tapestry's Service Auction will be held in at the church in Mission Viejo on Saturday, April 4. Our theme this year comes from the popular show American Idol, which we are calling "American Iduul!" A complete preview list of items to be auctioned will be sent in a few weeks. There will also be an Explorers Kids Auction held upstairs.

Check-in is at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30. Cost, payable at the door, is \$12 per person, children under 12 are \$6 each. Dinner will be freshly grilled chicken, vegetables, potatoes, salad, and gourmet breads.

Babysitting will be available at no additional charge.

We encourage and welcome OCUUC members to attend our auction and bid on offered services. If you would like to attend, please contact Laura Mazzulo ASAP at FRMAZZ@AOL.COM to reserve your spot and get directions. Please RSVP about dinner by Wednesday, April 1.

Connecting Our Community

At the end of each service, we extinguish our chalice with the following words:

"We extinguish our chalice, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again."

These words remind us of the strength of our community. Should you like to connect more with the community groups at OCUUC, I wanted to share information about all the groups and activities that happen throughout the week. To start, I wanted to provide a summary listing of the categories in which programs exist. There are many more opportunities for connecting with like minded members and friends of OCUUC. In following articles, I will highlight different programs and activities. If you don't see what you are looking for, please contact me...or if you need more information on the groups listed below:

Love and Light,
Mary Lundholm, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteers@ocuuc.org

Seeking Truth,

Adult Programs
Book Discussions
Interweave
Movies with the Minister
Religious Exploration
Women's Circle



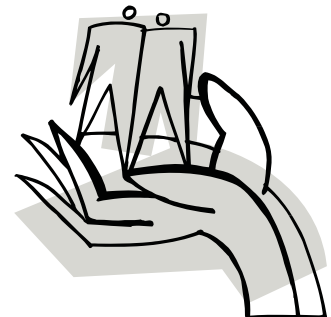
Building Just Communities

Faith in Action
Earth Ministries/
Green Sanctuary
Share Our Selves (SOS)
Aids Team Ministries
Community Service
UU Service Committee
Cirulo de Amigas
Welcoming



Caring for One Another

Helping Hands
Pastoral Care
Congregational Nurse
Covenant Groups
Gatherings
Social Groups
Membership
Recognitions
Camp de Benneville



Musi Corner

This year's **Open Mic Night** was the best one yet! Start planning your act for next year – the bar has been set high for laughs, poignancy, and true talent. Here are a few shots of some of the fabulous performers from the March 21 event:



A visit from Mark Twain

Naomi sang a song she wrote.



"Belly Up to the Bar"

And our fearless leader, Chair of the Music Committee, top chef, MC Extraordinaire, Tenor for the Ages, and professional Boomwhacker whacker, Mr. Ted Lundholm:



Thanks to Ted for organizing the whole event, Sheri and Bob who set up the bar, Ted and Sarah for cooking the yummy Irish goodies, Barbara and Steve for the Irish decorations, Mark and Ted and Dave for multimedia assistance, and everyone else who helped set up and cleanup.

Remember the Three Flutes concert last year? Or the Three Guitars concert a few years ago? Well, we're doing it again... On April 25, the final concert of this year's season of Orange Coast Concerts will be Three Zithers. Scott Williams plays hammered dulcimer in the Celtic and Appalachian style. He's performed at OCUUC on a Sunday morning before to great acclaim. The other two zithers will be a koto player who blends traditional Japanese music with a contemporary jazz sound, and Dara Bamoradi, a Persian qa'nun player. You will be delighted by the contrast of these three instruments. Invite your friends to an evening out in your own backyard.

Most of the members of Orange Coast Choir will be taking a road trip to Mesa, Arizona this May to participate in a mass choir performance of Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata. This major work by UU composer Jason Shelton will be the feature presentation for the Friday night opening service of District Assembly. We will be taking a caravan to Arizona, and there may be room for non-singers in the carpools as well. Let me know if you want to ride with us to Mesa. We promise not to sing "100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall," but we might sing other songs in the car...

Upcoming Music Events:

4/5/09 – Guest Artist – Pasion Gitana featuring Ruben and Dounia Gonzales

4/25/09 – Orange Coast Concerts -- Three Zithers (hammered dulcimer, koto, qanun)

4/26/09 – Music Sunday – Taize service

4/30/09 – A contingent of singers travels to District Assembly in Mesa, AZ to sing Sources with the Arizona choirs there

5/17/09 – Guest Artist – Joe Daigle, jazz guitarist

6/13/09 – Spring Choir Concert

6/21/09 – Summer Solstice service

6/28/09 – Guest Artist Faith Rivera

Musically yours,

Beth Nakao, MusicDirector@ocuuc.org,

Read the results of the OCUUC/Tapestry Music Survey by going to the OCUUC web site and clicking on the link.

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

Dear OCUUC,

I have been at Orange Coast for almost a month now, and I am beginning to match faces to names and names to responsibilities; remembering names will be a challenge for me since I will only see most of you a couple of times each month. Although you only have my name to remember, the scarcity of my presence will challenge you to recognize me; to help, I have posted a picture of myself on the RE board in the Social Hall. I did not post the picture out of vanity but responsibility. In my position as Director of OCUUC's RE programs I hope to cooperate with families and members in creating a strong vibrant religious education program and in order to find me

on Sundays to share your thoughts, hopes, and critiques with me you will need to know what I look like. The RE committee and I have already begun making changes, some important changes to take note of are

Program name: Religious Exploration for Children and Youth (**RECY**) instead of Children's Religious Education (CRE)

Participants: Children and Youth will be referred to as "Explorers"

Google Group: Join our online community at ocuuc_re

Sunday Spokesperson: A spokesperson is a Sunday morning greeter at the RECY table. This is a great volunteer job, because you get to meet new people, promote UU principles, and share in fellowship, and it is only a 15–20 minute time commitment, meager as volunteer jobs go. Sign up to promote RECY on Sundays by e-mail, in person, or on the ocuuc-re Google Group page.

Strengthening and growing RECY will take the whole community; new volunteers are encouraged and welcome to join the team, there are many areas outside of teaching in which to help. If you are interested in working with Explorers e-mail me or speak to a member of the RECY committee.

Sincerely, *Katelynn Riva*

Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth
dre@ocuuc.org

April 19: Earth Day

May 1–May 3: District Assembly in Mesa Arizona

May 10: Flower Communion

District Assembly

It is time again for District Assembly. OCUUC is part of the PSWD (Pacific Southwest District) and this year's District Assembly (DA) is in Mesa Arizona, outside Phoenix. DA is Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3 and offers programs for children, youth, and adults. Children will explore the outdoors during hands-on field trips into the desert, youth will participate in conferences, worship, and activities just for them, and adults have a choice of workshops and worships to enjoy. DA is a wonderful experience for the whole family. Visit the PSWD website to register and to find out more information.

Thank you for Volunteering in March

Gabrielle Block, Judith Stamper, Dale Osborne, Ariana Kenney, Mary Lundholm, Jacques and Elizabeth Kilchoer, Mike Scott, Jennifer Abt, Barbara Berrocal, Christine Soriano, Merrie Lee Wooten, Shannon and Willem Verkruijsse, Nicole Glasser, Noelle Nitz, Monica Van Vorst, and Joanne Kondori

Calendar

Saturday, April 4: Tapestry and Explorer Auction and Explorer "No Talent-Talent Show"

April 12: Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

Notes from the Nurse

Hello from the Windy City! Your nurse is thriving with grandson Teddy, who is finally beginning to come up with another name for me besides “Granpa.” Not sure what the final version will be; sounds mostly like Gumma so far...

Defibrillators at home: The February issue of Consumer Reports on Health had an excellent short article on the pros & cons of buying an AED (automatic external defibrillator) for home use. About eighty per cent of deaths from cardiac arrest occur at home; now there is research to help determine whether having an AED would save some of these folks. About 7,000 people at risk of cardiac arrest were studied. Half were given AEDs; in the other half, a person in the household was trained in CPR. The result was 27 deaths in the AED group and 31 in the CPR group; statistically a tie. Resuscitation succeeded eight times in each group.

The bottom line: 1. Learn CPR if you live with someone at high risk (I would say, learn CPR period!) 2. A home AED should be considered if you live far from emergency services plus CPR training as CPR must be used with an AED. 3. Home AEDs may be worthwhile if you are at such high risk that you should have an implanted defibrillator, but insurance will not cover it. Oh, and the cost of an AED, \$1200–\$1500!

Volunteers Welcome: I am sure you are all familiar with the faithful crew who staff our Caring Table on Sundays; Elizabeth Alexander, Roberta Fox, Barbara Marquet, Pat Robitaille, Barbara Ray, Joan Parry, and Vera Viana-Asper. This is an easy job as long as no one has to do it every week, but some of these folks have been doing it so long that they could really use a respite! It is a great way to meet folks and learn a lot about what is going on. If you are interested, please stop by the table and speak to one of our volunteers. Vera is the angel who does all

the scheduling and training.

What does this Drug Do? I want to remind you that I subscribe to the Prescriber’s Letter, an unbiased publication which helps sort out whether new drugs are any better than old ones and what are the best treatments for various conditions. They take no money from pharmaceutical companies. I also have access to a sister web resource on Natural Medicines. It can tell you if any of these have the potential to interfere with each other or other medications as well as whether there is evidence to support its use. Please feel free to ask me if I can help research your medicine closet.

And if I were a nurse in 1887, every day I would have to “maintain an even temperature in [my] ward by bringing a scuttle of coal for the day’s business.”

Adair Small, Congregation Nurse, nurse@ocuuc.org



CUUPS and Chalice

Beltane is coming!

Beltane is a time when the interdependent web of existence pulses with energy. It’s about the fullness of spring: life, love, color, joy, and wonder. It’s about experiencing the world at its prime, and participating in the buzzing energy that surrounds us at this amazing time of the year. Beltane is for the young and young at heart. Beltane is for those who love a good party. Beltane is for lovers.

Come and celebrate the vibrant joy of life in the heart of spring. Everyone is welcome to attend our Beltane celebration on a Sunday near May 1 (TBA), after church. This is going to be a fantastic event! We’ll dance around the Maypole, we’ll flirt a little with a scarf dance, and a lucky boy and girl will be crowned the May King and Queen.

Like most of OCUUC’s future plans, the location for our Beltane celebration has yet to be determined, but definitely hold the thought. You won’t want to miss this wonderful event!

On Board...Notes from the President

April is a month of new beginnings, and it certainly will be a time of transition for us. It will be a time of planning, and figuring out how to realize our collective dreams. An important part of that will be through our annual canvass drive. It is a time to consider what is important in your life, and how you, through your time and your money, make a difference. I hope each of us will take some time to look at our own finances, and how they reflect our own values.

Unitarian Universalism is an important part of my life. It is a substantial part of my social life, but that is not the reason I make my pledge. I pledge because the values it represents, and the programs it offers are important. Not just to me, but to Orange County and the larger world.

Seeking Truth: When we have services and programs that offer opportunities for exploration of new ideas, clarifications on how to better live our lives, opportunities for healing, and that share and celebrate our humanity, we are fulfilling our purpose in a way that is unique among religions.

Building Just Communities: When we act together for justice, as we did last year for the No on 8 campaign, we are making a difference. I was personally amazed and thrilled that we were such an important part of that effort. I know we will continue, and justice will prevail! When we help others through Share Ourselves or Aids Team Ministry, we are doing good, important work.

Caring for One Another: We each could learn and explore life's paths in many other ways, and we certainly could be active for justice in other organizations. Many of us are. However, it is in caring for one another that we truly become a community, in my opinion. When we go out of our way to find out what is going on in other's lives, we help people move, or care for children, recover from an illness, and celebrate or mourn life's transitions, we transition into a deeper, more connected place.

There is always more we would like to do. It is never enough. In fact, I would consider us a troubled congregation if we felt we were doing enough. But we have to keep trying. You will have many opportunities to think about your pledge of time and money this month. From the Canvass Kickoff Sunday April 5, to the Celebration Event on April 26, we will be asking for a commitment to the potential of our purposes and principles.

Please join me in making the pledge process and outcome one we all find meaningful and reflective of our values and commitment.

Nancy Loughrey

Joint Visioning Meeting

The Merger Cultural Development (MCD) committee was very pleased to see the success of our first joint vision meeting between Tapestry and OCUUC. The meeting was held at Irvine United Congregational Church (IUCC) on Sunday 3/22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. There were 55 participants present. The overall consensus was a feeling of "common ground" commented one participant. Throughout the meeting the participants participated in small group discussions about what they desired for the new congregation from a variety of perspectives. The discussions ranged from the physical plant to the interconnectedness and strength of the community. There were positive comments about welcoming newcomers, space for youth and families, the use of technology, diversity, and a sense of connectedness amongst many others. The MCD will be compiling the results of the meeting and preparing them for publication as well as investigating alternative ways to get more feedback from congregants who were unable to attend over the next week. On behalf of the Merger Taskforce we would like to thank everyone who attended and offered their insight.

We would also like to thank IUCC and Rev Paul Tellstrom for their hospitality and help in making this event possible.

Calendar Events at OCUUC

April 26, 12:45

Canvas Luncheon-Social Hall

Contact Barbara Davia (714)751-7472

May 10

Flower Communion- Bring a flower to this special service.

Mary Lundholm (714) 841-0509

May 16, 12:30

Pathways Meeting for People Considering Membership

Contact Tom Loughtrey (714) 878-2210

Artists Arise Happenings:

Flowers, Faces, and Places—A Photography Show” will continue on display until further notice. Please come enjoy the work of OCUUC photographer-members.

Workshops have been cancelled until further notice.

Let's do art! later in the year!

Mary Paliescheskey Lundholm

Vera Viana-Asper

OCUUC—The Women's Circle

March meeting—“Two Golden Hours”

The topic engendered lively discussion about how we would spend precious time. We talked about favorite things we like to do such as: being in nature, dancing, traveling, and sitting down guilt-free with a good book. Many of us stated that connecting with a good friend brought great pleasure and satisfaction.

The Topic of discussion for April 5 meeting: “Are you a healthy woman?”

We will be together from approximately 12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please bring brown bag lunch; beverage provided.

OCUUC Nominations

The OCUUC Nominating Committee needs nominations for 2009–2010 officers (board, trustees, steward, nominators). Next year's officers will deal with the merger with Tapestry and will have a strong impact on the future of OCUUC. The Nominating Committee will discuss all potential candidates and present a slate to be voted on at our Annual Meeting in June. If you have any name suggestions (even if it is yours), please let one of us know. Thanks so much!

Nominating Committee: Suzi Cassidy, Rachel Smith, Pat McCully, Molly Rossow, Ross Miyashiro, and Mike Harmanos

Board Calendar

| Date | Time | Place |
|----------|---------|-------------|
| APRIL 21 | 7:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL |
| MAY 19 | 7:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL |
| JUNE 16 | 7:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL |
| JULY 21 | 7:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL |

Pastoral Associates Offer “Companionship”

The associates are commissioned to augment the pastoral work of our minister. If illness, physical limitations, impending or recent hospitalization, personal losses, significant life changes, spiritual or emotional distress are concerns for you or someone you know, please call one of the pastoral care associates listed.

Paul Gethard
Ted Lundholm
Joan Parry
Adair Small
Judith Stamper
Bill Stoker
Shannon Stoker
Shirley Thorne
Vera Viana-Asper

ATM Cooking Schedule

As part of the OCUUC Faith in Action outreach program, the AIDS Team Ministry Project (ATM) is a meal service project which provides microwaveable meals to homebound people with AIDS who live in Orange County. We normally cook every month on the second Saturday, 8–noon, in the wonderful OCUUC kitchen. Volunteers cook, package, and freeze meals. These meals, which are then delivered biweekly, can be easily popped into the microwave by folks who are unable to cook nutritious meals for themselves. See the ATM bulletin board on the east wall of the kitchen foyer for cooking dates and sign-up or e-mail atm@ocuuc.org.

Next cooking date: April 11

To volunteer, please sign up on the sheet posted on the ATM bulletin board (on the east wall of the kitchen foyer), or call cooking coordinators *Ted and Mary Lundholm*.



Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church

1259 Victoria Street
Costa Mesa CA 92627
(949) 646-4652

Dated Material

OCUUC Book Group

The OCUUC book group meets the first Monday of every month in Gillan 3 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone who has read the book and interested in a lively and edifying discussion is most welcome to join us. For further information, call Mickey Jackson at (949) 786-0325. Selections for the next four months are as follows:

April 6—*Bridge of Sighs* by Richard Russo, presenter TBA

Walking Group

We are meeting at the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine at 8:00 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays for our 45–60 minute walk. We combine birding and mild exercise. Call *Mickey Jackson* or *Jay Miller* for more info.

Knitwits

Knitwits meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month right after church. We are looking for some new members of any skill level who like to knit or who are interested in learning.

We make afghans for anyone at church who is ill. It is an opportunity to socialize and share projects. If you have questions please call *Judith Stamper*.

North Orange County HikUUs

We meet at a regional park at 9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month for an approximately 2-hour hike. On April 11, we will meet at Santiago Oaks Regional Park and hike up the hill to see the wildflowers. For information, contact *Maureen McConaghy*.