

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



## What's the Board up to?

January 2010

The Board is forming the Fellowship Future taskforce to help answer four questions formulated through our recent Future Forum process:

1. How do we grow the Fellowship?
2. How do we increase volunteerism?
3. How do we improve our financial situation to afford everything that we want to do?
4. Do we want a full or part time minister, and how do we do it?

The taskforce, guided by a detailed work plan developed by the Board, is charged with delivering an action plan to the Board by May 1. The detailed work plan is posted on the bulletin board. The Board invites you to participate in this process however you are able. As always, the larger the collaborative circle, the better the final product. We hope for participation from members with different Fellowship needs and interests, and with varying viewpoints on important issues.

Notable activities to date include the December 18-19 visit of Jeanalyse Doran Adams from UU Pacific Central District (PCD) and the January 17 service inspired by the Golden Colorado congregation's DVD video on growing through welcoming visitors and rapidly integrating new members. Upcoming is the planning for the 2010-11 canvass and budget cycle.

This work is vital to realizing the hopes and dreams we have for the Fellowship. Please contact any member of the Board to see how you can be a part of this process.

*Dave Harris, Treasurer*

## Thank you

A huge thank you to Jeanelyse Doran Adams, Director of Program Development for PCD. Jeanelyse drove to Humboldt this past weekend to spend time with our congregation on Saturday. Jeanelyse guided 40+ of us through some exercises based on the four key points brought forth by the Future Forum Survey results. We appreciated her enthusiasm, her thoughtful, tailored exercises and her doses of reality.

We hope to do more of this type of gathering in the future.

*Maureen Lawlor*

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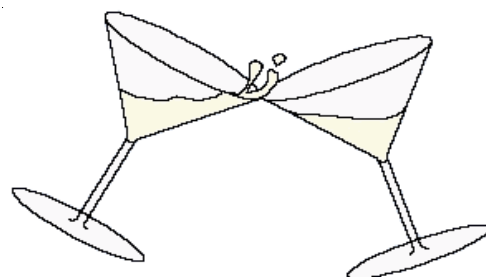
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## People

**Robin Blythe** is a new member. Welcome!

**Bonnie MacGregor** had knee surgery December 11. She is healing and plans to go back to work soon.

**Cynthia Chason** is working on her healing process.

**Pat McCutcheon** had successful back surgery December 17. Cheryl and Pat thank everyone for their visits and healing thoughts.

**Jan Rowen** will have knee surgery January 25. She will return to Humboldt County on February 13.

**Elva Banducci** is on the mend from a bout with pneumonia and is living independently at her home again. Calls are welcome, but please, no visits at this time.

**Mary Lou Jensen** is happily back home with home health care support after three months of living in hospitals and rehab centers.

**Ginger Gardener** is getting tests for a clearer diagnosis. She is most eager to start driving again.

**Jamila Tharp** is discovering her humor while healing from the side effects of her chemotherapy.

**Jean Wagner** is keeping warm by her fireside in McKinleyville.

**George Allen** is enjoying his new life at Timber Ridge.

**June and Dave Davis** are in Hawaii to spend the holidays with June's dad. From there they will commence a one month circuit of Southeast Asia, returning in early February.

*Karen Knapp*

## Halloween a success

We had the Halloween Festival again this year after a hiatus of two years, and it was a great success. It had been much missed by the community, and people were excited to have it again. Financially, we did well (we cleared about \$1,000.00); and that's great. But this Festival is much more than a fund raiser – it is a community service. A tender and magical event, especially for the youngest people, but loved by those of all ages. And it is a way for us to connect with the community in a meaningful way.

A lot of people pitched in to help, making it all the more magical, but impossible to list everyone here. So instead, the Festival Committee members want to put out a big thank you to everyone, because even if you didn't help directly, by just being a part of this Fellowship, you've made it the kind of place that puts on an event like this.

A few days after the Festival, we got a card from an attendee, addressed to the King and Queen of Halloween and the best way to say thank you to all is to share it. It'll be posted on the bulletin board just outside the office, and here is what was written on the card:

Dear Magical Beings of HUUF,

My husband and I brought our 4 year old daughter Sophie to your Halloween Festival last weekend and we were so moved and delighted that I just wanted to thank all of you for all of the creativity, hard work, and heart you put into the event. It was truly beautiful. It was lovely to see such small children completely enthralled and so happy to follow their Guiding Light through the dark evening.

The world is so troubled and

there is so much suffering that gestures like yours in providing this lovely moment for the children in our community mean a great deal. Your loving and gentle vision gives me hope and reminds me why I love living here.

Peace, Jennifer

*Katherine Almy*

## Home at last

It's been a long road with many unexpected turns. Thanks to all who helped me along the way. The many, many beautiful notes of encouragement and healing thoughts as well as calls and visits have been overwhelming. I hope to be back at HUUF in a few weeks. May you all have a healthy, happy new year with love and peace.

*Mary Lou Jensen*

## Be a part of HUUF worship

Each Sunday a select group of members makes sure that the worship service runs smoothly. These people are the facilitators, and this valuable service takes only a few hours out of their week. The duties of the facilitator are simple and are outlined in a one-page handout. Facilitators are rewarded by knowing they have performed a vital service and they have the opportunity to meet the speakers and get to know them better. We are currently trying to increase the number of facilitators so that each one handles only a few services per year. The Program and Worship Committee will conduct facilitator training on **January 17** during the Social Action Brunch. Learn how to facilitate at HUUF worship services and join in making our worship better and more meaningful.

*Stephen Sottong*  
for Program and Worship

## Holiday message from the UUA President

What are your fondest memories of the holiday season? My favorite childhood memories involve Christmas pageants, a series of large and boisterous intergenerational family gatherings, and, of course, my Tía Amelia's wonderful tamales.

Later, as young adult, my most precious memories involve my own children. I recall, while traveling in Spain, creating a makeshift Christmas tree in a hotel room from a fallen branch and decorating it with curled orange peel.

Now, as an older adult, I cherish the holiday reunions with family and friends. As a parish minister, I loved seeing the faces of young adults light up as they encountered old friends at holiday services.

The presents I received and gave have long since faded from memory. The relationships remain. The stuff is long gone. The love endures.

I encourage you to be with your own most precious memories of the holidays. Experience the love and joy once again. Our most precious memories have much to teach us.

Our most cherished experiences are much more than nostalgia; they are religious teachers. Remembering is a spiritual practice.

The lessons that our fondest holiday memories are trying to teach us can transform our daily lives, revitalize our congregations, remake our economy, change our politics, and bring lasting peace to the world.

Love endures. Relationships really matter. In the long run, stuff doesn't matter. The implications are revolutionary.

If we lived our lives with this in mind, we would nurture relationships with people we love. We would create religious communities that foster

intimacy, and we would truly open our hearts to the newcomer.

If we lived with the deep conviction that what connects us is sacred, exploitation would end. Violence would end. Peace would reign at last.

May this be a season filled with blessings.

Faithfully,

*Rev. Peter Morales*

## From the UU-UN Office

We have a moral and ethical imperative to learn about climate change and global warming and to act appropriately and decisively. This imperative derives from all people living today on the planet and those who will follow us. We cannot have succeeding generations say of us: "They refused to learn" or "they knew but did not act."

The climate change portal of the UU-UNO will feature topical articles and other resources for climate change and global warming education from authoritative sources on science, impacts and mitigation and adaptation strategies - emphasizing what you can do to help.

There will be a focus on United Nations efforts to counter climate change and global warming, from the Copenhagen Conference and UU-UNO events.

An important UU-UNO event will be the UU-UNO Spring Seminar in April devoted to climate change and global warming. We hope to leverage the seminar with this website to broadcast talks and information to a wide audience.

Another upcoming UU-UNO climate change event will be a workshop at the UUA General Assembly in Minneapolis in June.

UN Sunday in October will also feature climate change.

*Ed Uyeki*

## From the UUA

WHEREAS the Opening Worship at the 2009 GA [General Assembly] reported on President Sinkford's Pilgrimage to Africa and celebrated a new outreach to African UU [Unitarian Universalist] congregations, as represented by three male Africans from UU congregations in Africa; and WHEREAS the International Convocation for UU Women, held early in 2009 in Houston, Texas, invited and funded scholarships for eight women leaders from Africa to attend the conference, and despite heroic efforts, none successfully obtained visas to attend the Conference; and WHEREAS—although it can be argued that visa requirements are complex and depend on individual circumstances of each person—these results raise questions about the justice of the U.S. system of granting visas and possible gender bias; and WHEREAS the response given for denial of visas to the women was in some cases lack of bank account and/or assets, which more often affects women in Africa than men, THEREFORE this resolution asks the appropriate UU body to contact the office for women's advocacy or other appropriate staff in the State Department and/or the Office of the Presidency of the United States and urge consideration of two actions:

1. an inquiry into the reasons for denial of visas for these female leaders for access to the U.S. for attendance at a UU religious conference; and
2. consideration of the longer term issue of whether the criteria for granting visas for such religious and/or broader educational events needs to be reviewed, to prevent in the future such apparent unequal access.

*Ed Uyeki*

# Religious Education



It's Dance Party Time! **Saturday, January 23**, 5-8 p.m. We will have a potluck 5-6, dancing at 6:30. The Appelmans Family has agreed to co-host, but we still need someone else to assist. See or call Jillian if you would like to help this favorite event happen. Come dance the winter blahs away and make a joyous noise.

Thank you for parent night out volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you. It gave a fun night out to parents of young children. Thank you for nourishing the relationships in our UU community.

Another big thanks to all the folks who helped with the two RE services this month. A wonderful time was had by all. Thanks to the bakers, the RE teachers, the table helpers and especially the cleaner uppers!

## **January 10:** Curriculum Sunday

### **Preschool**

What is UU- Why do we come to the UU, making a wish for our Fellowship. We will learn a movement song to "I've got peace like a river."

### **K - 2**

"The Very Short Rule." Commit Random acts of kindness. UU Principle # 2 We believe in justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. We are fair, kind and loving with one another.

### **3 - 5**

Try something new. Watch Alaska video, learn about Vilhjulmer Stefansson, a famous Arctic explorer and try new foods.

### **Intermediates**

We will do "Social Service at home" this month. We will plan and carry out a winter clothing and blanket drive for those in need in our own communities.

## **January 17:** All Worship Together

Releasing what we wish to leave behind to the Universe and focusing on what we want to grow in the New Year.

## **January 24:** Curriculum Sunday

### **Preschool**

Thinking about God. How does God listen? We will read a book, make chalk drawings and rainbow ribbon dance.

### **K - 2**

"We are each Special" UU Principle #1: We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

### **3 - 5**

Inventions: Learn about Alexander Graham Bell, learn some sign language and play with an electricity board.

### **Intermediates**

We will continue with Social Service at Home.

## **January 31:** Social Action Sunday

We all gather together to make cards for our Caring Committee to use.

*Jillian Mooney*

## Benefit for New Orleans Youth Project

Rose Armin-Hoiland will sing and Darius Brotman will accompany her on the piano at a jazz concert on Friday evening, **January 15**, at the Fellowship. The Social Action Committee will co-sponsor this event with the New Orleans Youth Project, a program which connects youth in New Orleans with those in Arcata, to the enrichment and benefit of both.

*Thea Gast*  
for the Social Action Committee



## Notable books

Mark Harris, Minister of the First Parish in Watertown, is the author of the *Historical Dictionary of Unitarian Universalism*. A revised edition is now in a paperbound edition that Harvard Square Library is publishing online, with illustrations and some forty biographies of Universalists.

*Unitarianism In America*, a classic of our origin and development first published in 1902, is now a free online book at <http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/docs/books/gutenberg/etext05/8unit10h.htm>.

*Ed Uyeki*

## Electronic or paper? an editorial

I have heard that many newsletter recipients dislike the electronic format. I do not have a dog in this fight – my workload will not change if we revert to paper. However, here are some facts to consider if you choose paper.

- Paper newsletters require a committee to fetch the newsletters from the printer in Eureka, then to label and bundle them for mailing. It takes four people 60-90 minutes to do the job, and they must be able to convene quickly when the newsletter is finished.

- Bulk mail gets the lowest priority at the post office. I recall one time when the newsletter was not delivered until a week after the beginning of the month. The electronic newsletter can arrive in your inbox on any day of the week.

- Electronic newsletters are greener, saving the Fellowship money in printing, paper and postage. A paper newsletter requires a bulk mailing permit which necessitates a minimum of 200 items mailed. Since we don't have 200 households, the mailing list was padded with other congregations, resulting in more paper being wasted.

- The deadline will have to revert to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. With most people receiving the newsletter quickly by email, I was able to move the deadline to the 20<sup>th</sup>. All that printing, labeling and mailing mentioned in the first bullet takes time.

- You are not precluded from having a printed newsletter, you just have to print it yourself, which saves your Fellowship money. Further, you can choose to print only the pages that interest you. The December issue initiated a table of contents on the first page, which should facilitate access. I thank Jeff Knapp for this suggestion.

*Joy Thomas*, editor

## Deadline Wednesday, January 20

E-mail articles to Joy Thomas at [jthomas3@csulb.edu](mailto:jthomas3@csulb.edu).

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**Arcata rental:** 3br, 2b, one garage, no pets, no smoking, shared yard, \$1,700/month. Owner pays utilities. Available 15th of January 2010. Call 825-8995.

**Anyone interested** in taking art lessons? I met a lady who gives private lessons. She teaches line drawing, water colors and acrylics. Her name is Mariana Krattiger. She will drive to our area. She charges \$15.00 an hour. I'd like to get a small group together to make it worth her trip. Please call Judy Rishel at 510-701-4261 or email me at [judy@rishel.com](mailto:judy@rishel.com) if you are interested. I'd like to set this up in the New Year.

Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Please e-mail your ad to Joy Thomas and send your check, made out to HUUF, to the Fellowship.



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Board of Directors:

Co-President Maureen Lawlor

Co-President Jeff Knapp

Vice President Greg Blomstrom

Treasurer David Harris

Secretary Roxana Hand

Trustees Beverly Morgan Lewis  
vacant

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

## New Years' resolution brunch

The January SAC Brunch will feature the most healthy, guilt-free (and at the same time, scrumptious) foods we here at HUUF can come up with. We'll aim for wholesome organic, low-fat, low-carb and well-balanced nutritious. Brunch will be served after service Sunday, **January 17**. Proceeds will go to support Planned Parenthood locally.

*Eve Anderson*

### FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson

