

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



January 2013

Words of Joy: interim minister's column

I have enjoyed working with you during my monthly visits to HUUF. I especially enjoy conducting what I have been calling "house meetings" (although most of them have taken place at HUUF rather than in peoples' homes). These meetings involve a few group activities that allow the issues, strengths and challenges of the congregation to surface. They also provide a way for me to get to know you better, and for you to get to know one another more deeply. So far, there have been four of these meetings, with one more scheduled for my December visit. When I return in January, I will offer several more such opportunities. The dates and times I have set aside for January so far are: Sunday, **January 6**, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Monday, **January 7**, 7-9 p.m., Friday, **January 11**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Saturday, **January 12**, 10 a.m. - noon. Others may be added. Sign-up sheets will be available on Sundays for these groups. Or you may call the office to sign up for one of them. I hope to involve as many of you as possible in one of these group experiences.

Meanwhile, here is some advice for the New Year from an anonymous author, to bear in mind as we face another year on this precious planet:

First the bad news:

1. Life isn't fair.
2. The question isn't "Why me?" It's "Why not me?"
3. No matter how nice and bright and lovable and charming you are, not everyone is going to approve of you, or love you or even like you.
4. From time to time, it will rain on your parade (Joy's note: especially in Humboldt!!)
5. Every now and then, no matter how careful you try to be, you are bound to do something unbelievably stupid.

Next, the good news:

1. Unless you're hanging around with some really mean people, no one will remember the dumb things you've done.
2. You don't have to have an opinion on everything.
3. Much of the bad stuff in life is survivable; A lot of it is even eventually useful.
4. Although you're not nearly as wonderful as you hoped for, you're not nearly as terrible as you feared.
5. I've never met a grownup who, given the choice, would choose to go back to being a child.

May you have a fulfilling and joyous year!

Joy Atkinson



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People

Lisa Dugan, Eirn Escobar and **Dawn Bressler** are the latest members of HUUF. Welcome!

Phyllis **Stanewick** is glad to be home from rehab. If you would like to visit her, please contact Richard or her first as home health keeps her very busy.

Congratulations to **Casey Lynn** for being accepted at Mills College.

Congratulations to **Claire Appelmans** on being honored by Arcata Soroptimists as November's Girl of the Month.

Joy Thomas had cancer surgery December 17 and is recuperating at home. Radiation follows.

Ursula Osborne will have a hip replaced on January 22 at Redwood Memorial Hospital.

If you have news to share through the People column, please email me at jessica@reninet.com.

Karen Knapp

Ahoy mateys!

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to set sail to our "Treasure Island" aka Super Service Auction to be held on **May 11**. As Captain of this ship, I'm gathering a crew of people looking for a fun way to help with fundraising for HUUF. We need to plan an exciting dinner menu, delightful decor to set the mood and solve all the "nitty, gritty details," such as who will do this and that.

So the first meeting of the mates is Sunday, **January 20**, at 12:30 following the service. You will have time to purchase your lunch at the SAC luncheon and then meet in the library. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and come join the fun. Call me at 442-5962 if you want to help but cannot attend this meeting. Thanks.

JoAnn Thomas

Flower providers

We need more volunteers to be flower providers for the coming Sundays in 2013. There will be 52 Sundays during 2013. Thirteen of them have already been spoken for.

Would you like to sign up to bring something intriguing to look at, for the niche in the foyer, and/or for the front of the main meeting hall on some Sunday this coming year?

Please sign up for a Sunday date that suits you by contacting me. See the new orange colored, 2012-2013 edition of the HUUF directory, for my contact information. Thanks.

Ursula Osborne



New Year's celebration

An afternoon gathering of friends to ring in the new year, sponsored by the Caring Circle. Thursday, **January 10**, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Rides are available for anybody who needs one. Please contact me in the office at 822-3793.

Shay MacKay

Requiem

The images on the walls at HUUF in January are related to the play 'Requiem' by Heinrich F. Liebrecht, originally in German, recently translated to English by Ursula Osborne. The play will be performed in English at HUUF at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, **January 10-12**, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, **January 13**.

Irith Shalmony



Put UU values into practice

Now is the time to add up and bring in your Guest-at-Your-Table donations for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Your gift must be turned in by Sunday, **January 13**, 2012. Please make out a check in the amount of the contributions (rounded up, if possible) to "UUSC."

We can be proud of our strong and broad support given to the UUSC in past years. Our goal is to have every member of our Fellowship join or renew membership in UUSC. Contributions of \$100 or more are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, New York. Contributions of \$40 or more qualify for UUSC membership (\$75 for dual memberships, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth).

You may leave your donations in the basket in the foyer or give them directly to me or to a member of our Social Action Committee.

Donations may also be mailed to: UUSC — Guest at Your Table, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808. Please put our congregation code (2111) on checks that are mailed directly to UUSC and notify me (599-6009) of your gift.

Chip Sharpe

Peace begins with a smile

There could be no more relevant time to write an article about peacemaking than in the wake of the current tragedies our country and world have endured. On the other hand, it feels to me as if anything I have to say will seem completely irrelevant in the face of such anger and sorrow.

We are told by retailers and advertisers that this is supposed to be a time of joy, but it can be difficult to be joyful. I am struck by the contrast of watching news reels of tragedy interspersed by commercials for Target and Toys-R-Us full of good cheer; of reading a blog or article online, while around the perimeter of the page ads of grinning children and fancy toys flash.

Is it insensitive to celebrate the season in the face of such sorrow? Or is it our duty to embrace life ardently in gratitude and memory of those who are gone? For me, this feels like the time to embrace life, in all its joy and sorrow, to be grateful for and celebrate all that I have, and to hold in compassion and prayer all those who are struggling to make it through today in whatever challenging, lonely, painful, angry place they find themselves.

Mother Theresa said, "Peace begins with a smile." Maybe that's all some of us can offer right now. It's a good start.

I want to thank all who participated in the Creating Peace discussion groups in November. We had some thoughtful and compelling dialogue, as well fun times getting to know more about each other. After gathering opinions and ideas from those conversations, I have begun planning the next steps in our Peacemaking journey. I look forward to taking these next steps with you.

"Where ignorance is our master, there is no possibility of real peace."

~ Dalai Lama

Session 1 – Peacemaking Concepts and Definitions: An Introduction

Friday, **January 18**, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or Saturday, **January 19**, 10 a.m. to noon

Please join me for either one of the scheduled times at the Fellowship. We will explore the concepts of violence and peacemaking within Unitarian Universalism and other traditions and organizations. We will also, as a group, create our own definition of peace, relating directly to our current situations and experiences as a community. There will be another short video to watch, as well as some readings to discuss. All are welcome, even if you did not attend a discussion group in the fall.

All Congregation Soup and Bread Night

Saturday, **January 26**, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to share a warm potluck of soups and breads followed by fun and meaningful peace activities. This is an all-generational event aimed at bringing us together as a Fellowship Family, playing with and learning from each other. It's never too early for children to learn the value of peace and compassion, and who better to demonstrate these things than our Fellowship parents and elders? Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. From 6:30 p.m. to about 8 p.m. we will play games, do crafts, sing songs and dance for peace. Everyone is welcome.

Shay MacKay

A bit of humor because insufficient articles were submitted

What do you get when you cross a UU with a Jehovah's Witness?

Someone who goes door-to-door looking for a discussion.

Why can't UUs sing very well in choirs?

Because they're always reading ahead to see if they agree with the next verse.

Q: Why did the UU cross the road?
A: To support the chicken in its search for its own path

You might be a UU if . . .

-you have ever been in an argument over whether breast milk is vegan.

-when you dress for a formal evening out you wear a little black dress, pearls—and Birkenstocks (and your wife thinks you look great!)

-you are unsure about the gender of God.

-you get Newt Gingrich confused with the Grinch who stole Christmas.

-the money you sent to the Sierra Club in 2012 was more than you spent on your mother at Christmas.

-you think the Holy Trinity is "reduce, reuse and recycle."

-you study the "ten suggestions" instead of the "Ten Commandments."

-the only time "Jesus" is mentioned at church is when someone stubs a toe.

-you think a Holy day of Obligation is your turn to do coffee.

-you know at least two people who are upset that trees had to die for your church to be built.

Board update

The Board is very grateful for the recent work of Katherine Almy. She has set up Quickbooks for us, is developing the 1st quarter report, and is overall helping to update our financial practices.

We continue to benefit from the services of interim minister Joy Atkinson. We look forward to what she learns from the congregation through the small group gatherings scheduled. A transition team is being formed to assist Joy with her work.

Co-president Kim Moor has done a lot of research for a potential "Disruptive Persons Policy." This is a serious issue and will require extensive discussion with the congregation.

Planning for the annual canvass needs to occur soon, and we are looking for two volunteers to serve as Co-coordinators to assure a successful canvass. We hope to secure the Co-coordinators soon as conducting the canvass is not a task Board members should undertake.

We hope to receive the updated Personnel Manual at the January Board meeting. With changes in staff and our efforts to secure a minister, we really need this resource.

We recognize and appreciate the work of the Building Use/Stewardship Committee with the placement of parking lot lights. There are concerns, however, that the lighting is not adequate. The Board requests that the Committee research solutions to provide adequate lighting in the Fellowship parking lot.

Your Board continues to be very engaged in supporting the life of the Fellowship, from addressing simple tasks to negotiating for a minister. Stay tuned and ask questions, because our Fellowship is a very active place.

Wendy Rowan, Board Secretary

Love and art triumph in Requiem

Don't miss the theatrical presentation of *Requiem*, an autobiographical Holocaust memoir, playing at HUUF from Thursday to Saturday, **January 10-12** at 8 p.m., with a matinée on Sunday, **January 13**, at 3 p.m. All presentations are free and open to the public.

Written by Heinrich F. Liebrecht, who was forced to work at the Theresiendstadt concentration camp after losing his wife and daughter, this world-premiere presentation is the first time the play has ever been performed in English. Translated from the original German by Arcata resident Ursula Osborne and directed by John Heckel, *Requiem* examines what makes us human in the face of unimaginable horrors.

In the late 1930s, Osborne's family operated de Oase (The Oasis) in their home, a secret cultural gathering place for German Jews. These meetings provided the comforts of music, poetry and poignantly optimistic philosophical discussions. Liebrecht's *Requiem* is culled from his conversations and experiences as a frequent member at de Oase.

Meghan Vogel



New directories

The 2012-2013 directories have arrived. They include both members and non-members; members are identified by an asterisk. A \$2 donation is requested to cover the cost of printing. You may get one in the HUUF lobby.

Awanna Kalal



Religious Education



January 6

Preschool: Celebrating the Moon. We'll talk about the moon celebrations around the world and in our community. We will read Owl Moon, make moon hats and learn a moon dance. We'll eat moon cookies, cheeses and crackers.

K-2: We will continue our exploration of our third UU principle that "We believe that we should accept one another" and keep learning crafts and games together.

3 & 4: We will practice our pebble mediation and affirmation. Bring your pebble bag if you took yours home. More will be available if you forget.

Intermediate: We will learn about famous Unitarians and Universalists in history and famous UUs today. You probably know some. Come find out who they could be.

January 13: Social Action Sunday

All ages will gather in the CARE building to make meals for the Arcata Night Shelter.

We need lots of adult help to put our UU principles into action, so please volunteer.

January 20: Storyteller Baba Jamal

Children will stay in the sanctuary for this child-friendly service.

January 27: All Worship

All ages will gather in the CARE building to worship together. We'll sing, read a litany and talk about making changes for the new year. Remember to bring your donation for the collection basket.

Saturday, January 26, 5:30-8 pm

Soup & Bread Night. Bring your family to one of our favorite family ministry nights. Potluck of soups and breads, games and peace activities will be shared to warm our hearts and tummies in this cold winter month. We need volunteers to help with set up, clean up and to call ahead of time. Please see or call me 826-7388.

Jillian Mooney

Welcoming ceremony

On **January 13**, during the 10:30 service, we will have an Ingathering Ceremony to welcome all of our newest members.

Awanna Kalal



Future events

Events take place at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted. If you have HUUF events that should be listed, contact Berti Welty at bertijo@humboldt1.com.

December 24	5 p.m.	Christmas Eve candlelight service
December 25	2 p.m.	All-Fellowship Christmas potluck
January 10	1:30 p.m.	Caring Circle New Year's celebration
January 10-12	8 p.m.	<i>Requiem</i> - play about the Holocaust
January 13	12:30 p.m.	Women's retreat planning
January 13	3 p.m.	<i>Requiem</i> - play
January 16	Noon	Lunch Bunch - contact Judy Rishel for location
January 26	5:30 p.m.	Family soup and bread night
January 27	1:30 - 2:30	Climate change workshop with Brad Carrier
February 16	9 to 9?	Women's in-town one day retreat
Feb 23	12-5	Right relationship workshop
March 1-3	wk/end	District women and religion retreat at Enchanted Hills Camp
March 3	12:30	HUUF congregational meeting
April 6		Canvass dinner
April 19-21	Fri/Sat	Jeremy Taylor dream workshop
April 26-28	wk/end	Western UUA Regional / PCD Conference in San Jose
May 3-5	wk/end	HUUF women's retreat at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center
May 11		Super service auction
June 19-23	wk/end+	UU General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky

Thankful for thanksgiving

For the first time I was not at home or with very close friends for Thanksgiving. I arrived at HUUF with pot luck dish in hand. The tables were already beautifully set up. I always blithely said that that HUUF is a "home" and that members are like family. To experience that is yet another matter. As more people arrived I realized how much it really did feel like home, and I was in the midst of delightful friends and family. It was a very exciting day and I am grateful. Thank you, Berti and Jo, for instigating this whole wonderful affair.

Beverly Allen



Crafts group changes venue

Just this once, the Crafts Studio will assemble at Anna Mae Botley's home in McKinleyville. The date is Wednesday, **January 2**, so about 1 p.m. put down that cup of eggnog and pick up your crafting gear. Like-minded friends await you. Call Anna Mae if you need directions.

Joy Thomas

Women's retreats

January 13, 12:30 Planning - please come

February 16 One-day - in town women's retreat

May 3-5 Weekend women's retreat, Mattole Camp & Retreat Center

Our women's retreats have been a time of incredible bonding and celebration. When planning past retreats we have been asked to have a one day in-town event, for which we would provide child care, either in place of, or in addition to the Spring weekend retreat. So this year there will be two retreats. Our winter one-day retreat at the Fellowship will be held Saturday **February 16**. Our spring weekend retreat will again be on the first weekend of May, but at a new location. The Mattole Camp and Retreat Center is a lovely site with a huge kitchen, a big meeting / dining room, 33 twin lower bunks [plus 33 upper bunks] and is less expensive. The buildings and grounds are along the banks of the Mattole River. It is a 2-hour drive of 65 miles on paved roads.

However, both events need lots of planning. All women are invited to attend the first planning meeting on **January 13**, following the service. At that meeting we will choose themes for each retreat, but focus on the February one-day retreat. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. Got ideas and can't come? Got questions? Email or call me at bertijo@humboldt1.com or 476-0654.

Berti Welty

Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Sunday, January 20, 5:00 p.m.**

Please send your committee reports and articles to me at joythomas3828@gmail.com. Neither PDF files nor late submissions can be accepted.

Joy Thomas, editor

We can be proud

Of the thirty UU congregations in the Pacific Central District, only two have paid their full Fair Share contribution to UUA for 25 years. We are one of these honored congregations.

Awanna Kalal

FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE
SCOOPING ICE CREAM.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way (off Jacoby Creek Road)

(707) 822-3793

www.huuf.org

e-mail: office@huuf.org.

Administrator Shay MacKay

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents Dave Harris

Kim Moor

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Secretary Wendy Rowan

Trustees Judy Rishel

Anna Mae Botley

Treasurer Chip Sharpe

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

Calendar Editor Shay Mackay



Saturnalia



Kwanzaa



Winter solstice