

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



April 2013

Words of Joy: interim minister's column

If we could distill our liberal religious tradition into one word, one likely candidate would be the word “freedom.” At Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the only religious institution for miles around that gives voice to our Unitarian Universalist principles, you have freedom from creeds and dogma. We UUs also want freedom for ourselves and for all people—freedom from poverty and oppression, from fear and discrimination, from a religious tyranny that seeks to impose a particular set of values on everyone. We Unitarian Universalists cherish the freedom to speak out, to express ourselves, to dissent. Fortunately, we enjoy religious freedom in this country, thanks in large part to early visionary Unitarians and Universalists like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Universalist physician Benjamin Rush—a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The annual pledge drive this year begins with the canvass dinner on Saturday, **April 6**, followed by a Canvass Sunday service on the April 7. When the time for making an annual pledge to support our congregations comes around, we Unitarian Universalists need to remember that, within our own religious institutions, our freedom is not free—it has a price. In order to

Fellowship canvass dinner

Our **April 6** Canvass Dinner with our Wizard of Oz theme of “We’re Toto-ly Oz-sum” will kick off this year’s pledge drive. We’ll have an incredible evening of costumes, theater (Dell Arte is coming again this year), talk, laughter, good food, good fellowship and yes, a great response from all of you who stepped up and pledged in a timely manner with generous giving. We’re going to follow the same format as last year, 12 or so table hosts (six from the Board) will host simultaneous “circle dinners” in the sanctuary at the Fellowship, just like last year. Table hosts will invite you to dress up (or not) as a character from the Wizard of Oz and to bring a potluck dish for 6-8 people and join your host for a rousing dinner and entertainment. Dinner will be from 6-8 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to your table host.

The Canvass dinner is followed by our interim minister Joy’s Sermon on the Amount the next day, April 7, and continues with pledge volunteers who will contact you to seek your pledges. Given that we will have a new half-time minister starting in August, we, the Board, are looking to kick off his ministerial year with a great and successful pledge drive. Our goal this year is \$145,000 and because we’re Toto-ly Oz-sum, we know we all can do it.

Greg Blomstrom, vice president
Board of Trustees 839-9017

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People

Ursula Osborne's surgery will take place in April. Until then, she welcomes phone calls.

June and Dave Davis took a long trip to Burma. For details, see <http://davisburmatrip.blogspot.com/>

Karen Knapp was in the hospital for several days. She is recovering at home.

Phyllis and Richard Stanewick have moved to Timber Ridge.

Petra Kuhfahl is our newest member.

Joy Thomas, editor

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

Karen Knapp

Times a'wastin'

Coming up soon is our Super Services Auction taking place this year on Treasure Island and our Pirate's Cove is a'lackin'. Where is your booty (or promise thereof) to fill our treasure chest? We need loot! Make it in the form of your lovely hand-made articles, treasures from your attic no longer needed. Not rummage, but things that will entice all of our mateys (customers) to want to share in the bounty. We will also receive small toys and books that our little pirates can play with and purchase from their very own Treasure Chest. Pirates Anna Mae Botley (839-3341) and Judy Rishel (540 701-4261) will gladly receive and store any and all of your offerings until the big day, **May 11**.

Anna Mae Botley

Playfully serious women

Planning is under way for a spring retreat for HUUF women to be held at the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center in Petrolia. See their webpage, www.mattolecamp.com, for directions and other information.

The weekend of **May 3-5** has been scheduled, with arrival on Friday, May 3, between 3 and 6 p.m., and departure on Sunday, May 5, by 2 p.m. Possible activities include: pamper room, hikes, soul collage, crafts, singing, maypole.

The cost for the weekend is \$100 per person. Partial (or full) scholarships may be available to HUUF members or pledging friends.

April 14 is the deadline for requesting a scholarship.

April 21 is the deadline for registration.

Registration forms are available in the foyer. For more information, or to suggest an additional activity, please call Berti Welty, 476-0654.

Bert Taylor



UU passports

We are still looking for folks who are interested in participating in our new getting-to-know-you game. Adults and children will each have passports with stamps and inkpad. Each of you asks the other a few questions and stamps each other's passport. If you're interested in getting to know some of our younger UUs see me or Judy Rishel.

Jillian Mooney

Share high notes with the choir

Happy spring! Have you been wanting an opportunity to sing with your friends at the Fellowship but can't fit the weekly rehearsals into your schedule? If so, Drop-in Choir Sunday is for you! On **April 28**, all interested singers are invited to come to one rehearsal on Sunday morning (9:00-10:15 a.m.) and perform with the choir at the 10:30 Service. We will learn the music that morning, and no additional rehearsal time will be required. Tell your friends, and bring them too. 🎵👥

The HUUF choir meets regularly on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and performs at two services monthly from September through May (or early June). This month we will perform on **April 7** (Canvass Sunday) and **April 28** (Drop-in Choir Sunday). Extra activities during the year include hosting the annual Music Day Service at HUUF, caroling in December and various social gatherings. New members are welcome at any time, and no prior music reading experience is required.

Note: There will *not* be a rehearsal on Wednesday, April 17. However, anyone who has attended at least one choir rehearsal in the preceding month is cordially invited to attend the final dress rehearsal of the comic opera *Too Many Sopranos* at 8:00 PM in the Theatre Arts Building Studio Theater. The opera features choir director Elisabeth Harrington, HUUF choir member Steve Nobles, and singers and instrumentalists from HSU and the community. HSU's Paul Cummings will conduct the chamber orchestra. See me for further details.

Elisabeth Harrington

Jeremy Taylor dream workshop

April 19-20, Friday evening
and all day Saturday

This is the last notice of this opportunity to learn the process of effectively working your dreams as a potent tool for personal insight. It's time to put your money where your dreams are. Jeremy is a renowned teacher of dreamwork. Our fellowship has a special 20-year relationship with him. Child-care will be provided.

Partial scholarships are available if you can put your hand to helping with sundry tasks at the workshop. Registrations have been slow, and I must be sure soon that the workshop will fill. If you or someone you know want to attend, please register now by sending the workshop fee - \$80.00 - payable to HUUF, to Richard Kossow, 1767 Blakeslee, Arcata. If you can't send the whole registration fee right now, please call to confirm that you plan to attend. 826-1227.

Richard Kossow

Creating peace: session three

Discussion Groups – Congregational Peace

We come to our Fellowship for a wide variety of reasons: peace, inspiration, support, community and spiritual growth, among others. At times we find that we are trying to avoid strife, fear, anger, gossip, factions, etc. Sometimes it seems that invisible systems of conflict are baked into the very walls of the building. How we engage in these difficult situations matters. Do we withdraw? Do we simply watch? Do we perpetuate them or do we somehow transform them into spiritual wisdom?

During our February discussion groups, we explored the intimate and emotional landscape of inner peace. We heard from the Dalai Llama that inner peace consists of intentional compassion and a holistic view of our world. By nurturing peace within ourselves, we begin to radiate those feelings outward into our families, our communities and our planet.

Now that we have some tools to bring peace into our own lives, let's discuss how to share and maintain peace here in our Fellowship community. In our January definition of what peace looks like we spoke of respect, freedom from fear and open communication' but how, exactly, do we establish this culture of peace? And how do we respond when that peace is broken?

Please join me for a discussion on either Thursday, **April 11**, at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday, **April 13**, at 10:00 a.m.

Allison Barrett said, "I love this church of broken, beautiful human beings, striving so hard to be good, failing so spectacularly on such a regular basis, and being lifted up so tenderly by such fragile hands. I love this church of wholly inspiring human beings, weaving music and art, kindness and wisdom, insight and simplicity into one shining fabric to wrap around our community."

Shay MacKay

House meeting results

Sixty-four of you participated in Rev. Joy's house meetings which she conducted between December and February. The goal was to get a feel for what we all like about HUUF, things we would change and where we want HUUF to go over the next ten years. Not surprisingly, the single most liked aspect of HUUF is the people. Other things that people mentioned included the "music and hymns," the "potlucks," joining with "people like us" and the sense of community.

Things that people would like to see change included "a more diverse demographic – youth, more young adults, more college students," "more people of color," more members, more volunteers and more adult religious education. Somewhat of a surprise to me was that several people mentioned wanting a settled minister, multiple people wanted an earlier or two services on Sunday and several people commented that they wanted more spiritual content in our Sunday services. There were quite a number of comments about needing more space, enlarging the foyer, having a meeting room for a dozen or so people, change the location of the coffee service, etc.

When Rev. Joy guided us through a waking dream to imagine where HUUF would be in ten years, we responded enthusiastically. Many people imagined a much larger foyer, not having to park in the mud and grass, having a well-lit parking area and a sanctuary that could seat 250. Consistent with what we would change, multiple people imagined more young people, more people of color, and that everyone is engaged in meeting and greeting newcomers in particular. People would only make small changes to the Service, in particular by having more teens and more members engaged in producing the service. Many people thought that the music scene ten years from now would be pretty much the same as today, albeit with a bigger choir.

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Words of Joy,

continued from first page

carry on the legacy of individual religious freedom that our religious forebears struggled for, we need to support our congregations with our time, our participation and commitment, and with our dollars. As you think about the friendships, the fellowship and the freedom that this congregation offers you, about the services that this congregation provides for its members and for the larger community, and about the exciting new phase of congregational life that you will be entering into next year with a new settled minister, you may find that you want to support HUUF financially. You may discover that you are eager to give to this congregation as generously as you possibly can—that it is truly a pleasure, and not a burden, to write out that pledge check, even in these challenging economic times.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening of April 6, as this year's annual canvass is launched with an evening of wonderful food, entertainment and a bit of information about the opportunity you have to contribute to this ongoing adventure that is HUUF.

In Fellowship, *Joy Atkinson*

Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Saturday, April 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

Board update

Board members are preparing for the annual Canvass dinner. Entertainment has been arranged, table hosts are planning, and budget charts have been prepared. We hope all Fellowship members look forward to this evening on **April 6** as our time to dream and to build the future of the Fellowship together.

As follow-up to the recent Congregational meeting, we discussed suggestions for revising the Dog Policy and responses to developing a Disruptive Persons Policy. Both policies have to do with safety for those who come to the Fellowship. Our challenge is to assure an environment of safety without compromising our desire to be a welcoming community. An Ad Hoc Committee will be formed to address the issues associated with the Dog Policy, and we have asked Rev. Joy to consider speaking to the Congregation about the value of having a Disruptive Persons Policy in place.

The Board approved funding to print a brochure for the Memorial Garden. As spring is here, we encourage members to take a walk in the Memorial Garden to appreciate all the thought, care and work that has nurtured this creation.

Rev. Joy has concluded her house meetings with members, and we reviewed her summary. Copies of the summary are available, and Rev. Joy will share highlights with the Congregation before her departure.

Shay informed the Board that new microphones and equipment have been ordered to further our capacity to provide worship services that everyone can hear. The cost was about \$600.00. A big thanks to Shay for doing the research for us.

The Board is beginning to work with updated recommendations from the Personnel Committee for oversight of employees. We will schedule

a special session to review the updated Personnel Manual. We have a range of employees who provide services for agreed-upon hours, and we seek to implement best practices to assure that we provide appropriate and fair oversight.

Wendy Rowan, Board Secretary

Disruptive persons policy

At the February Congregational Meeting, members discussed reactions to the possible adoption of a "Disruptive Persons Policy" similar to that of other UU congregations. You can view a sample policy in the February newsletter online. Comments/concerns expressed included:

- Policy is vague and unwelcoming
- Too many policies
- Desire to handle situations on an individual basis
- Need for training for members and those putting it into action
- Staff member would like written policy on how to deal with disruptive persons
- Desire for policy/plan to deal with dangerous situations
- Would like policy for Adult/Child interactions

Board members discussed members' thoughts and reactions with Rev. Joy Atkinson at the March Board meeting. Rev. Joy suggested that a discussion of examples of why and how such policies have been used in other congregations might assist us all in considering this issue. If timing does not permit Rev. Joy to help us with this discussion, we can pick it up with Rev. Bryan Jessup in the fall. We will continue to discuss this matter with members and make this decision together as a community.

Kim Moor

House meetings, continued from third page

In terms of how we see ourselves, the majority of us see ourselves as humanists (27 of 64) while only 7 of 64 see ourselves as theists. We were sort of clustered into the middle between purely scientific on one end of the spectrum and mystic and spiritual on the other end. We mostly come to be with people rather than to have our values deepened and clarified. We pretty evenly spread the gamut between wanting a small intimate congregation and spreading the word and having a much larger congregation.

The full report is available on line. A few hardcopies will be available at the information table.

Greg Blomstrom, vice president
HUUF Board of Trustees 839-9017



Religious Education



April 7

Preschool: Introducing our UU Fellowship. What is this place? What do we do here? Who else belongs to our Fellowship? We will take a tour of our Fellowship. Come explore with us.

K-2: We will continue our exploration of UU heroes. We will work on our hero capes and flags. Bring your ideas to help make a hero play for our end of the year celebration.

3-4: Come explore what we can learn from listening to nature. In what ways is nature peaceful? In what ways is it not?

Intermediate: We continue our discovery of outstanding UUs by learning about two 19th century Unitarians: Ralph Waldo Emerson and Maria Mitchell. Which one discovered a comet? Who was an American philosopher? A Unitarian minister? An astronomer? A poet? An educator? A nature lover? We'll discover all this, and more, about these great people in our history.

April 14

Art Sunday: Local Artist and Fellowship member Cheryl Rau will help us explore different mediums of art to create and hang in our Spring art show in the sanctuary.

April 21

Earth Day Fair: All ages together will enjoy different projects to pick. Planting, birdfeeders, recycled art, birdhouses and more. Nice weather we'll be outside; wet weather we'll be inside the CARE building.

April 28

Social Action Sunday: We will make dog biscuits for our local Humane Society. Come cook for our furry friends.

Jillian Mooney

Classified ads

Rental upstairs of large house in Arcata, available early in April. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, large living room with wood fireplace insert, dining room, kitchen and breakfast room, access to half of a two-car-garage, washer/dryer shared with downstairs tenant, view of bay and ocean. Pets and indoor smoking not permitted, 215 not permitted. Monthly rent with basic utilities, not internet, is \$1,725 - \$1,825 - security deposit. Call 825-8995.

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Selling our lightly used 2011 R-Vision Trail Sport RV Camper Trailer. 20' lightly used/well appointed home away from home. Come see it our house: Richard and Ginger Kossow 826-1227.

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Classified ads are 10¢ a word. Send your check to the HUUF office. Send your check to the HUUF office and text of your ad to joythomas3828@gmail.com.

Bringing down the House; a history of Congressional apportionment

George Washington issued only one veto in his first term: the first House apportionment bill passed by Congress. What was the problem? It still persists. Today, the House of Representatives has 435 members. Why 435? How are these 435 seats apportioned to the states? Listen to the voices of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson Alexander Hamilton, John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, James K. Polk, the U.S. Constitution, the U. S. Census and others as they describe the evolution and strategies of congressional apportionment. Presented by Charles M. Biles, Ph.D., HSU emeritus professor of mathematics. HUUF, Friday, **April 12**, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Howard Stauffer

Treasures for Treasure Island

Dinner for six; use of your RV or camper; special handyman services; lessons for a unique craft; shoe shines; special baked goodies; animal training? What services will you donate to Treasure Island, our Super Service Auction to be held on Saturday, **May 11**, from 2-7 p.m.

In the next few days you will receive a donation form and explanation sheet in the mail. Think about what you can do to entice the bids of friends and members at this, our largest fundraiser for this year. The bidding can get exciting as the competition for items or places at the dinner tables draw to a close. Each table will close at different times so you can keep an eye on the items that interest you and return to increase your bid as necessary.

A catalog will be mailed to all members by April 26. To have your donations included, please return them to HUUF office, or place them in the Treasure Chest in the Foyer. Additional donation forms will be available by the Treasure Chest.

If you have questions, please contact JoAnn Thomas, Anna Mae Botley or Nancy Cook.

JoAnn Thomas

Fundraising for Fiona

Fiona Seibert will attend the UU Children's Choir Conference in Dallas, Texas, this July.

There is significant expense for Fiona and her mother to travel and attend the conference. There are two ways you can help.

Fiona is collecting recycling to raise money. If you have recycling to donate, please put it in the driveway of her grandparents' home at 1275 Old Arcata Road (north of Fellowship, left-hand side going towards Arcata).

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in support of Fiona's attendance at the conference, please write a check to HUUF and write in the memo line "UU Children's Choir Conference." These donations will be given to Fiona and her family to cover their costs. If our generosity surpasses their needs, the remainder will be kept in the Conference fund to support other members in attending UU conferences. Thank you for your support.

Kim Moor

Soul collage

The Soul Collage art at HUUF will be exhibited for the month of April. The artists' statement is posted with the exhibit and printed below.

Irith Shalmony

Soul Collage is a way to tend soul and explore psyche at the same time.

Found images, or even images that "find" the assembler are intuitively placed into collages and glued onto cards. With a partner who scribes, questions are asked of the cards; and the maker reads back the answer from the card, beginning to describe the essence contained therein. Together with other cards, they form a deck of personal reference cards.

You will not find logic in these images, but you might find something that is as evocative as the images and events in your dreams. Interestingly, a card may be meaningful to another, though usually in a completely different way, revealing that the images are a way of connecting with internal wisdom without the assistance of that all too eager mind.

Although the collages have been placed in frames for this exhibit, they were not created as works of art or wall decorations. When the exhibit is over the cards will be removed from the frames and used again in a way similar to tarot cards, for intuitive readings. The five women collagers, "Soul Sisters," represented in this show are Edge Gerring, Matina Kilkenny, Karen Knapp, Lynne Meece and Rebecca Stauffer, who met in an OLLI Soul Collage class last spring and have met weekly since to make and read their cards.

The process for using the cards and making the cards can be found in the book *Soul Collage* by Seena Frost and on the website www.soulcollage.com

Dog policy

At the February Congregational meeting, the Board opened a discussion of the current dog policy with the intent to:

- Assess the Congregation's knowledge of the policy
- Assess member's understanding of the reasons for the policy
- Listen to member's feelings and concerns about the policy
- Ask for member input on how to address diverse and opposing needs/wants re: dogs on Fellowship property
- Facilitate member's hearing and understanding of opposing viewpoints on this issue

Congregation's concerns/ideas: Some of the concerns and ideas expressed by members about the current dog policy at the Congregational meeting and thereafter:

- Fellowship is often far from member's homes. They would like to bring dogs to Fellowship so that they may then take their dog out with them without having to return home for them.
- Some dogs are unable to stay at home alone during service.
- Dogs running loose not acceptable.
- Safety of members and children is the biggest factor.
- Jillian reports two families have left Fellowship because of dogs on the property.
- Some members say they can't come to Fellowship or won't if they can't bring their dogs.
- Want to find a way that all who want to come to Fellowship can do so and feel safe.
- Children can be seen as prey to dogs and thus be in danger from them.
- Having negative personal experiences with dogs or witnessing negative behavior involving dogs can result in extreme anxiety and/or PTSD-like reactions to dogs. How nice a certain dog is does not affect these reactions. You probably won't know who has these types of experiences/reactions.
- Several people feel current dog policy is too restrictive: several others feel the policy is appropriate and needed.
- Policy could allow dogs to be on property but have to stay in car.
- Dogs need to go to the bathroom so can't be expected to stay only in car.
- Change policy so dogs can come but have to be on leash.
- People who violate the policy now do not put their dog on a leash.
- Some who have been approached about violating the policy haven't been willing to change their behavior. Will there be any consequences for people who don't act according to the agreed upon expectations of the community?
- Have separate, designated area for people with dogs to park, such as the small lot nearest to the road.
- Fence said area, put in doggie doo disposal.
- No dogs in the building.
- How do we get people to honor *any* policy?
- Who will make sure individuals respect the community's expectations re: dogs on Fellowship property if the policy is changed?

Please mull, contemplate, chew on it and increase your empathy towards others' point of view and then join the discussion. Please keep an eye out for info in the green sheet for other opportunities to discuss this issue as a community.

Kim Moor





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
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Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas
Calendar Editor Shay Mackay

Night shelter meals

I will coordinate meals for the night shelter for the next three years. The night shelter is part of the interfaith partnership, which involves different churches in the county preparing meals for the night shelter. HUUF provides a meal each Tuesday; we have done this for many years. Many in the fellowship have participated and I hope to include new families and members, as some of our elders who have done it for years are no longer able. It involves delivering a meal on Tuesday early afternoon to be served at 5:30. It should feed 20-25 people and be heavy in protein. Some suggestions: tuna casserole with vegetables, chili, baked chicken and potatoes, or a large pot of hearty soup with a loaf of bread. Casseroles are a good option, in particular if you are teaming with another person as each could make a dish for 10. Salad or a green vegetable should round out the meal. Dessert could be mandarins, applesauce or bananas as they are easy to eat when one doesn't have great teeth.

I am in the process of compiling a list of families/members who can make a commitment for a regularly scheduled Tuesday. For a number of years I have done the first Tuesday of the month and that made it easy to remember. My thoughts on this as I tackle the scheduling is if all who would like to be involved would call or email me I will make a chart with your available dates. I would like a list of "back ups" to cover when the regulars go on holiday. The RE kids as part of their program make a meal on the third Tuesday from January to June. If someone would pick up the third Tuesday from July to December that would be great. I would love to have someone do every other month on the first Tuesday to share with me. Some people do it as a group of two or three. Call me with any ideas, suggestions, and commitments soon as it is important that a lapse does not occur. Consider doing this as a family project from preparation to delivery.

Thanks so much for helping me carry on a long standing tradition.

Jan Rowen