

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



July/August 2010

A transforming retreat

Under our Bylaws each year the Board holds a retreat to set goals, make general plans, calendar important events and organize committees for the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. This year the retreat was held at the Humboldt Area Foundation.

Our Pledge Drive results are expected to be about the same as last year, which indicates we don't have the pledging to fund substantial reserves for a minister, a volunteer coordinator or increased office support. The pledge results also required making cuts to most committee funding requests in order to balance the budget.

To enhance pledging, volunteerism and improve organization, the Board accepted the recommendation of the How to Who To Task Force, which was charged with identifying next steps to advance Future Forum goals. The Board will negotiate a contract with our Pacific Central District for their Transforming Congregations Program, (TCP) to help us address the four key areas of ministry, finances, volunteerism and growth. Specifically, we will work with the TCP to move forward in transitioning to having a part time consulting minister by the year 2011-2012 and commit to calling a settled minister for the year 2013-14. To accomplish these goals we will work with the TCP Team to build a successful pledging program and with Building Use and Fund Raising to identify options for increasing revenue. We will postpone hiring a volunteer coordinator and will address issues of volunteerism through the TCP program. The Board will continue to encourage growth as demonstrated in the Golden Colorado DVD and the experiences of other congregations.

The Board hopes to begin the Transforming Congregations program in September. The program involves having a series of workshops, and ongoing consultation with a team of UU ministers from PCD. The program will require the support and involvement of our total congregation.

Complete minutes of the retreat will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

HUUF Board of Trustees: *Wendy Rowan, Dave Harris, Beverly Morgan Lewis, Jeff Knapp, JoAnn Thomas, Kim Moor, Greg Blomstrom*



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Lantern ceremony

The Social Action Committee has endorsed the City of Arcata's Lantern Ceremony and has selected John McAlinn to be our liaison to the planning committee. The Ceremony will take place on **August 14** to draw attention to the terrible loss of life due to the atom bombing of Hiroshima. This has been an annual event in Arcata for many years and one in which members of HUUF have participated. If you wish to help or have questions please contact John McAlinn at johnoj@hotmai.com.

Jack Munsee

People

Jean Wagner died on May 26 in Eureka with all of her family members present. There will be a memorial service on Sunday, **July 25**. We will miss her love and dedication to HUUF.

Jo Weisgerber is successfully walking after knee surgery.

Roxana Hand had a seizure and is trying to figure out what caused it. She will be calling people for rides as she is not allowed to drive at this time.

Mary Lou Jensen continues her recovery and sends her warm thoughts to those in the Fellowship.

Anna Mae Botley plans to go to New Zealand with her son Steve in September.

Dave and Ilene Harris celebrated their 42nd anniversary on June 16. **Joy Thomas and Steve Sottong** will celebrate their 20th on July 8.

Jamila Tharp is having a great summer doing a clinical pastoral education at Great Samaritan Regional Medical Center. **Michelle Hasting** is busy single-parenting the kids.

Dave and June Davis were in Boulder, Colorado, on May 30 for the birth of their latest grandchild, Jackson Cooper Holley. At birth he weighed 9 lb 6 oz and was 21 inches. They enjoyed visiting, cooking and walking the dog for their growing family.

Darsty McAlinn had back surgery and is successfully healing.

June Thompson had two minor strokes, but both she and Bill are “doing okay.”

Karen Knapp



Library opportunity

Your HUUF library is a wonderful resource for growth, inspiration and comfort; but keeping it available takes a bit of help. Fortunately being a volunteer is one of the easiest and most restful jobs in our Fellowship. Interested? Contact me on the third Sunday in June in our library. Or you could contact me at 839-3598. Thank you.

Martha Hirsch



SAC coffee sale

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of July and August, in the Fellowship lobby, before and after the 10:00 a.m. service, the Social Action Committee will hold its regular sales of equal exchange coffee, cocoa, chocolate and cranberries. By patronizing these sales, you will help support the farmers who grow the raw products, the partnership of liberal congregations who merchandise the products and the SAC's own effort to fund the education of a young girl in Nicaragua, facilitated by the Circulo de Amigas. Our current student is Eymi, age eight. We will support her education-related expenses as long as she is in the program and you make it possible by patronizing our excellent products, which also make great hostess gifts.

In fellowship,
Marianne Pennkamp,
Sales Coordinator

Panel mediation

Learn and practice important conflict-resolution skills in order to become a volunteer mediator and/or for personal development by taking Humboldt Mediation Services' 34-hour course in panel mediation.

Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays:
September 20, 21, 23, 28, 30; 5:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays: September 25 and October 2; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Locations: HUUF and Lutheran Church of Arcata (151 E. 16th Street, Arcata)

Please register by **August 20**. Call HMS at 445-2505 or me at 599-6009.

Chip Sharpe

SAC mid-summer picnic brunch

Our theme? We gave thought to the backyard barbeque idea, a popular summer tradition. But summer will provide plenty of opportunity for folks to participate in barbeques of their own, and this would be a lot of extra work for some folks on an otherwise languid Sunday morning. And this is Humboldt, where it can rain in total disregard for the season. So, the practical thing to do seemed to be to have a simple, old fashioned picnic. Less work, more practical and still a whole lot of fun. And picnics can always move indoors if the weather becomes disagreeable.

Who benefits? Well, July is Independence month. So we decided to take a stand and get patriotic. All proceeds will go to support our Veterans for Peace. With peace, everyone benefits.

When? July 18 - right after service.

Eve Anderson

Halloween Festival - the fun has begun!

Planning for the Halloween Festival starts early. A small group of people met in June to get things going; and our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **July 15** from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. All are welcome to join us and be a part of this magical event. Childcare will be provided. Having your ideas and suggestions at meetings is very helpful; but if you're not a meeting person, there are other ways you can help.

Do you have theater experience? We need a skit producer/director to help coordinate the skits. This is a demanding but very rewarding volunteer job. Consultation help from the past skit producer/director is available.

Are you an artist? Last year, we had a gorgeous poster that was put together by graphic designer Jenn Tarlton. She got the artwork from the internet, and although it was perfect for our event, the artist lived far away and had nothing to do with HUUF. It would be great to have this year's artwork generated by one of our congregation. A rendering of Julie and Gordon as the King and Queen of Halloween, the campfire with our own willow tree in the background, Guiding Lights — just think of the possibilities!

If you are interested in filling either of these roles, please contact me (kathrich@arcatanet.com or 839-3406) or Jenn Tarlton (jennaig@hotmail.com or 443-4100). We will also need plenty of other volunteer help preparing for and producing the event. Let us know that you want to be involved, and we'll find a job for you that you'll have a great time doing.

Katherine Almy

Tropical Storm Agatha

Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) Judy Alvarez wrote to Mary Lou Jensen in June from Guatemala:

"I am doing well. My community has quickly recovered from the storm just in time for the *ferria*.... Other communities have not recovered as quickly. Today I went along with the local mayor and about 30 other community members to visit a small *aldea* on the other side of the mountain. The town is not far away, but the steep mountain makes it a 1½ hour car ride through mud-filled roads.

"I was shocked by the sights I found there. Seventy families lost their homes and everything they own in the countless mudslides that took place during the storm. Many others continue to be displaced from their muddy wet homes. One family I spoke to described how they sleep under a tarp up in the mountains while they save money to move to another community.

"I do not know what to do from here. I want to keep hearing the stories and keep an eye out for 'What am I supposed to do here?' I find myself in a unique position. From what I understand, not many of the other PCVs in Guatemala are seeing the kinds of things I have seen with Tropical Storm Agatha. They have not heard the stories except for what they have read in the paper. I feel a huge responsibility. I am experiencing this for a reason. I have to do something with this but I just don't know what yet and time is ticking. Any feedback you could give me would be greatly welcomed."

Judy Alvarez, 1judy.alvarez@gmail.com, 502-515-219-43
Voluntaria de Cuerpo de Paz (2009-2011)
Projecto Salud Preventiva deHores Rurales
Tonicopan, Guatemala

Religion for our time

The Unitarian Universalist Association has just released the sixth short video in the exciting new series, "A Religion for Our Time."

Episode Six, "A Passionate Commitment to Young Adults," describes how the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego transformed itself from a graying congregation into a multigenerational one. The congregation's commitment to young adult and campus ministry programming is grounded through a staff person focused on eighteen- to thirty-five-year-olds!

View the six-minute video:
<http://www.uua.org/multimedia/religion6>.

"A Religion for Our Time" highlights inspiring work in UU congregations, including innovative projects relating to worship, social justice, membership, and fellowship. New episodes are added every few weeks to this multimedia page: <http://www.uua.org/multimedia/religion/index.shtml>.

Congregational leaders may also wish to bookmark the new and expanded resources page. Visit often to view new videos and search for materials covering all areas of congregational life and governance: <http://www.uua.org/resources/index.shtml>

Ed Uyeki

Deadline Friday, August 20

E-mail articles to jthomas3@csulb.edu. There is no newsletter in August, so the next issue will not appear until almost September.

Joy Thomas



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Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday,

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

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents Jeff Knapp

JoAnn Thomas

Trustees Greg Blomstrom

Wendy Rowan

Beverly Morgan Lewis

Kim Moor

Treasurer David Harris

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

Update of the UUA website

Following the January, 2010, update to the design of the UUA.org web site, you will see enhancement of almost all the pages to use the new, wide format that provides room for larger images and more related content.

* You see links to news, events, and blog postings on more pages.

* All pages are more accessible, following a complete professional accessibility review to ensure that the pages meet Web standards.

* The Congregational Search page at www.uua.org/CONG now allows for searches by city and state, and the search results page displays a Google map of all the congregations.

* Searching UUA.org works better. The site was combed for the best results for the 500 most popular searches and tagged these pages to appear at the top of the results list. Your results now appear with tabs that you can click to refine the results.

Please visit the UUA web site at www.uua.org. We want to know what you think, so please complete our User Survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/GY86XSF. And be sure to watch General Assembly plenary events live at www.uua.org/ga/video.

The UUA Information Technology Services/OEC staff
*Kasey Melski, Tim Griffin,
Margy Levine Young and Sean Hogan*