

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



September 2011

## Gathering the HUUF family

Summer is coming to a close and we will gather together on September 18 for the first fall service. Many of us are looking forward to returning to a single service each Sunday throughout the year as this will allow members to be with the whole HUUF family. Regular Sunday services will now start at 10:30 am and conclude by noon. Aside from the program each Sunday, there will be opportunity to visit with each other over tea and coffee, as well as conversations about issues of the day that are relevant to our UU values. Our engaging Religious Education program will continue to be provided for children during the service, but there will be a special time in the beginning of the service for them to participate in honoring our time together.

The Program and Worship Committee, the Religious Education Committee, and the Board have been involved in thoughtful planning over the summer to ensure that the transition to a single service is meaningful and of benefit to all members of the congregation. One long-time member recently stated, "I have really missed being together with the whole congregation, and with our expanded space it really makes sense to return to a single service."

Since the annual HUUF Board Retreat, many of us have reflected upon the recent Assessment report provided by Mary Gleason from UUA Congregational Stewardship Services. We will work hard throughout the year to integrate our learning from the report into Sunday services as well as the overall life of the Fellowship. We hope that everyone who walks through the doors of the Fellowship will feel welcome and find ways to engage in the life of the Fellowship, so—

*Come, come, whoever you are, wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.*

*Ours is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again come*

from *Singing the Living Tradition*, Hymn #188

*Wendy Rowan,*

Secretary for the Board of Trustees

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## Farewell to the Sloanes

On Sunday, **September 11**, following our Gathering of the Waters service we will bid farewell to John and Betty as they move on to a new phase in their lives in Grass Valley. John and Betty have been active members in our Fellowship for many years, Betty serving on many committees and John as a Board Co-president as well as committee member extraordinaire. We will miss them and wish them the very best in this new adventure. Please join us.

*JoAnn Thomas*



## People

**Scott Allen** is recovering from a very successful surgery. He'll be back on the trails any day now.

**John and Betty Sloane** are moving to Grass Valley. Good luck! We will miss you.

**June Thompson** welcomes visitors. Bill is becoming quite a chef.

**Gordon Leppig, Julie Neander, Sylvie and Kai** just returned from a three-week whirlwind sight-seeing tour of the US. Sylvie is on her way to Canada, and Kai is starting George Washington University.

**June Davis** is visiting her daughters, no, wait a minute... she's in Hawaii...no, wait a minute, she's on a retreat. Gosh, where IS June? Wherever she is, she'll return in October.

**Carol McFarland** broke her ankle and is enjoying her time off.

**Michael Chandler** is now known as Anaeta Desiree Chandler.

**Kinara** is pleased to report that she no longer needs to continue her chemotherapy. She is still slowly, but surely, moving into her new apartment.

*Karen Knapp*

## Girl Scout needs help

I am a Junior Girl Scout in Troop 70181. We are working on our Bronze Award.

I am collecting hygiene items and making bags for teens in need. Travel size soaps, shampoos and conditioners, boys' socks, mouthwash, deodorant, toothpaste and feminine hygiene products are most helpful.

Please call me at 839-8689 or bring the items to Fellowship where I can collect them and take them to my troop meetings.

Thank you for your support.

*Maisie French*

## Circle dinners sign-up

Circle Dinners are usually pot-luck dinners held in someone's home; however, there have been picnics, teas, and brunches. The composition of the group varies each time, and no two parties have the same guest lists. These gatherings are an opportunity to get to know people in the Fellowship in an informal small group environment and to help build a sense of community.

If you would like to join in a Circle Dinners you can still sign up. Forms will be available at HUUF the first three weeks in September or by e-mailing me at [KathyLmath@aol.com](mailto:KathyLmath@aol.com) or phoning 839-3025.

The names of those who have signed up are entered into a database. Hosts for a given month are selected; and the coordinator matches people for an event, trying to balance long-term and newer members or non-members, singles or couples, ages, concerns about driving distances, access, etc. The coordinator notifies hosts of their guests by sending them a list of their guests. Each host contacts the guests giving them the date and time. The host asks guests what they want to bring or tells them what is needed. When I was new at HUUF, I found these events a great way to get integrated into the Fellowship and I still really enjoy them.

*Kathy Layton*

## Coffee and chocolate fundraising update

Hello, UU coffee and chocolate lovers. I am excited to take on the role of the Social Action Committee Coffee Project Manager and want to keep you informed of our activities. SAC coffee and chocolate sales begin again in September. This project helps small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the U.S. build a better future for themselves and their families. Equal Exchange pays them a fair price for their crops and makes also contributions to UUSC programs for each pound of coffee, tea or chocolate purchased by our congregation. The profits we make through our SAC help fund Circulo de Amigas' educational programs.

We want to sell the items that you want. To help us know what to order please contact me at [gleppig@humboldt1.com](mailto:gleppig@humboldt1.com) and let me know if you want coffee that is ground or whole bean, decaf or regular, French, Vienna, Full City or medium roast, in 12-ounce or two pound bags. Email your chocolate preferences too. Do you like Extra Dark, Very Dark, Dark, Orange Dark, Dark with almonds, Chocolate Espresso Bean, Mint Chocolate, Milk Chocolate, or Chocolate Carmel Crunch with sea salt? For the holiday season we also hope to offer organic cranberries, almonds and nuts for gifts and stocking stuffers.

*Julie Neander*



## Fundraising Task Force sunsets by September 30

The HUUF fellowship needs to develop a fundraising plan and to do that we're creating a task force, not, god forbid, another committee. The difference is crucial because a task force, including this task force has a finite end date. Why a fundraising task force you ask? At the moment we do not have a fund raising chairperson or any members on the fundraising committee nor do we have any plans for fundraising events in 2011-12 even though we've budgeted \$12,000 in fundraising income for the coming year. Recognizing that this is a problem, the board of HUUF established the fundraising task force in order to develop a written plan that has very specific written tasks that can be assigned to one or more individuals to pursue. The written plan will address the problem that the board sees with having a \$12,000 goal but no process or staffing to achieve that goal. The board has outlined various tasks that will comprise the plan including, 1) reviewing our recent fundraising events, 2) brainstorm potential fundraising events, 3) develop a tentative schedule of fundraising events through 2014, and, most importantly, prepare a list of potential candidates who will implement the plan. Dave Harris, Nancy Cook and I have volunteered to be on the task force, but we need more people. We'd love to have an RE parent and an RE youth as well as anyone else who has some energy to brainstorm. Several HUUF consultants have been identified who will be valuable people to turn to for information including Shay MacKay, Jo Ann Thomas, Scott Allen, Jeff Knapp and Jillian Mooney. Because this is a task force, there is a finite end to this labor of love (and money) – the board hopes to have a finished written fund raising plan by September 30 this year. So, if you want to spend time with some great people, do some brainstorming and help us describe events that will achieve our fundraising goal, give Dave Harris or me a call; and we'll sign you up.

*Greg Blomstrom, Vice President, Board of Trustees*

## Opportunity to help the Fellowship

The co-chairs of the Program and Worship Committee, Katherine Almy and Stephen Sottong, plan to retire from their positions at the end of this program year, July, 2012. This leaves plenty of time for a gradual and complete transition for new chair(s). The transition is extremely useful and makes the job much easier. The new chair(s) will get the chance to view the internal workings of the committee and learn about various speakers available. Take advantage of this opportunity to move into this very responsible position gradually. Contact one of us if interested.

*Steve Sottong*



## Flowers for Sundays

Most dates of the new Fellowship year, September through June, are not chosen yet. Persons who like to bring flowers or some attractive item, such as a shell or rock, sculpture, for the niche in the foyer and the pedestal above the chalice in the main hall, please contact me, so your preferred Sunday can be reserved for you.

*Ursula Osborne*

## Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism

“On one hand, *Darkening the Doorways* (by Mark Morrison-Reed) is a tale of systemic paternalism and a prejudicial failure of vision, of squandered opportunities and good intentions turned into tragedy more often than triumph. On the other hand, it is a tale of idealism, courage, intrepid allies, dogged determination and steadfast loyalty in the face of rejection. The life stories and achievements of the African Americans you will discover in these pages are remarkable. Mark Morrison-Reed's collection of profiles and essays, supplemented by archival documents, revives their memory while pointing toward the evolving multicultural future.” - from the UUA Bookstore

Look for an autographed copy in our library. If you lack the time to take in the entire collection from 42 different authors, at least treat yourself to three of the short chapters. Seat yourself in our cozy library and read “The First” by William Sinkford (pp 284-296), “The Empowerment Paradox” (pp 215-229), and the afterword (pp 297-309), both by Mark Morrison-Reed.

“Diversity in the Unitarian Universalist context progresses more quickly when the primary barrier to inclusivity is not culture but gender or sexual orientation.” (page 301)

*Chip Sharpe*

## Fourth principle holiday: Ingersoll Day

I have lamented before how the holidays UUs celebrate often derive from other religious tradition and that this hampers our ability to build a strong Unitarian Universalist identity in our children. But there are opportunities to celebrate occasions, people and events important to us and our collective heritage.

Ingersoll Day, in honor of Robert Green Ingersoll, is a celebration to add to our calendars, around his August 11 birthday. Observing the life and works of one of the most popular freethinkers in history can be a true reflection of our fourth UU principle: “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

Ingersoll Day can be a time to celebrate freethought. For young children, parents can provide challenges that encourage thinking and seeking new meaning. Puzzles and activities that spark interest (such as scavenger hunts) are appropriate activities for celebrating Ingersoll Day. Older children, youth, and adults can stage their own speeches.

Freethinking can be honored as a family with a candle-lighting ceremony. As each person in the family lights a candle, encourage them to share something that they used to think that they now think differently about. Older children and youth could share instead something about “so many people think ..., but I think ....” This could affirm individual beliefs and help strengthen them when youth are met with opposition or disbelief by those people who think much differently than they do.

A family celebration that affirms the responsible search for truth and meaning can lift up the importance of our Fourth Principle, and that sounds like a great idea for a UU holiday to me.

*Michelle Richards*

## Civil disobedience in Arizona

A year ago, our UU principle on the inherent worth and dignity of all people led me to Phoenix to participate in a National Day of Non-Compliance in protest of SB1070. Along with others, I chose to engage in civil disobedience by blocking the entrance to the Maricopa County jail. I sought to impede — if only for one day — Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s dehumanization of migrants, his raids on barrios and his campaign of terror. After 14 hours in jail, I was able to leave. Others were less fortunate.

Now I am one of six people standing trial in Phoenix for civil disobedience. I view this as an opportunity to again shine a light on the growing human rights crisis in Arizona. In addition to raising these issues in the press, I wrote to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder urging that DHS immediately sever Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s access to immigration programs like 287(g) and Secure Communities, and that the Department of Justice conclude its ongoing investigation into abuses by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office and bring Sheriff Arpaio to justice.

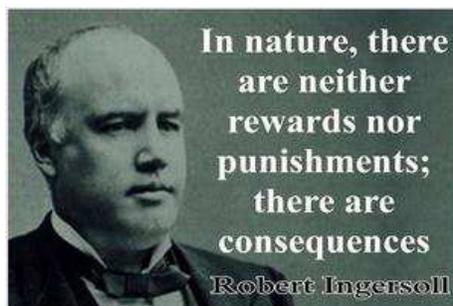
Will you join me in asking these leaders to stop the abuse and injustice that is rampant in Maricopa County?

Following my arrest in 2010, I led an effort to bring together seven other denominations and a dozen faith-based organizations in signing a letter to President Obama urging an end to policies like the frightening “Secure Communities” program that “Arizonify” local law police by requiring them to enforce unjust federal immigration laws. These programs criminalize immigrant communities and tear apart families. Our letter was delivered in February to the DHS. Unfortunately, Secretary Napolitano has taken no action in response.

Similarly, I am thankful that the Department of Justice launched an investigation into Sheriff Arpaio’s actions, and I am hopeful that upon completion, the Sheriff will be held accountable for his crimes. The Department of Justice investigation has been a slow process. I am not an investigator or a civil rights attorney. I appreciate that finding evidence requires due process. But as a minister who cares deeply about the suffering of other people — people whose freedom exists at the whim of Sheriff Arpaio, a man who has shown himself to thrive on cruelty — I feel compelled to ask Attorney General Holder to bring Sheriff Arpaio to justice swiftly.

There is a domestic human rights crisis in Arizona. Please join me in standing with immigrant communities in defense of the barrios because we cannot be neutral. We are called. We are all Arizona.

*Rev. Peter Morales, President  
Unitarian Universalist Association*



## Of spirituality and a quest for romance

The documentary "Raw Faith" features two things seldom seen on a movie screen these days: spirituality that doesn't sound maniacal, and older adults who are exploring romance.

The film chronicles two years in the life of Marilyn Sewell, a Unitarian minister in Portland, OR, who, as the movie opens, has what many ministers these days can only long for: a full church with an active congregation. But the job is taking all of her time, and she begins to contemplate retiring to explore other interests, like writing. She also wouldn't mind having a love life, something she has been missing since a divorce years earlier.

There's nothing particularly flashy about the tale, and it has its share of moments when viewers might well be asking, "Why exactly was this a worthy subject for a documentary?" Peter Wiedensmith, the director, also lets the proceedings veer toward hagiography on occasion without ever taking the time to show the appeal of Ms. Sewell's ministerial approach. We hear excerpts from her sermons, but they are primarily first-person snippets that serve to fill out her back story.

Despite these flaws, it's refreshing to see a documentary about a normal grown-up who is struggling with problems of life and love, just as so many invisible others do.

*NEIL GENZLINGER*  
*NY Times Movie Review Section*  
Jun 23, 2011

## Religious Education



There are many new and exciting changes this year, and Religious Education is part of that change. We will stay in the Sunday service longer at the beginning to take part in the family time. We have some changes in teachers and classrooms, and we will try some new events that will connect us with our larger congregation.

Family camping was new this summer, and we hope to grow this program with more events this coming year. Our Halloween Festival is coming up. What can you do to help this traditional favorite be a success?

We are in need of a teacher for our fifth and sixth graders who will be branching off to form an Intermediate group. We have a new curriculum we are excited to use with this enthusiastic group. Email or call me if you might be able to volunteer once or twice a month. Please consider it.

Another tradition this time of year is our Family Fiesta Night. This year we will include our entire Fellowship Family on Friday, **September 9**, 6-8 p.m. We will have a taco/burrito buffet bar. Please plan to bring something for our fiesta potluck. Parents, we will call you. Come meet this year's teachers, find out what curriculum your child will be explore and register your child for our Religious Education program.

New this year is a \$25 registration fee per family. We have had our children's budget cut by a quarter and our Teen budget cut in half. We need your support financially to help our program continue to provide a quality religious education for your child. If this fee is a hardship, please see me as scholarships are available.

Our first Religious Education classes will begin on **September 18** at the new 10:30 Service time. We will join our families after the service for our snack with our parent's coffee hour time so that we can all be together. Please make sure your child gets a breakfast to last them through the morning.

### **September 18:**

We will break into our classes by ages to play getting-to-know-you games, meet new friends and catch up with old friends. We will make name tags, do some UU activities and have fun together while getting to know our teachers.

### **September 25:**

Social Action Sunday. Come dressed to work.

*Jillian Mooney*



## Wonderful summer bonuses

Our summer experiences included three fantastic events, thanks to the Service Auction held in May. The first was a gourmet halibut dinner held in the home of Jo and Berti. As usual, Jo did an outstanding job with the halibut, and both of them provided lots of hospitality and TLC to all who attended.

The second of our unforgettable outings was the croquet and salmon barbeque at Ilene and Dave's beautiful farm. We played challenging games with fellowship friends and then enjoyed a delicious salmon barbeque dinner. Ilene gave all participants prizes of teakettles filled with blooming flowers

Our third Auction event was the beer tasting at Greg and Debbie's home. We started the afternoon touring their mammoth garden, then relaxed on the deck as Greg told us all we ever needed to know about the history of beer. We got to sample nine different beers as well as Greg's home brew and toured Greg's brewery. A special treat was Debbie's roasted pepper dip. It was a delightful afternoon of sun, fellowship and brew.

Thanks to our hosts and hostesses, our summer has been one of gastric delights. We are looking forward to future Service Auctions where we can support the Fellowship and have enjoyable outings with friends.

*JoAnn and Carl Thomas*

*There's a lot of gesturing in croquet! Left to right, Scott Allen, Dave Harris, Celest Armenta and Kathy Layton enjoy a Service Auction event.*

## Men's retreat

The annual UU Men's Retreat for men in the Pacific Central District is being held the weekend of October 14-16 in its usual location at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo, CA. This year, we have made the event more affordable: \$175 if you register by Sept 1 and \$200 thereafter. If you're under 30, it's only \$150. Now's the time to register!

As always, it will be a time for UU men to share experiences with one another, to learn, to play and to form new bonds with our fellow men. For many of us who come year after year, it's a time of both reflection and of reaching out. I hope you'll be kind to yourself and attend this year's Men's Retreat.

To register, just go to <http://tinyurl.com/3zhhtkt>

Questions? Contact me at [pcdmensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:pcdmensretreat@gmail.com) or 408 393-6182.

*Gordon Smith*

## Roadmap to Racial Equity; Allies in Today's World

At the General Assembly, Tim Wise, prominent antiracist writer and educator, spoke for almost an hour, followed by questions and responses. His entertaining style and insights make this worth watching. An audio CD is on order for HUUF library. Until then, see [www.uua.org/justice/issues/economicracial/ga/184974.shtml](http://www.uua.org/justice/issues/economicracial/ga/184974.shtml).

Just two points from Tim Wise that I note here:

1. "Public," for many whites, has come to mean "serving Blacks," as in "public housing," "public transportation," and "public option." The belief that Black people will abuse public systems is the main reason behind opposition to "public" health care.

2. The election of a man of color, the economic meltdown, and cultural and demographic shifts have challenged white people's view of normalcy and created "a perfect storm of racism."

*Chip Sharpe*



## Come, come, whoever you are

Mark your calendar for the annual Gathering of the Waters followed by an all-Fellowship potluck picnic Sunday, **September 11**, at 10 a.m. Bring a small amount of real or virtual water from your summer's activity to mingle in our community bowl as we reconvene for the year. After the service, we will mingle as we break bread together. Bring your potluck items to the kitchen before the service.

*Berti Welty*

### GA report

At 2000+ words, Chip Sharpe's report on the UU General Assembly which took place in Charlotte, NC, in June, was too long for the newsletter and is available at [www.huuf.org/GA2011.pdf](http://www.huuf.org/GA2011.pdf).



*Bev Allen and Katherine Almy share a smile while Bev shows off her handknit socks at a recent gathering of the Crafts Studio.*

## Ya'll come to Crafts Studio

Crafts Studio is a monthly gathering of people who like to make things with their hands. We knit, crochet, make rubber stamps, sketch, take photos and so forth. Tea is usually available and occasionally cookies. It is not necessary to do *anything* to come to Crafts Studio – you are quite welcome if you just want company for an afternoon. We also talk a lot, so if you want to be up on the latest HUUF gos—uh, *news* – please join us. We have been meeting at the McKinleyville home of Beverly Allen, but are willing to consider moving to the Fellowship if anyone feels uncomfortable meeting in a private home. Contact me at 444-1361 or [jthomas3@csulb.edu](mailto:jthomas3@csulb.edu) if you have concerns or would just like to be added to the email list to be notified of our meetings. We gather on the first Wednesday of each month, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

*Joy Thomas*

## Classified ads

The HUUF newsletter accepts classified advertisements. Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Send text of your ad to me at [jthomas3@csulb.edu](mailto:jthomas3@csulb.edu). Send your check for the amount of your ad to HUUF.

*Joy Thomas, editor*

## Deadline Tuesday, September 20

Please e-mail articles to [jthomas3@csulb.edu](mailto:jthomas3@csulb.edu). Print and .pdf items cannot be accepted. If you need a copy of the newsletter guidelines, contact me.

*Joy Thomas, editor*



# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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*Chip Sharpe at the General Assembly in in June in Charlotte, NC*