

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



November 2011

## Welcome our consulting minister,

### Dennis Reynolds and his wife, Suzanne

The HUUF Board invites you to meet, greet and welcome our new Consulting Minister, Dennis Reynolds, Sunday, **October 30**. Dennis will speak at our service at 10:30, and we will celebrate his arrival into our community with an open house reception from 12:30-2:30.

Dennis has been an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene for over 20 years. He has participated in activities and served on many committees, worked with Religious Education for both children and adults and served as a member of the Board of Directors. He completed his parish internship at the Quimper UU Fellowship, in Port Townsend, Washington, and a Clinical Pastoral Education at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Washington. He then served as a Staff Chaplain at the Good Samaritan Hospital. In May, 2011, he began a quarter-time Consulting Ministry at Klamath Falls UU Fellowship and will continue this part-time service.

He decided to become a UU Minister upon his retirement as Director of the Moss Street Children's Center of the University of Oregon, a position he held for 23 years. Prior to the directorship he worked as the Lead Teacher for ten years. His ex-

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## Dennis' ministerial musings

After the congregational meeting last month, where my wife Suzanne and I were introduced to the congregation, we returned to the car with big smiles on our faces. As we got inside Suzanne said "That was amazing."

She's right: It was amazing. Your beautiful space, the beautiful music that reverberated within it, and the community of care and welcome and hope that fills it took our breath away.

As those there noted, I was certainly not speechless. I seldom am. I am a man of words. Words are the way we express, as best we can, our emerging notions as well as our foundational beliefs. I strive to attend fully to the words I speak and to the words I hear.

What I saw in the words I read about your fellowship and its hopes and its history was a picture of a community that has long been outspoken and actively engaged in the work of building a mutual supportive community. At times that activism has spread into the communities, both human and natural, which surround you.

What I heard, when I talked with the first the Search Task Force and then the Board, were expressions of a desire to be a community that builds on that tradition, adapting and expanding it to fill the needs of these times.

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## People

**Beverly Allen** is doing well. If anyone has questions, just ask her.

**Ben Tankersley** has moved to North Carolina with his daughter.

**Ginger Gardner** is in Room 17 at Eureka Health Care (St. Joseph's Rehab). She welcomes visitors in the afternoons.

**Scott Allen** is feeling great and continues to recover. Now if only the HUUF water-damaged flooring recovered as well.

**Cheryl Rau** has an art show up at the Garden Gate this month. Drop by to see it.

**Edie and Bob Wolterbeek** are our newest members and are already volunteering. Welcome back to Humboldt and to HUUF, and thank you for your help!

**Katherine Almy, Richard Taylor and Slate Taylor** went to Bristol and also stayed on a farm in Wales this year. They have some interesting stories to tell.

**Joy Thomas and Stephen Sottong** took a pleasant road trip to Vancouver, BC.

**Judy Rishel** is in Michigan to help with the care of her sister who unfortunately broke her hip.

If you have info to share through the People column, please email me at [jessica@reninet.com](mailto:jessica@reninet.com).

*Karen Knapp*



## Volunteer needed

Nine years ago our Fellowship agreed, in collaboration with the Humboldt All-Faith Partnership, to help feed the homeless at the Arcata Night Shelter. Since that time, we have done an outstanding job of providing delicious, nutritious meals every Tuesday evening for about twenty people. I have coordinated this effort; but as time has passed, the list of donors has dwindled and people have become unable to participate for all kinds of reasons. What is needed now is for someone to step forward to assume the role of coordinator. We need a person who is willing to revitalize the program by expanding the donor list. Our Fellowship community has changed in nine years, and many are not even aware of the opportunity to help in this way, so we need a committed, enthusiastic person to take over and provide the shot in the arm needed to carry the program forward. I will help a new person get started and will provide resources and information. Please contact me at 668-4095 if you are interested in serving HUUF and the larger community in this way.

*Jean Munsee*

## Council of chairs meeting

My apologies to anyone who tried to attend the October 5 Council of Chairs meeting which the Board put into the calendar, but I totally spaced out. As a result, the Board decided that we should have a Council of Chairs meeting on **November 9** (Wednesday), from 5:30-7 p.m., at which point we will have to vacate the Sanctuary for choir practice. Chairs from the following committees should attend along with anyone else from the Fellowship: Aesthetics, Building Use, Communications, Denominational Affairs, Endowment, Environmental Action, Finance, Fund Raising, Halloween, Hospitality, Information Technology, Library, Membership, Music, Newsletter, Nominating, Pastoral Care, Personnel, Planned Giving, Program and Worship, Religious Education (Adults, Religious Education – Children), Social Action, Stewardship, and Volunteers. We'll discuss the 2011-2012 budget approved at the Congregational Meeting, hear from our new minister, discuss each committee's goals and hear from board members about our vision to transform our fellowship to a shared ministry using our long tradition of open and thoughtful discussion. The meeting has to end by 7 p.m. as the choir will practice then.

Thank you all in advance for coming.

*Greg Blomstrom, Vice Chair*

## Break out those checkbooks; we have a new minister

Remember when about 40 of us said that we would up our pledge when HUUF had a minister? Well, that day is here: Dennis Reynolds is our consulting minister starting November 1. If you can, please send the annual increase now, otherwise increase your monthly pledge accordingly. As always, you can mail your pledge directly to HUUF or use the offertory basket. Thank you.

*Board of Trustees*

## Board update

Excitement is in the air! The past month has been engaging for the Board with finalizing our process to secure a minister, the Congregational meeting, and working within HUUF to attend to all the details of Fellowship life. The weekend of October 8-9 we met extensively with our new consulting minister, Dennis Reynolds, and had the opportunity to introduce him to the congregation. Mark **October 30** on your calendars as Dennis will provide his first HUUF service, and we will welcome him to the congregation with a reception following the service.

The board was pleased with the excellent attendance at our fall Congregational meeting. Members of the nominating committee were approved. A big thanks to Danielle Stubblefield, Ann King and Marianne Pennekamp for working to identify new board members for next year. Dave Harris presented the final budget for the year which the congregation approved. Some reductions were made to help secure a minister. A financial plan is in place to cover the cost of our consulting minister for the next two years. JoAnn Thomas announced finalizing a contract with Dennis Reynolds to serve as our consulting minister and introduced him to the congregation. Dennis reaffirmed his commitment to serve HUUF, and members warmly responded.

The Board meeting on October 11 focused on an array of activities that keeps our Fellowship functioning. Scott Allen reviewed building use tasks underway including finalizing improvements to the sound system, replacing the furnace and repairing floor damage in the closet and cloakroom. Scott is also soliciting a design proposal for expansion of the foyer for the congregation's consideration. Other Board items addressed were presentation of the year-end financial report from Debbie Coggins, a discussion about the new fee for the RE program and fundraising strategies for the year.

The Board continues to reflect upon recommendations from the Assessment Report (Look for the summary in the last newsletter) and to pursue ways to implement them. One example is the theme that framed our activity during the months of September and October—Gathering the HUUF Family. For the months of November and December, the theme will be Traditions and Transformation in a Shared Ministry. We look forward to the congregation's reflections upon our HUUF traditions, and our potential future transformations.

*Wendy Rowan, Secretary*

## Sale of goods at HUUF

HUUF passed a policy on the sale of goods (books, popcorn, candy, etc.) in August, 2005. Here it is in its entirety:

“HUUF Board approval is required prior to the sale of goods and/or services on Fellowship property. This policy does not apply to person-to-person contact for the purpose of private solicitation. The sale of goods and/or services sold off HUUF property and under the banner or advertisement of HUUF also requires prior Board approval.”

At its October 11 meeting the Board agreed that children wanting to sell items for an organization to which they belong, need only contact a Board member for approval. Adults wanting to sell items for their own benefit/organizations to which they belong need to get prior permission from the Board. This is to insure that we don't have several individuals selling at the same time or repeated sellers, week after week.

*Dave Harris*

## Vision quest

The Teen group is looking for a cheap (free?) house or cabin to rent or to borrow for a weekend in January for their Vision quest weekend. This is an adult-supervised time when the Teens retreat to meditate, journal and think about their credo as part of their Coming of Age program that they will complete this year. Their budget was cut by half this year, and they are more than willing to fundraise for their expenses for this trip. If you know of a vacation rental or summer home within a one-to-two-hour drive, that can sleep eight teens and three adults, please let me or Jenny know.

*Jillian Mooney*



## Sunday flowers

Please contact me if you wish to bring flowers for a Sunday morning worship service. Some December dates and almost all dates in 2012 are open.

*Ursula Osborne*

## Welcome new minister, continued from page one

periences at the University of Oregon as well as the UUCE have evolved into a strong commitment to intellectual and spiritual exploration. Dennis writes: "Effective and comprehensive religious education needs to be life span education. We are all seekers. We are all learners. We all have the ability to serve as teachers and as life long learners. Adult learning programs in religious congregations provide opportunities for us to explore and think and grow intellectually and spiritually." Both he and his wife have taught adult education; and Suzanne, a life-long UU has facilitated dream groups and meditation groups and has worked with hospice.

Dennis is a social activist, as exemplified by his passion on the local level in Eugene, Klamath Falls, Port Townsend and on the global level by working with UUSC in Haiti and South Africa. He writes: "We are called by our faith to think and act both locally and globally. Our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of each individual and our affirmation of our place within the web of all life guide us in our commitment to justice and equity for all."

Dennis will serve as our Consulting Minister on a half-time basis, splitting his month between here and Klamath Falls. He and Suzanne have rented a house here and are looking forward to becoming a part of our HUUF community.

We are in for an exciting experience with the addition of this dynamic couple and hope you will join us in welcoming them this Sunday.

*JoAnn Thomas*

## Dennis, continued from page one

These times are, in many ways, difficult ones, ecologically as well as economically. Yet such times are also times that offer potential for change and transformation. What is happening now in the "Occupy Together" movement on the streets of New York and many cities and on the quad at Humboldt State are expressions of a broad-based desire for change and growth for our nation.

I believe that we, as individuals and collectively as Unitarian Universalists, have the capacity to change and grow as individuals and to be engaged in the work of changing our culture.

As the song in our hymnal supplement puts it "we are building a new way, growing stronger everyday."

With joyful anticipation for our work together,

*Dennis Reynolds*



## UUSC holiday cards

Holiday cards from Unitarian Universalist Service Committee will soon be available for sale in the foyer on Sunday mornings. This is an opportunity to send winter season messages to friends and at the same time call attention to our UU service organization.

*Ursula Osborne*

## Stewardship news (or: something's rotten in the state of HUUF)

Q: What's going on with the furnace in the Sanctuary?

A: On September 30 the furnace failed its annual inspection (heat exchanger would not hold pressure) and, having given us the 18 best years of its life, is retiring. In the process of removing it, we discovered extensive rot damage (and I mean expensive extensive!) to the subfloor and floor joists caused by a water leak. The culprit turned out to be a drain supply valve hidden in the wall of the foyer that was improperly installed when our building was built and has been dripping very slowly since 1993 or so. The valve has been replaced and an access/inspection door installed in the wall. Damaged floor framing and subfloor has been replaced and a search is on for matching replacement floor tile. When the new floor is laid the replacement furnace will be installed. Participating contractors: Design Air did the annual testing, California Heating removed and will replace the furnace, L.D.H. Construction repaired the damage, Pope Plumbing replaced the valve, Arcata Pro Floor is searching for tile and I'm still looking for a cosmetic surgeon to replace the hair ripped from my head as this project has progressed. Special thanks to newly returned member Bob Wolterbeek for herding this project during my absence. Bonus: That musty odor in the foyer should diminish over time.

Q: What's going on with the wood piled on the sidewalk to the CARE Building?

A: That is cedar planking and fir strips for replacing the rotted planter near the front door and the lattice by

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## RE families and the newsletter

At a recent RE committee meeting we discussed having a reminder in the newsletter regarding the options for receiving the newsletter. RE families sometimes erroneously believe that they have joined the Fellowship when they register for the children's RE program.

Non-members may receive this newsletter for free for 4 months by completing the Interest Form in the foyer. See Awana Kalal for more information.

Additionally, non-members may receive the newsletter monthly by contributing a \$10 annual fee.

*Tracy Jordan French*



## November SAC brunch

This month's scrumptious performance will feature pies in the starring role. Think savory pies (shepherd's pie, etc.) culminating in a grand finale of dessert pie (think pumpkin, berry, etc.). Salad will play a supporting role, and don't be surprised to see a cameo appearance by a soup or two.

Let us entertain your palates on **November 20**, 15 minutes after end of service (approximately noon).

Proceeds will go to the Extreme Weather Shelter.

In respect of those folks who have dietary restrictions, it would be helpful if ingredients could be written on a piece of paper we could place on the table by your entrée.

*Eve Anderson*

## Religious Education



November Soup & Game Night has been cancelled, but Parent's Night Out will be Saturday, **December 3**, 5-8:30 p.m. We will share pizza, treats and watch a holiday movie. Lots of crafts, games and fun, fun, fun! Parents, sign up early to reserve a spot so we know how much pizza to get and have enough childcare providers. Deadline to let Jillian know is **November 19**. If there's an interest, the Teens might provide a second Parent's Night Out as a fundraiser a few weeks later. This one is free.

### November 6

Preschool: We will talk about who is in our community and who are our neighbors.

K-2<sup>nd</sup>: This month we will explore the concept of "Talk It Out." How do we work out our problems with others?

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: We will learn about Mohammad and celebrate his birthday. We will make prayer rugs together.

### November 13: All Worship

All ages will gather together. What are you thankful for? How can we show that we are thankful? We will make stone soup together. Please bring a cooked vegetable to add to the pot. Guess what's for snack.

### November 20

Preschool: We will talk about who our friends at school and Fellowship are,

K-2<sup>nd</sup>: We will continue our discussion about how we can work out our differences. How can we problem solve with our friends and others?

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: We will learn about the Wampanoag Indian's autumn harvest day of thankfulness. We will make pop up cards for new friends.

### November 27: Friendship Sunday

We will have childcare for all ages. Come have fun with your friends.

Welcome back Jana, Eric, Asher and Lilith Kirk-Levine! Asher turned ten in October and Lilith was seven in September. They moved to Eureka from Southern Humboldt. We are so happy to have you return to our congregation. You have been missed. Jana joined the RE committee her first day back.

*Jillian Mooney*

Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Send text of your ad to [jthomas3@csulb.edu](mailto:jthomas3@csulb.edu) and your check to the HUUF office.

## Fall fundraising decision

The Board wants you to help plan our first fundraising event of the year. A summary of a detailed, three-year plan follows; but the immediate challenge is to decide on an event for November or December. Two ideas are currently at the top of the list: (1) a talent show that reprises local artists' fall performances, and (2) a fashion show in which all of the costumes must be made of recycled clothing and materials. Within the next two weeks we need to decide which of these events to stage. You can email, call, button-hole, corner, yell-out your preference to the first HUUFer and/or Board member you come upon. Let's start talking about fundraising!

### Fundraising plan summary

The HUUF budget for 2011-12 includes \$12,000 in fundraising income. This amount is projected to rise in future years. Historically, fundraising events have been organized and produced by ad hoc, loosely organized groups of very committed, dedicated, and eventually exhausted volunteers, generally led by one or two individuals who have taken the initiative. The Board has adopted a new approach.

The overall goal is to raise money through a series of fundraising events that are consistent with HUUF's vision and UUA values. This plan sets out a three-year cycle of fundraising events, along with the provision to have a small group of the current-year's fundraising Chair and team leaders develop the schedule for the third year of the new cycle. In this way, we will always begin the year with a three-year plan. In addition, this plan envisions the formation/dissolution of small fundraising teams focused on a single event. The overall, Fundraising Committee Chair need only recruit the team leader(s) and act as a liaison to the Board. Team leaders work through our Volunteer Administrator (Shay) to populate the team on an as needed basis.

To assist future teams, the team leader will complete a brief outline to document the fundraiser. Examples of the outline's essential information are listed below:

- Event description
- Team leader(s)
- Lead-time for planning event
- Expenses/revenues
- Volunteer requirements
- Summary evaluation

From time to time, the list of potential fundraising events may be revised by action of the Board. Any member or group of members may explore ideas for new fundraising events or work to substantially revise currently approved fundraising outlines. Each year, at least one fundraising event should target donors from outside the Fellowship. The detailed plan includes a table of past and potential future fundraising events.

Several events from that list appear on a draft of this year's schedule. It begins with a talent show in November or December, a fashion show in January or February, a concert in May, and a big event at the end of the year. This leaves March and April clear for our annual pledge drive.

A copy of the detailed **2011-14 Fundraising Plan** is posted on the Board bulletin board and available on the HUUF website.

*Dave Harris*

## Deadline Sunday, November 20

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

*Joy Thomas, editor*



*From left are Linda Smith, Sandy Lynn, Cheryl Rau, Jean Munsee, Jack Munsee, Maisee French, Tracy Jordan French, unknown, and Pat McCutcheon.*

# Stewardship,

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the kitchen yard gate. Not sure when this project will be completed. Volunteers?

Q: What's going on with the fence between the buildings?

A: The original paint failed and flaked off, caulking dried and cracked and rot ensued. Major reconstruction is done (contractor: Steve Botley!) and all has been primed. Needs finish coat of paint. Volunteers?

Q: What's going on with the redwood slab sign?

A: Richard of Expo Arts and I hope to sand and refinish the sign (again) by the time you read this. No rot has been discovered. Richard will return to add gold leaf once the finish dries. He made a new chalice for the sign that looks awesome. Also, the daffodil bulbs have been moved to the sides of the sign. Look for them next spring! There are a bunch of bulbs left over. Where should we plant them?

Q: What's going on with the Peace Pole?

A: It's looking a little worn and tattered (let's not go looking for metaphors here). Replacement pends research on what to replace it with. Volunteers?

Q: What's going on with the parking lot lights?

A: Ever since we received an angry anonymous letter from, presumably, a neighbor, in 2001 the original lights have been "capped" to limit light pollution. This "fix" also limited light for night visitors and (at least) two people have tripped on the parking bumpers. I have addressed

the problem in three ways. First, a new parking lot light switch has been installed to the right of the kitchen door along with signs on the front door and wall describing it's use: "up" turns the parking lot lights on (if it's dark outside) and "down" starts an electronic timer that will shut the lights off 30 minutes later, giving the last person to leave the building time to get to the car. The original switch was in the pantry and when you turned it off all but one parking lot light went out leaving you to search in semi-darkness for your car, tripping as you go. Second, I had the pavement striping and bumpers repainted with tiny reflective glass beads on the bumpers to increase night visibility. Finally, two prototype replacement lights have been installed for evaluation. The advent of LED lighting has opened some new opportunities in terms of greater light intensity and low power consumption. I could use some help evaluating these options and their efficacy and compatibility with the design of our buildings. I am aware of only one person tripping on the bumpers since phases one and two were completed. Me. In broad daylight.

Q: What's going on with the patio?

A: There are four large pretty pleasing pink plant pots on the patio (say that five times fast) that are pleading for a planting of winter posies (?!!). You pick the plants and potting soil and I'll help you pot 'em. Call me!

Q: What's going on with the landscaping on the east end of the CARE building?

A: Multiple work parties and a dedicated cadre of volunteers, have nearly brought Berti Welty and Jo Weisgerber's fabulous vision to completion. The next step is to remove the deer fencing and finish

mulching the plantings. Continuing weeding and attention will be required. Volunteers?

Q: What's going on with the Foyer/Social Space expansion?

A: Gene Callahan, a talented local designer/homebuilder, is sketching up a plan to bump out the walls front and back to ease our common coffee conversation congestion in the foyer. More to come on this.

Q: What can I do to help?

A: Come to the monthly work parties on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call me to volunteer, comment or suggest. If you see something that needs done, just do it!

Q: When will this madness end?

A: Hopefully not for a long, long time.

*Scott Allen*  
Stewardship Committee  
Chair-for-Life

## HUUF help wanted

We need a backup trainee for our HUUF Bookkeeper, Debbie Coggins. Debbie uses Quick Books to keep track of our finances, works with the Treasurer to keep our bank accounts in balance and serves on the Finance Committee. Please express your interest to Shay, Debbie or one of the Board members.

*Dave Harris*



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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(707) 822-3793  
www.huuf.org  
e-mail: office@huuf.org.  
Administrator Shay MacKay  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents Dave Harris  
JoAnn Thomas  
Vice-President Greg Blomstrom  
Secretary Wendy Rowan  
Trustees Judy Rishel  
Kim Moor  
Treasurer Chip Sharpe

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas  
Calendar Editor Shay MacKay

## Thanksgiving dinner

As a part of our local Humboldt All-Faith Partnership, we are being asked to donate food to the annual Thursday, **November 24**, Thanksgiving Day service by 10 a.m. at the Arcata Veterans' Hall at 14<sup>th</sup> and J Streets. I am the contact. In the foyer following Sunday services, you will find sign-up sheets for HUUFers to provide a turkey, pie or vegetable on Thanksgiving Day. Please let any person whom you feel will be alone or in need know about this opportunity. The Inter-faith Gospel Singers will perform at 11:30 a.m. and the dinner will begin downstairs from southside entry at noon, lasting until 3:30 p.m.

The following are needed:

- ◆ three turkeys plus alternative meat, already carved if possible, or tofu/veggie/nut alternative.
- ◆ five dessert pies cut into eight pieces.
- ◆ three 13x9 inch pans of vegetables, any kind.
- ◆ one 13x9 inch pan of stuffing.
- ◆ 100 environmentally friendly (quality) forks for the homebound dinners-to-go.
- ◆ Optional sign ups for juice or whole fruits appreciated.

Food should be delivered to the south entrance of the Veterans' Hall by 10 a.m. Please use paper, cardboard or foil containers. No utensils for serving. Any item you want returned must be picked up by 3:30 pm same day. We will not be responsible for lost items. Any questions will be answered by me

*John McAlinn 822-9233*