

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



January 2012

A lexicon for HUUFers

What an exciting time at the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship! So exciting that we have to create our own vocabulary. So here goes:

The wonderful addition of Dennis Reynolds to our community, leads to a needed definition: **Consulting Minister or Minister**. Officially, Dennis was hired as a Consulting Minister. This is the title UUA gives ministerial candidates who assume positions as ministers before they are Fellowshiped. Once Dennis is Fellowshiped, he can be called as a Minister, half-time, full-time, whatever. But in the meantime, he is officially our Consulting Minister. Unofficially, he is our **Minister**. Feel free to use this title whenever you choose and enjoy the experience.

Shared ministry is a term we use a lot. We do share Dennis with Klamath Falls UU Fellowship, but the term means something else closer to home. It means that we all share the ministry of HUUF.

Whether you serve on the Board, the Social Action Committee, teach Religious Education or serve on RE Committee; help create and produce our services with Program and Worship; help with coffee on Sunday mornings; greet and welcome our members and friends and serve on Membership, sing with our

Dennis' January musings

I continue to learn about and learn from this terrific community, and I like what I see and hear and feel going on. One of my learning opportunities came when I went Christmas caroling with members of the choir. I not only got to hang out with fun folk who enjoy doing focused work together, I also got a glimpse of the love and care you hold for each other and witnessed expression of the respect and appreciation you hold for those members who are not currently regularly present in the fellowship, but who did so much to make it be what it is today. It was time of song, smiles, hugs and a few sweet tears.

January is an apt time for looking back and concurrently looking forward. The Roman god Janus, for whom the month is named, had two faces, one looking into the past and one looking forward into the future. Such an image offers accurate image of what the Fellowship is up to these days. You look back at all you have been, honestly acknowledging both successes and stresses of the past. Then you turn your head, choosing not to simply look back and merely be what you have been. You have resolved to look in the future with hope for the fellowship to continue to offer the important personal connection be more.

Don't overlook these Sunday services:

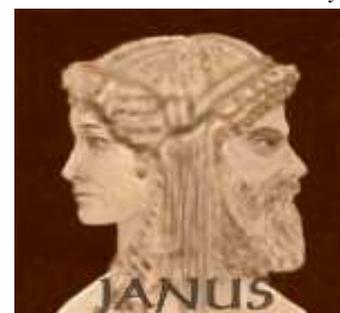
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Dennis Reynolds



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People

New Year greetings to all! We were sorry to miss those who were unable to make it to some of our HUUF holiday celebrations this year and send especially warm wishes to

Ginger Gardner

Mary Freedlund

June Thompson

Phyllis Stanewick

Mayer Segal

Anne Collins

Charlotte Sternberg

Mickey and John Strang

Elva Banducci

Aiko and Ed Uyeki

Bob West

Edie Watson

Ben Tankersley. We hope you are settling in well.

Betty and John Sloane. We miss you, too.

Some of these friends and members would appreciate a card or call. If you prefer to visit, please telephone them before doing so.

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

Karen Knapp

Sunday hospitality

Jan Rowen, Kathy Layton and Steve Sottong have done a wonderful job as volunteers for our Sunday hospitality service, but we still need a few more volunteers. Currently, we need someone (or two) to commit to doing the fifth Sunday when a month has one. 2012 has only five months with five Sundays: January, April, July, September and December. We also need a few folks to sign on as back-up help for our regular coordinators.

A Sunday commitment consists of arriving before services, brewing coffee, heating tea water, preparing any snacks that arrive and setting everything out for the congregation after the Sunday service. You will also be responsible for cleaning up the kitchen and will normally be done well before 1:00 p.m. Is anyone willing to put in a two-and-a-half to three-hour time commitment once every few months to continue our warm tradition of coffee and fellowship?

Please contact Jan Rowen at 822-8599 with questions and to volunteer.

Be part of the team

The primary expression of our congregational fellowship is our weekly service. In it we join together, young and old, to express our common beliefs and aspirations. Putting the services together takes a team of people. A key part of this team is the facilitator for each service. The facilitator works with the presenter to ensure that the service flows smoothly. The facilitator makes sure everything is in place the morning of the service and hosts the early portion of the service. Being a facilitator is a great way to serve within the Fellowship and also a great way to meet our various presenters. The time commitment for facilitating a service is only about four hours, and most facilitators do only a three or four services a year; so you can serve the Fellowship in a vital way without overcommitting your time.

On **February 12** after the service, we will have a facilitator training session. The session will last a little over an hour and will provide you with all the resources you'll need to facilitate a service. We welcome everyone to join us for this training session.

Stephen Sottong

SAC seeks your input

The Social Action Committee seeks your suggestions for future SAC activities. At the last two services in January, we will circulate a synopsis of current activities and a request for your suggestions for the future. You may also send a letter to the SAC in care of the Fellowship with your suggestions prior to the end of January. At the beginning of February, members of the SAC will review the suggestions and categorize them so that on **February 19** members of the SAC will present the suggestions made by you and ideas for the implementation of your suggestions. After the service a ballot will be handed to those present so that those who choose to do so can rank order their preferences. These ballots will be tabulated and decisions about the activities for the rest of the year will be made using the advice from the congregation. Please start thinking about what you would like the SAC to do and write down your ideas so that you can be part of this important work.

Jack Munsee

Dance party

Religious Education would like to invite folks (families or individuals) who are interested in hosting an enjoyable night to let the RE committee know. We would like to continue Dance Party tradition but need another co-host. As of printing, Dance Party is canceled. If you would like to volunteer with an RE family to co-host, see Jillian. It takes some organizing and phone calls, but everyone pitches in to set up and clean up. Let's change this RE tradition into an all-congregation tradition. We need your support to make this happen.

Jillian Mooney

Bibles and the 2012-2013 pledge drive

Did you know that until recently HUUF did not have a single bible anywhere on the property? I'm kind of proud of that personally. Now we have eight bibles, which are being put to great use in fifth grade RE. What does that have to do with the pledge drive? Nothing, other than I wanted to get your attention. Yes, the pledge drive is coming up. The board has decided to act as a committee of the whole to move the pledge drive forward but we need your help. The board is committed to having at least one extra board meeting per month between now and the pledge drive (or longer) to help ensure we meet our goal to raise \$150,000 this coming year (which is \$30,000 more than last year) and to reach every member of the congregation. If you would like to share great camaraderie, have fun (I think) and help us achieve our goal to fully fund everything we want to do, please contact me (gregb@bbwassociates.com or 839-9017). We'll meet **January 5** at 5:30 p.m. at HUUF to work up our pledge drive tasks.

Greg Blomstrom, Vice President,
Board of Trustees

Deadline Friday, January 20

Please email articles to joythomas3828@gmail.com. Print and .pdf items are not accepted. If you need a copy of the newsletter guidelines, contact me.

Joy Thomas, editor

Ministerial Relations Committee formed

As we transition into our shared ministry with Dennis Reynolds, a Ministerial Relations Committee consisting of Kim Moor, Richard Kossow, Berti Welty and, of course, Dennis Reynolds, has been selected. We are available for comment and conversation concerning our shared ministry.

Berti Welty

SAC January brunch

The first 2012 SAC brunch will take place **January 15** following the service. It may take a few moments to set all the food out when service is over, so please enjoy visiting while we set up. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

This will be a mostly soup brunch. Wonderfully warm hearty soups will be served and will provide a welcome treat on a chilly winter day. And if it's not so chilly, living here on the balmy Humboldt coast, it will still be a nice meal to enjoy.

Proceeds this month will go to St. Vincent de Paul to aid in their rebuilding and all the other caring services they provide in the community.

Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children.

Eve Anderson

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



Putting UU values into practice with our Guest at Your Table

Now is the time to add up and bring in your Guest-at-Your-Table donations for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Your gift must be turned in by Sunday, **January 8**, 2012. Please make out a check in the amount of the contributions (rounded up, if possible) to "UUSC."

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

You may leave your donations in the basket in the foyer or give them directly to me or to a member of our Social Action Committee. Donations may also be mailed to: UUSC — Guest at Your Table, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808. Please put our congregation code (2111) on checks that are mailed directly to UUSC. Questions? Phone me at 599-6009.

Chip Sharpe

Lexicon,

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outstanding choir, or work as a Staff Member of HUUF. We all share in the ministry of HUUF.

Finally, as you look at the beautiful banner hanging in the front of our meeting room, you see "Transitions and Transformations in shared Ministry." What's that all about? We are in the changing (transition) stage, and transformations are happening all the time. You can't help but notice the warmth of the host families, as they share their stories; the excitement and glow that fills the fellowship from the minute you are greeted by a greeter and our Minister outside the front door, until you leave to go home. Change is happening, and with it come some adjustments for all of us. As we grow, we are bound to have more transitions and transformations. And aren't we the lucky ones!

Happy New Year one and all.

JoAnn Thomas, Co-President

Huumanism

Huumanists are raising membership rates to \$60 a year, \$110 for 2 years, in 2012. So for another week you can still join the group which is The Heart of Humanism in the UUA, for \$50 - less than 14¢ a day - or even less, \$90 for two years. We are not discounting memberships any longer, nor will we at G.A. So now is the time to join. Save as much as \$20 and get the next issue of the *Religious Humanism* journal, now in production. Just email your intent to Huumanists@yahoo.com; we will get back to you.

Calling all men

Eleven years ago, Tom Lewis, who was both a member of the Fellowship and of the Arcata Zen Group, began a weekly men's meditation program for inmates at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. The program continues to this day; but this may be changing, since several regulars have left the program over the last few months, leaving a dearth of facilitators.

Are there any men associated with the Fellowship who might be interested in checking out this very worthwhile program? Ideally, you would be asked to fill in one slot per month, 7-8 p.m., Thursday evenings. No particular knowledge of meditation is required, just the willingness to invite the inmates to sit quietly. You would be there more as a facilitator than as an instructor.

You can learn more about it from my article in the *North Coast Journal* (www.northcoastjournal.com/news/2010/07/22/room-without-view/). If you have any interest, please email me at barryevans9@yahoo.com.

In addition, if you are female and have an interest in the women's jail program (also Thursday evenings), write me and I'll put you in touch with the right people.

Barry Evans

Board update

At the December 13 Board meeting our main focus was planning our activity to start the New Year with passion and purpose. We discussed a Canvass Committee work plan drafted by Greg Blomstrom. The Board is committed to being very involved with the annual canvass this year and will provide multiple ways for members to relate to the canvass and consider their annual contribution to the Fellowship. The entire Board will meet on January 5 as the Canvass Committee to agree on final details to launch the annual pledge drive. Some of us will work on a fun fundraiser we are calling the Re-Fashion Show. This will be an event for all ages and open to the community. Plans are also underway for the Congregational meeting in March.

Overall it is a special time for the Board as we make our way in 'shared ministry' with Dennis. A Ministerial Relations Committee is in place for Dennis, with special thanks to Kim Moor, Berti Welty and Richard Kossow for providing this support. Shay, our office administrator, is helping Dennis settle in his office. Opportunities abound for welcoming Dennis into our community. The Board encourages all members to consider not only what a minister can contribute to the Fellowship but also how each of us can continue to participate in the autonomous culture which historically distinguishes this Fellowship.

*Wendy Rowan, Secretary,
Board of Trustees*



Religious Education



January 1: Happy New Year! Childcare will be available for all ages.

January 8

Preschool: Moon Celebration. How is it celebrated around the world, at the UU, in our community? We will read a moon story, sing and celebrate with a Moon dance and a party.

K-2nd: Our discussion will be about being honest and telling the truth. What is your experience with this?

3rd-4th: Huichol Indian Day. We will learn about the Huichol Indians of Mexico, their beliefs and ceremonies. We'll make yarn paintings using our own symbols of our own religious values. We'll celebrate by sharing our yarn paintings, making our own tortillas and hearing music. As UUs, we believe that people have always been looking for the great truths about life and death.

Intermediate: We will learn about and discuss Abraham and Noah. Who were these men in the Bible and what can we learn from their stories?

January 15: All Worship. We will gather all ages together explore the meaning of Spiritual Dance. We will explore how other cultures use dance as a form of religious practice. Come ready to dance too!

January 22

Preschool: We will learn about kindness. How do we show and practice kindness? What do we do when we have forgotten to be kind? We will read the story *My Hands Are Gentle* and make "gentle hands" for ourselves.

K-2nd: We will talk about the idea of respect and taking care of things. What does respect mean? How do we take care of our things and others?

3rd-4th: Chinese Dragon Celebration. We'll explore the Chinese view of the dragon and how it has changed over time. We'll compare this to the UU belief that our ideas of God may change as we grow. We'll make our own totem dragon and celebrate with our own dragon parade.

Intermediate: We will learn about Moses. The story of Moses is like an adventure story. Come find out more.

January 29: Social Action Sunday. Bring your extra travel soaps or some dollar store items to make care bags for the homeless.

Our holiday service was fun and entertaining, thanks to the many folks who made cookies, set up tables and cleaned up. A special thanks to those who rode herd on the cookie decorating table and the Lynn family for dropping off the cookies at the Eureka Rescue Mission. They were a welcome treat for those needing cheer.

Parents are encouraged to sign up to deliver food to the Arcata Night Shelter. We have made the main dish and you provide fruit or dessert and drop it off at the shelter in Arcata. It is a good opportunity for children to see our UU values in action. They can participate in picking fruit out, making a treat and dropping it off. See the sign-up in the foyer or email me for dates available. Religious Education has committed to the third Tuesday of every month until June.

Jillian Mooney





Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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

Year of the window

This year my UU-inspired belief in preserving the environment led me to become involved in the “Year of the Window.” The nonprofit Eureka Heritage Society is presenting this educational campaign to spread the idea that maintaining original windows in buildings 60 years and older is the best environmental and financial choice.

We’ve backed this statement up with a plethora of facts provided at the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s website: www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization/windows/

Old windows are blamed for energy loss, and homeowners often replace them with modern counterparts like vinyl windows. They often do this because window companies claim their products and services are “green.” However, National Trust data contends that the environmental impacts of window replacement must take into account the embodied energy of the new and existing windows, the environmental impacts of manufacturing new products, and the expected lifecycle of the product.

Embodied energy includes the energy required to extract the raw materials, transport them, make them into a new product, ship the product, and install it. Existing historic windows already have all of this energy embodied. Tearing them out for replacement units not only wastes embodied energy, it requires additional energy to remove and dispose of them.

There are many ways to revitalize old windows, including maintenance and repair as well as the installation of storm windows. Once done, they rival their modern counterparts. And because they are made of enduring old-growth wood, they will likely last another 100 years. Modern replacements don’t come close.

In 2011, the Heritage Society honored local window craftsmen as well as homeowners who had the insight to restore their windows. We presented public forums on the subject and promoted these ideas in news articles and radio ads, urging all to examine the National Trust’s website – and always ending with this logo: It’s worth looking into.

Kathy Dillon