

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



February 2010

What we can do for Haiti

Most of us were shaken by our local earthquake. A few things were broken; some had no electricity for a few hours. Some had stories to tell of our north coast adventure. Families in Haiti also had an earthquake, but with much more devastating results.

Religious Education will focus this month's Social Action Sunday, **February 28**, on helping families in Haiti. We will mix up cookie dough to sell to HUUF members to raise money. We hope members will buy this freezable dough that you can pull out for a quick treat or for unexpected entertaining. We also need adults to help us mix and package it. Please stop by our table in the foyer.

I encourage families to talk about how they and their child can help in one small way as well. If there is enough family support, we will have older children and youth volunteer a chore or task for members to buy to raise further funds. This can be walking a dog, raking leaves, stacking wood, making a treat or meal to deliver, watering plants for vacation, whatever you might feel comfortable helping your family and child donate.

This will be for members of our Fellowship family only. You can also do this in your own neighborhood or even within your own family.

In 1994, when my daughter was 10, the Northridge earthquake happened where my sister and her family lived. The previous month we had had an earthquake up here. We talked about the differences and how we were at first worried and then relieved that our relatives were safe. When she asked how she could help others, we made a plan. She contracted with me for additional chores (not the ones that she did for her allowance). We sent the money that she earned to the Red Cross. It was worth every penny for the lesson in empathy, putting our beliefs into action, for learning to live our religious convictions in small but meaningful ways.

Families with children are busy and often overworked; but when you take the opportunity and time to put words into action, it pays off in the kind of adults you have at the end. I saw the best bumper sticker the other day. Instead of, "My child made honor roll," it said, "My children are two decent human beings" Isn't that what we want? We will have donated chores up on a poster in the foyer. We ask members to bid on these and families and children to post. Please think how each of us can make a difference for those in Haiti and at the same time help our UU children practice being decent human beings.

Jillian Mooney

What's inside

Page 2: People

Guest at Your Table report
Coffee and more
Caring Circle

Page 3: Dream workshop

Golden Sunday
Make a joyful noise
UU-UNO

Page 4: Religious education

Member photos
Classified ad
Deadline info

Caring reminder

The Caring Circle wants to remind HUUF members that we have medical equipment to loan for the use of our friends and families. If you are in need of borrowing a walker, shower seat or other items, please contact Jan Roberts. You can also contact her if you have medical equipment that you no longer need and would like to add to our collection of equipment for loan.

Karen Knapp

People

Bertha Hansen has moved to the Bay Area to live with her children.

Nova and Lucera Love are counting the days until the birth of their first child.

Virginia Snodgrass' father had a successful triple by-pass surgery and she celebrates that he is recovering well.

Suzanne Moore, while recuperating from leg surgery at St. Joseph Hospital and under the influence of 5 grams of morphine, beat Joy Thomas in a Scrabble game.

Howard Stauffer is back from his adventures in Cameroon. He went there to develop a monitoring system for the rain forests.

June and David Davis are having a good time and enjoying the food in Hanoi.

Jamila Tharp and Michelle Hasting had a child-free honeymoon holiday in Hawaii.

Bonnie MacGregor is retiring.

Jillian Mooney broke her toe.

Jan Rowen is on her way to Mexico for knee surgery.

Ginger Gardner is glad that she can drive again.

Karen Knapp

Coffee and more

The Social Action Committee's sale of coffee, cocoa and chocolate, benefiting the education of a Nicaraguan girl and other causes, will take place between and after services on the second and fourth Sundays of February in the foyer. This is a good opportunity to stock up for Valentine's Day gifts and your own routine needs.

Marianne Pennekamp
SAC Coffee Sales Coordinator

Guest at Your Table report

Thirty-one Guest-at-Your-Table donations from our Fellowship this past holiday season (ranging from \$2 to \$1000) totaled \$2835.64 (including three gifts mailed directly to UUSC). Heartfelt thanks for your generosity to Scott and Susan Allen; Celestine Armenta; Elva Banducci; Barbara Barratt; Anna Mae Botley; Jan and Lisa Roberts; June and Dave Davis; Mary Freedlund; Ginger Gardner; Thea Gast; Pam and Greg Goldsmith; Debbie Harrison and Greg Blomstrom; Mary Lou Jensen; Awanna Kalal; Karen and Jeff Knapp; Kathy Layton; Micki Lewis; John and Darsty McAlinn; Sue and Archie Mossman; Ursula Osborne; Marianne Pennekamp; Jan Rowen; Betty Segal; Chip Sharpe; JoAnn and Carl Thomas; Bill and June Thompson; Aiko and Ed Uyeki; Berty Welty and Jo Weisgerber; some single dollar bills; and an anonymous box of coins.

If you prefer to send your contribution directly to UUSC, the address is: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, P.O. Box 845259, Boston MA 02284-5259

If you do mail it to UUSC, please mention that you are with Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Our congregational code is 2111. Contributions of \$100 or more are matched; contributions of \$40 or more qualify for UUSC membership (\$75 for dual memberships, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth).

Chip Sharpe

Editor's note: I owe Chip an apology. In October, he sent Guest at Your Table articles for the next three months. I overlooked the reminder that should have been printed last month, for which I am sorry.

Caring Circle

HUUF Covenant includes the value that we "nurture a sense of family," agree to "enhance the quality of life for ourselves..." and "commit to be present for support and assistance to one another in generosity of spirit, sharing both our needs and our strengths."

This includes helping members who need support, advice or referrals for illness, births, grieving and other challenging times. We've formalized this help in our Caring Circle, which arranges for members to visit ill members at home or in the hospital, helps with medical and other urgent transportation, provides temporary meals or childcare, helps process difficult decisions not requiring professional help or just listen.

However, individual members and our Caring Circle are urged not to provide direct financial assistance, housing, employment or similar basic needs to other members. When such needs arise, the Caring Circle refers members to public and private social service resources whose professional staff are trained to identify the sources of problems and offer constructive support and lasting solutions.

If a member or visitor asks you for money, housing, employment or similar needs, please refer him or her to our Caring Circle whose members are experienced in evaluating the need and determining whether they can help, or whether they should refer the person to social services better able to help.

If you'd like to learn more about the Caring Circle or to help with its work, contact me or Jan Roberts.

Karen Knapp

Dream workshop scheduled

This is a heads-up to put **April 9 and 10** on your calendars for Jeremy Taylor's 16th dream workshop at HUUF.

He'll do the usual: Instruction on Friday night, so if you've done that you can skip it — except that his tangents are always so interesting. Saturday we'll do dream work all day. Sunday he'll speak at both 9 and 11 a.m. services.

It's hard to imagine more than ten years and 15 previous dream workshops, starting in September, 1998. Many in this community enjoy delving into their psyches, and a number of dream groups meet. This is always a good time to gather energy to form new groups and get started with group dreamwork. To find out more right now, go to www.jeremytaylor.com.

Barbara Clark

Make a joyful noise

The choir rehearses weekly from 7:00-8:30 pm on Wednesday nights at the Fellowship and performs at two services a month. In February, we will sing on the 7th and the 14th. New singers are always welcome and do not need prior music training.

Preparations are underway for the second annual Music Sunday on **March 7**, when we will celebrate the joy of making music together during the service. In addition to our choir, there will be musical guests from the area and many opportunities for the entire congregation to participate.

If you are interested in joining the choir, or have a selection you would like to offer for Music Sunday, please contact me.

Coming later in the spring — community music classes for fun, fellowship and creativity. Watch for details in the March Newsletter.

Elisabeth Harrington
Choir Director

Golden Sunday

How can we do a better job of hospitality? How can we make visitors feel that we are glad they came? These questions were asked January 17 at our Golden Sunday service. Using parts of the DVD *Ideas for Growth* from the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO, members explored how we as a congregation can do an excellent job welcoming visitors, encouraging them to become active, involved members and sustaining our current healthy, active membership. One of the big questions we asked ourselves (and must continue asking) was how can we build relationships between each other so that we all feel connected?

Anyone who has not seen *Ideas for Growth* may order a copy through any of the Board of Trustees. Be enlightened and entertained by this well-done program that outlines the three-step process the Jefferson congregation created to grow their congregation.

Our time, treasures and talents are what we have to offer to each other — how do we share what we have and grow together?

Maureen Lawlor

Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Organization

We look with horror and dismay at the tragedy that has gripped Haiti since the earthquake January 12. Here at the United Nations, workers are struggling to respond even as they suffered the worst human loss in UN history. At this writing, uncounted members of the UN Mission and several UN agencies stationed in Port-au-Prince are among the dead and missing. Meanwhile, the UN is galvanized into action to coordinate the global response to aid the victims of this terrible humanitarian crisis. This is when the UN shines. When war strikes, the earth shakes, the seas rise up to destroy communities, the UN moves into high gear. Emergency response teams are quickly mobilized. It is the UN that often pulls all the efforts into a coherent campaign to save lives and rebuild broken communities.

The UU-UNO is your link to the UN. While we do not have an emergency response team to support relief efforts in Haiti, we urge you to donate through the following agencies:

- * Joint effort by the UUA and the UUSC: www.uusc.org
- * UNICEF: www.unicef.org
- * UN Foundation: www.unfoundation.org

We will monitor events at the UN and work to strengthen our international community, which remains the world's best hope in a crisis like this.

Bruce Knotts, Executive Director

Religious Education



Many thanks to the volunteers who made our January Dance Party a success. Our hosts with the most, the Apelmans and Almy families; our lasagna ladies, Susie Smelser and Kim Moor; our dance demonstrators, Lili Carr and friends; and of course all the chair and table haulers, dishwashers, cleaners — thanks for all the great teamwork.

February 7: Curriculum Sunday

Preschool: Our 7th UU Principle - We Care for Earth's Lifeboat. The earth is coming back to life. We will celebrate Brigit the Celtic Goddess with crafts and fun.

K - 2nd : Our 3rd UU Principle – Free to Grow and Learn – What have you learned to share? Where did this principle come from? We will look at its roots in other religions.

3rd – 5th : Stone Soup Sunday - We will listen to Stone Soup story, look at rock display, and work as a team to cook soup and bake rolls.

Intermediate: We will continue our discussions of Social Activists in our community and around the world.

February 14: Friendship Sunday

All ages will meet together with childcare providers to play games with friends, make valentines and read in the CARE building.

February 21: Curriculum Sunday

Preschool: Caring for our Air and Oceans – We will have a full moon celebration and look at our UU Principle – Build a Fair and Peaceful World

K – 2nd: We will explore our 4th UU Principle – We Search for What is True with activities and discussion.

3rd – 5th : Mardi Gras/Lent - Learn about two Catholic holidays, make masks and eat special pretzels.

Intermediate: We will stay in the service to enjoy the Gospel Choir together.

February 28: Social Action Sunday

We will make cookie dough to sell to raise funds for families in Haiti. Older children and families might like to talk about a chore or task you and your child can donate for a Fellowship member to buy to bring in money for our Haiti fund.

Jillian Mooney

Deadline Saturday, February 20

E-mail articles to Joy Thomas at jthomas3@csulb.edu.

Member photos

Have you looked at the new-member photos displayed Sunday mornings on the long table in the foyer? Have you learned their names? Our newest members will wear green nametags to make it easier for you to identify them. Take some time during coffee break to get acquainted.

Aiko Uyeki

CLASSIFIED ADS

Responsible grandmother is seeking guest house for six weeks, 2/16 -3/31, for extended family visit. Can pay modest rent or exchange grantwriting services or other work. Family is in McKinleyville. Please call Candra Day 307-413-5847.

Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Please e-mail your ad to Joy Thomas and send your check, made out to HUUF, to the Fellowship.