

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



March 2012

## March musings on lambs, blossoms and celebration

It has always struck me as a bit odd that we celebrate the beginning on New Year in January, smack dab in the middle of winter. I think spring is a more appropriate time to celebrate new beginnings and renewal.

Even as child, it seemed to me that New Years should be in the spring. In the years we lived in a rental house surrounded by sheep pastures, spring was lambing season. Later when my kids were small, we used to visit the lambing barns at Oregon State University to witness the birth of new life taking place. Even if we were not able to witness a birth actually happening, we could always count on getting to see some very, very cute very young lambs.

In the natural world free of breeder's interventions, March is lambing time. Many other mammals seem to be on a similar cycle. More flowers start blooming in March; and if the ground is dry enough, it has long been for me the beginning of the gardening season.

I have noticed things seem to begin to sprout and blossom a little earlier here in Humboldt than in my more northerly home. The skunk cabbages in the creek along my regular running route are unfolding and buds are swelling on many deciduous trees, camellias and the early raspberry-hued rhododendrons.

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## Wondering

Our Canvass this year has the theme of "Wonder," the wonder with which we view the changes at HUUF, as well as wondering about what we want to do next. We will begin our Canvass with a large "Wonder Board," where everyone will have the opportunity to share thoughts about what they like most about HUUF, what they would like to see in the future, and what they are willing to do to make it happen. After all, the key to our "Wonderland" is what each and every one of us contributes to the success of our community.

Throughout the month preceding the start of our Canvass on **March 31**, various, charts, graphs and information will be posted and sent to members to let them know facts and figures that are important as they begin to wonder about the parts they can play in our future.

On Saturday, March 31 at 6 p.m., we will all be invited to join in a "Trip to Wonderland."

Also known as a Canvass dinner, this year's event will include individual hosts and hostesses for each table, who will send you an invitation to the dinner, including food options that you might bring for your table's potluck. There will be special decor, activities, and entertainment. Towards the end of the evening there will be an opportunity to complete your pledge statement and turn it in. A special children's dinner and ac-

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## People

**Maureen Lawlor and Debbie Coggins** have returned from their trip to Hawaii. Aloha.

**Kinara** is delighted at the good report from her doctor. She is eager to go on walks with others if anyone is interested in picking her up for a walk at the Marsh or Hammond Trail or other. She received a knitting book as a gift and would like to know from whom it came in order to thank them.

**Ginger Gardner** has returned to the Fellowship. Her health has improved. Welcome back.

**Mayer Segal** was pleasantly surprised by a HUUF presenter's visit. He seems to welcome visitors. Please call first.

**Scott Allen** is going to undergo another ablation procedure on February 27. We send good thoughts.

**Elva Banducci** will soon return home from Eureka Wellness and Rehab. Please call before visiting her.

Welcome to our newest members, **Joshua and Jovanah Hoboo**.

**June and Dave Davis** had such a wonderful time in Honolulu that they bought a condo and plan to spend more time there.

**Mary Freedlund** is unable to come to HUUF but would love to have visits from friends. Call to make a date.

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

*Karen Knapp*



## Re-Fashion show fundraiser

Our first-ever ReFashion Show Fundraiser begins at 7 p.m. on **March 10**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The show features clothing and accessories created from recycled, re-designed, refurbished, repurposed and/or reworked materials. In other words, we're trying to encourage creative, inventive and environmentally-friendly fashion, raise some money and have some fun. We expect to have models of all ages parade down a small runway, while members of the audience cheer them on to the beat of specially selected music. There will be beverages for sale, free peanuts and such, and a wearable art raffle. Admission is \$4.00 per person. Plan to join us for lights, cameras, glamour and lots of smiling faces.

*Dave Harris*

## Deadline Tuesday, March 20

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

*Joy Thomas, editor*

## Candidate statements

The following members have graciously agreed to run for offices on the board: Secretary, Wendy Rowan; Co-president, Kim Moor; Trustee, Anna Mae Botley. The election will be held at our next congregational meeting in March. Here are short profiles of these members.

**Wendy Rowan** became a member of the Fellowship in 1980 and was active for many years, serving in the Religious Education Program and on the Program & Worship Committee. From 2001 until 2010 she focused energy on her work as Executive Director of First 5 Humboldt. That work was very much informed by her UU values. In 2010 she became secretary of the HUUF Board, allowing her a thoughtful transition back into the active life of the Fellowship. Pleased with the current effort within the congregation to engage more deeply in community and explore ways to share ministry with our new consulting minister, she appreciates the contributions that she has witnessed from fellow Board members, and looks forward to continued collective and dynamic work together.

**Kim Moor** currently serves as a trustee of the HUUF Board and as a member of the Ministerial Relations Committee. Recently, she was the speaker at the Sunday Service, "With a Little Help from My Friends." She worked two years as the Childcare Coordinator and was the craft coordinator for the last Halloween Festival. Kim is in private practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Eureka. Her children Zoe, 10, and Theo, 6, attend RE classes and her husband, John, sings

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Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Send text of your ad to [joythomas3828@gmail.com](mailto:joythomas3828@gmail.com) and your check to the HUUF office.

## Candidate statements, cont.

in the choir.

She is a quilter, scrapbooker, and reads a couple of books a week. She especially likes mysteries with modern female heroines like Stephanie Plum and Kinsey Milhone.

**Anna Mae Botley** has been involved in church life most of her adult years, especially since 1948 when she married Bob. She has been a Unitarian for many years also - formally since 1960. In 1980, the Botleys moved to Humboldt County, joining HUUF in 1992. Anna Mae has served on several committees and was Board Secretary 2000-2002. She has this Fellowship very much at heart.

She worked for 30 years in multi-racial, multi-ethnic dental offices in San Mateo and Eureka. In her spare time she likes to sew, knit, cook or curl up with a good book with a purring Charlie-cat beside her. She says "When the present Nominating Committee asked me if I would serve on the Board again as a Trustee acting as the liaison for elders in our HUUF Community, I accepted the nomination. I will seek the input and wisdom of those dear friends and peers to share with the Board."

*Ann King*, for the Nominating Committee



## What's it cost?

What does it cost to keep our Fellowship open, active and engaged? The adopted 2011-12 budget itemizes our expenses at \$171,162. By comparison, in 2004-05, we spent \$126,829. In 1999-2000 we spent \$100,020. In 12 years our budget has increased by over 70%. Close inspection shows changes in the composition and distribution of our spending. While we substantially reduced costs of debt service, newsletter production and PG&E (due to installation of PV panels), other utilities have increased by an average of 238%; and we are investing far more in RE and music, and are now paying not only an administrator with greatly increased duties but also a half-time consulting minister. Also noteworthy is the 39% increase in denominational dues - we now send UUA/PCD a "fair share" of \$82 for each member.

To support hiring a part-time minister and continuing all of our programs, the Finance Committee and Board fashioned a 2011-12 budget that relies on close to \$30,000 in reserve funds (17% of the total). To sustain this initiative and move toward our goal of calling a minister in the near future, we need to increase our pledge dollars. We have mountains of data that tell the story of our financial history. The cost-comparison table below shows some of our history.

Over the years, each generation of members has challenged themselves to set high standards for the now and the future. We are no different. Because member pledges fund a large percentage of our operating budget (67% this year), a successful canvass and pledge drive is essential to our Fellowship.

*Dave Harris*, Board Co-President

### Comparative Cost Data for Selected Categories

| Category      | FY 1999-2000 | FY 2011-2012 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| PCD Dues      | \$17/member  | \$24/member  |
| UUA Dues      | \$42/member  | \$58/member  |
| Newsletter    | \$4,200      | \$2,200      |
| Water/Garbage | \$480        | \$1,200      |
| PG&E          | \$1,680      | \$950        |
| Phone/IT      | \$720        | \$2,850      |
| Bldg & Grnds  | \$12,500     | \$14,400     |
| Debt Service  | \$39,816     | \$11,600     |
| P & W         | \$5,211      | \$6,650      |
| Children's RE | \$1,198      | \$3,000      |
| Bldg Stewards | \$0          | \$3,000      |
| Music         | \$0          | \$9,500      |
| Administrator | \$11,197     | \$18,700     |
| RE Director   | \$6,479      | \$19,000     |
| Minister      | \$0          | \$42,000     |
| Budget        | \$100,020    | \$171,162    |
| Membership    | 166          | 145          |
| Pledge Units  | 143          | 104          |

## Musings,

continued from first page

New growth and new beginnings seem to be happening all around.

This time of year is celebrated as New Years in non-western traditions.

Nowruz, Persian for “New Light” or “New Day,” coincides with the spring equinox. Nowruz is an important holy day in the Zoroastrian tradition, for people in the Baha’i Faith and is widely observed by Shiite Muslims.

For Hindus the new year begins with the equinox; and Buddhists celebrate Magha Puja Day, otherwise known as Sangha day around this time.

Spring is indeed a good time to consider renewal and new beginnings, particularly the connection each of us have to the Fellowship, the closest thing most of us have to a Sangha. Soon it will time for the annual canvas here at Humboldt UU Fellowship. It seems an apt time to renew and perhaps grow the time and resources one is willing to commits to the fellowship.

Renewed commitments will nurture the growth we are able to initiate and sustain, in our programs, in our outreach to the community, in the individual growth that each of seeks, and perhaps most significantly in the growing intertwining connections we make with all in this community of seekers.

*Dennis Reynolds*



## Make a joyful noise! News from the HUUF choir

The Fourth Annual Music Day at HUUF is rapidly approaching on Sunday, **March 25**. We are still looking for additional singers to join the Choir as well as instrumental musicians who might be interested in presenting a piece during the service or playing along with the choir. As always, there will be many opportunities within the service for everyone present to participate. Please contact me if you would like more information about Music Day.

In the meantime, we look forward to sharing music with you at the service on **March 4**. As always, new choir members are welcome at any time. We are especially in need of tenors, but all voice types are welcome. You do not need to have prior music reading experience to join. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at HUUF, every week except March 14, HSU spring break.

Watch for “Drop-in choir Day” in April, when all interested singers are invited to attend a rehearsal that Sunday morning from 9:00-10:15 and perform the same day. More details will follow in the April newsletter.

*Elisabeth Harrington*  
Choir Director

## Board update

Highlights from the February HUUF Board of Trustees meeting:

◆ The Board agreed on an evaluation process for the new consulting minister with the goal of completing the evaluation prior to the April Board meeting.

◆ Shay informed the Board

that rentals are picking up for spring; unfortunately the Alder Grove Kindergarten will not will not come to fruition.

◆ Jillian reported on plans for the teens to attend a teen conference at the end of the month. Efforts are underway to ensure their trip is appropriately supervised.

◆ Dave described the Social Action Committee’s plans for a skit on February 19 to garner more input from the congregation as a whole.

◆ Wendy shared the outcomes of a joint meeting of the Program & Worship, Religious Education and Membership Committees. Good ideas were generated to better integrate the work of these three committees, and Bonnie MacGregor offered to co-chair the Program & Worship Committee next year.

◆ The Board is very engaged in preparing for the annual canvas. Informative material is being prepared for members, a dinner is planned and there will be opportunities for personal contact.

◆ The Board approved Dave’s proposal to join Access Humboldt as a way of informing the community about the Fellowship.

◆ Details associated with the potential expansion of the Foyer were discussed. A big thanks to Scott Allen for working on the plans.

◆ The Re-Fashion Show Fundraiser was discussed. The event is being planned with a spirit of fun. There will be opportunities for all generations within the Fellowship to participate.

◆ At the next Board meeting work will begin on the budget for the next fiscal year.

*Wendy Rowan*, Secretary,  
Board of Trustees

## Zen author and teacher at HUUF

Alan Senauke is a Zen priest at the forefront of socially engaged Buddhism. A deeply inspiring speaker, he will visit HUUF on **March 17** at 7 p.m. to share his vivid experiences of social change in Asia — encouraging signs, persistent problems and the amazing resilience of the human spirit.

Alan is past Executive Director and current senior advisor to the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. He has recently returned from teaching and learning with ex-untouchable Buddhists in India and with former political prisoners in Burma. He resides in Berkeley.

Don't miss a great opportunity to deepen your engagement with humanity.

*Barbara Madaras*

## Wondering, continued from first page

tivities will also be included, so that everyone can join in this fun-filled event.

If you prefer, someone can make a personal visit to answer your questions and help complete your form. You may indicate this preference at the dinner, or by contacting a member of the Board. So look for the Wonder Board and add your thoughts, and also make plans to attend the Trip to Wonderland, which promises a lot of surprises, great food and fellowship.

*JoAnn Thomas*

## Religious Education



### March 4

Preschool: What is our Fellowship? Who belongs to it? We will draw our Fellowship.

K-2<sup>nd</sup>: We will explore the concept of “we can share and take turns.” What does this mean to you? How can we work things out together?

3-4<sup>th</sup>: We will learn about the Hopi story of Creation. We will make Kachina dolls, plant symbolic seeds and continue our work on our Chinese dragon if we have enough time.

5<sup>th</sup>: We will learn about women in the bible. Who were they? What did they do?

### March 11

All Worship: We will gather all ages together with guest artist Cheryl Rau to explore our spirituality through art. Don't forget the time change. Set your clock an hour ahead.

### March 18

Preschool: What about God? We will explore what we think with art and music.

K-2<sup>nd</sup>: How can we join in and play? We will have a guest teacher to help us explore ways we can join others to play.

3-4<sup>th</sup>: We will learn about and celebrate Buddha's with a different kind of tea ceremony. Come find out.

5<sup>th</sup>: We will talk about Jesus, his life as teacher and leader.

### March 25

Social Action Sunday. Please bring old blankets or towels for the Humane Society as well as cat and dog food. We will make animal treats together.

*Jillian Mooney*



*Richard and Ginger Kossow, JoAnn and Carl Thomas relax at the February 60s dance party.*

## Shared read

Plan to join us in March and April for a four-week exploration and discussion of the book *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands* by Margaret Regan (Beacon Press, 2010).

This book presents intimate stories from immigrants, activists, human rights workers and border patrol people. Through their stories, the book explores the ethical, moral and spiritual challenges presented by the complex immigration issues on the border, evoking our human response, rather than a political or policy debate. Regan calls us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair along with extraordinary courage and commitment.

Our discussion of this book and this vital topic will be part of a nationwide shared read program sponsored by the UUA. Sessions are planned for:

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.  
on March 5 and 12, April 2 and 9

Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.  
on March 6 and 13, April 3 and 10

Sign up in the lobby or contact the office before **February 24**, so books can be ordered.

*Dennis Reynolds*

## Dream workshop April 20

Rev. Jeremy Taylor has called our dreaming community one of the deepest and most generous of communities that he has worked with in his dream-work travels. Jeremy will return **April 20 and 21** for an advanced workshop, his 17<sup>th</sup> dream workshop at HUUF.

The theme of the weekend will be “Leading Edges of Dream Work Theory and Practice: Jungians, Post Jungians and Wild Card Artists.” Not only does everybody live out an unconscious myth, but the planet as a whole lives out its own myth in which humans play a crucial part.

It’s time now to register for the workshop by emailing me at [barbclark63@gmail.com](mailto:barbclark63@gmail.com) or phoning 476-9261 with your email and phone number. We need to have an indication by March 15 of how many people will be able to come. The price will be set at \$70 or \$75, depending on the number of people, and payment isn’t due until April 15.

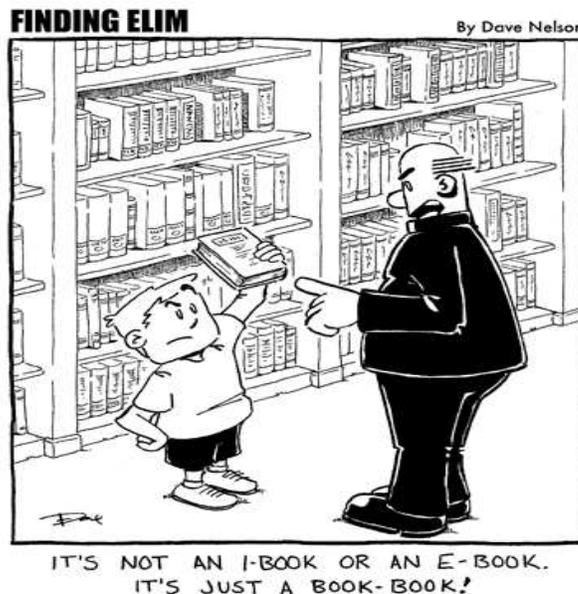
This will be an advanced workshop. Anyone who has taken his basic dream workshop or who has taken one of the many OLLI dream workshops may attend.

Friday night we’ll hear from Jeremy about the latest in dream work around the globe. Then Saturday, we’ll dip in to dream work as a group.

A teacher in group projective dream work for 40 years, Jeremy helps us learn how to access the symbolic wisdom in the nightly visits from our psyches. He has written three books on the topic, and his popular *Where People Fly and Water Runs Uphill* has been republished as *The Wisdom of Your Dreams* with a new chapter about becoming more lucid in our dreams and how our personal dreams are part of the evolution of human consciousness. He is also a Unitarian Universalist minister, and his web site at [www.jeremytaylor.com](http://www.jeremytaylor.com) offers many of his writings on dreams and UU traditions.

Jeremy will also speak at the Sunday service April 22. Please call me if you have any questions.

*Barbara Clark*



## Real dollars

Warning, the following article contains real dollar amounts of pledges.

Ever wonder whether the pledging at HUUF is similar to other UU congregations? Last year, Debby and I upped our pledge from \$1,500 to \$2,000 because Berti got up and urged us all to follow through with our pledge increases when Dennis came on as our minister. Our pledge is about 2% of our combined DINK (dual income, no kids) income. That pales compared to the amount Christians pledge, which is in the range of 8-10% of their incomes. On the other hand, I suspect that evangelicals, and other Christians probably don't give money to a lot of other causes. I checked our tax return for last year, and while we donated \$2,000 to HUUF, our total donations last year were around \$8,000, putting us in league with evangelicals – who'd have thought?

UUA does not publish the amount pledged per congregation, instead, it publishes information about the number of members and the expenditures that each congregation makes. Last year, HUUF expended about \$1,000/member (\$132,000 in expenses with 127 members). California had 71 UU congregations in 2010 with 12,400 members who expended about \$1,750/member. That includes Sunnyvale, which expended \$2,600 per member and San Rafael, which expended \$1,822 per person. But when you look at various congregations throughout the state, along the west coast and world wide (see chart below), HUUF expenditures are on the low side per member.

Debby and I hope that we as a congregation increase our pledging because we want to see the good that comes from having enough income to do all of the things that we all jointly want to see happen with our congregation. Debby and I are going to increase our pledge again this year because we want to continue having a minister and to do more in these economic, socially and morally challenging times.

*Greg Blomstrom*

| Members | Expenditure/<br>Member | Location of Congregation |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 114     | \$ 2,588               | Sunnyvale                |
| 170     | \$ 2,000               | Santa Rosa               |
| 284     | \$ 1,901               | Nevada                   |
| 304     | \$ 1,822               | San Rafael               |
| 12,400  | \$ 1,726               | California state average |
| 57      | \$ 1,561               | Chico                    |
| 75      | \$ 1,520               | Bakersfield              |
| 3,212   | \$ 1,350               | Oregon state average     |
| 106     | \$ 1,283               | Grass Valley             |
| 75      | \$ 1,227               | Napa                     |
| 5,376   | \$ 1,220               | Washington state average |
| 120     | \$ 1,217               | Hayward                  |
| 96      | \$ 1,135               | Auburn                   |
| 221,000 | \$ 1,081               | Worldwide                |
| 127     | \$ 1,039               | HUUF                     |
| 71      | \$ 831                 | Petaluma                 |
| 46      | \$ 478                 | Kelseyville              |

## Crafty people wanted...

to attend the monthly HUUF crafts studio. No charge, no advance reservations required. Bring your project and work in a congenial atmosphere with other HUUF members. Get help if you need it. Show off your progress (or bemoan the lack thereof).

We meet at Beverly Allen's home in McKinleyville on the first Wednesday of each month, from 1:30 until 4:00 p.m. You don't even need to show up on time. Cookies and tea are sometimes served. What a deal! Come, or you might be the topic of conversation.

For directions, call Beverly at 839-1954. If you want to receive a monthly email reminding you of this gathering, send a message to me at joythomas3828@gmail.com.

*Joy Thomas*

## Program & Worship update

P&W trained new facilitators after the February 12 service. Expect to see several new faces, including one of our teens. These members will participate in making our key worship activity happen. We will have another training session in the near future and you are invited to attend.

Bonnie MacGregor has volunteered to be one of the new co-chairs of P&W. (Thank you, Bonnie! We still need another person to work with Bonnie. Please contact Bonnie, Steve Sottong or Katherine Almy if you are interested. There is still plenty of time for training and transition before you would take on the full responsibilities as co-chair.

*Steve Sottong, Program & Worship*



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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

Where are we going?  
How do we get there?  
Join us on a "Trip To Wonder-  
land."  
Saturday, **March 31**, 6 p.m.  
Fun for everyone!



*Katherine Almy and Richard Taylor at the 60s dance party in February*