

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



April 2012

Wise like geese

In the midst of a very migratory time in my life, this trip to Humboldt has been a time of feeling at home. I feel like I have landed. My wondering about where I might live, where to buy groceries and get my hair cut, *et al*, have been answered.

It feels good to be other than a tourist, to become increasingly familiar with the places and faces and the rhythms of this community. This place, this Fellowship has a unique character; and I am growing fond of the locale and of those who make up the Fellowship. I still have questions about how best to work with you. I have already and will likely, on occasion, again ruffle a few feathers. Yet I am learning what it truly means to be part of this community.

I had the opportunity, last week, to experience the other kind of wonder, not the questioning kind, but the awe inspiring kind. I went to view the “fly out” at Hookton Slough. Seeing the tens of thousands of birds and familiar faces from the Fellowship were both wonderful.

Two days later I accepted an invitation to go see the birds take flight again, but this time from the water in a borrowed kayak. It was just me, my guide Jo, the local resident water fowl, those thousand of seasonal Aleutian Geese, open water and a wide gray early morning sky. It was a breathtakingly wonderful experience and well worth the

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Pledge challenge

We were startled to hear Jo Weisgerber and Berti Welty challenge the congregation to increase their pledges at the March 4 service. It was moving to hear them talk about their already-generous pledge made from a fixed retirement income; but then they spoke of their intent to tithe on an anticipated inheritance of \$200,000 to some worthy group. HUUF can be that worthy group! All we have to do to claim the entire amount is to increase pledging by \$40,000. Berty and Jo will match 50% of each *increased* pledge.

Driving home from fellowship that day, we quickly decided that we wanted to help meet the challenge and that we could double our pledge. This amounts to a bit more than 5% of our after-tax income. Like Berti and Jo, we want a minister enough to put our money where our mouths are.

I hope that your family, too, will be able to help HUUF get its hands on Jo and Berti’s money.

Joy Thomas & Steve Sottong



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People

Trevor Lynn was elected to the PCD Young Religious UUs council as Co-treasurer. Congratulations!

Casey Lynn attended a spirituality development training. You go, girl!

Sandy, Trevor and Casey Lynn attended the Reason Rally in Washington, DC.

Joy Thomas attended a bee-keeping symposium in Sebastopol. Of course she did.

Our newest member is **Peggy Stockbridge**. Welcome!

Cathy Enis will have her right knee replaced on March 27 at Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna. We send her many healing thoughts.

Suzanne Reynolds' sister had brain surgery and will begin chemotherapy and radiation treatments soon. Any and all good wishes and prayers are appreciated.

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

Karen Knapp

SAC spring brunch

Social Action Committee brunches are moving from the third Sunday of each month to the second Sunday. The next one will be on **April 8**, Easter Sunday. The theme will be seasonal, welcoming the awakening and return of spring.

Brunch begins about 15 minutes after service concludes, time for dishes to be brought from the kitchen and arranged on the table.

Suggested contribution for lunch is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child.

Proceeds from the April brunch will go to PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

Eve Anderson

Women's retreat

Wildflower walks, early morning yoga, meditation, singing, doing nothing, collage and poetry workshops, dancing around a Maypole, creating prayer flags, sharing delicious meals and partying on Saturday night with plenty of chocolate: These are among the activities planned for the 2012 Women's Retreat to be held **May 4, 5, and 6** at beautiful Escot Farm on the southeast fork of the Trinity River. The theme for the retreat is "Where Are You on Your Journey as a Woman?" and we will explore the many layers of a woman's life throughout the weekend.

There has not been a Women's Retreat for several years; it has been sorely missed and fondly remembered by many. A committee of Fellowship women is making plans to create a time of escape and reflection this spring, and you are enthusiastically invited to join us for conversation and connection, for retreat and relaxation.

We will sleep in the dorm at the lodge on this scenic property and cook our meals together. Friday night will feature a potluck and mixer. The weekend will include plenty of optional workshops and events, and five other meals. If you have a favorite activity you'd like to have included or would like to help with planning, contact me at 826-7107. The cost for the weekend, including lodging, meals and all materials, is \$115.00. You can download your registration form from the HUUF website at www.huuf.org.

See a photo of the 2005 Women's Retreat on page six.

Pat McCutcheon



Arcata Night Shelter

For almost ten years, we at HUUF have provided an evening meal to residents of the Arcata Night Shelter on Tuesday evenings. The shelter was recently remodeled and expanded and now includes a commercial kitchen, so resident hosts are able and willing to cook some of the meals. This opens up new possibilities for us, as some who were not able to cook and deliver a meal will now be able to simply provide the food for a meal to be prepared at the shelter.

More help is badly needed for this project. Over the years the list of donors has dwindled for a variety of reasons, and the project must be reinvigorated. If you would like to be part of this worthwhile project by cooking a meal occasionally, delivering food for a meal to be cooked at the shelter or by scheduling food deliveries, please contact me at munsee@humboldt1.com or 668-4095. This is a very meaningful contribution that we at HUUF make to the community, so please let me know that you would like to be involved.

Jean Munsee

Halloween already?

Yes, it is time to start planning for the 2012 Halloween Festival. If you are interested in helping to plan this great event, please contact me at sandy5527@sbcglobal.net or 499-1131. We will have a meeting in late April or early May to start things off. Come join us.

Sandy Lynn

Budget time

Button, button, who's got the button? Did you play that game when you were a child? The game this month is budget, budget, who's got the budget?

Committee chairs have been notified that budgets are due by April 1. The budget procedure will follow the usual pattern with a tweak or two if needed.

1. A week or so after receiving committee budgets, the Finance Committee will meet to formulate a tentative, preliminary, no-where-near-the-real-thing budget based upon committee and board requests. Any member of the congregation, on a committee or not, is welcome to submit items. Just e-mail the office or call me 822-8264

2. The preliminary budget will be given to the Board at its April meeting.

3. The following week, the Finance Committee will meet to incorporate Board requests and any other additions into a revised preliminary.

4. Mid-May, an open budget hearing will be convened for members and friends to review the revisions and provide input. This is NOT a congregational meeting, simply an open discussion with no quorum necessary.

5. The Finance Committee will then meet again to revise the revision.

6. June 1 the revised budget will be submitted to the Board for review at the June retreat.

7. At the October congregation meeting the final budget will be submitted to the congregation for its approval.

It's not as complicated as it looks. The Finance Committee has two goals: to give everyone an opportunity to add, discuss, etc. and to come up with a preliminary budget for the Board.

Questions? Call Dave Harris (725-9043) or me...we're user friendly.

Nancy Cook

Jeremy Taylor returns in April

The advanced workshop is coming along well. We have 18 committed and only need four more to make the workshop pay for itself fully. So if there are those among you who have done a basic training with him in the past, please call me now to get on the list for this workshop.

If you have taken it in the past but can't attend the entire weekend, please come for \$30 on Friday night to check in with our deeper dream community. We're going to spend some time getting to know one another better, explore where our dream work is taking us, and what we'd like to do more of with respect to it — in addition to hearing the same from Jeremy. Where is his dream work taking him? What is his cutting edge? What's new in the world of dream work? If people want, we'll spend a little time talking about dream group issues and processes and help to get some old groups rekindled and new groups started. Friday night is 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturday we'll spend the day from 9:30 to 3:30 using his group projective process that we've all learned. Bring a sack lunch.

Now is the time for you to send your registration check for \$75 — payable to HUUF — and mail it to me at 2310 Hillside Drive, Eureka, CA 95501. Please send it by April 15.

For information, call me at 442-0743.

Barbara Clark



Tacos at the Bayside Grange

On Saturday, **May 5**, Cinco de Mayo, there will be a benefit taco dinner at the Bayside Grange, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to raise money for St. Vincent de Paul while enjoying good food and sociability. The ambiance will be enhanced with live ethnic music. The event is intended to support the rebuilding of the St. Vincent de Paul building in Eureka at Second and G Streets, where the roof collapsed. The store will eventually resume operation. In the meantime St. Vincent de Paul must find other resources to continue its mission of providing meals to needy people.

The event is sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. HUUF's Social Action Committee will provide ice cream for dessert.

Ursula Osborne

Gift from the Thompsons

A temporarily overlooked contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee from June and Bill Thompson has increased our congregation's Guest-at-Your-Table collection to \$2019.55. Thank you, June and Bill.

Chip Sharpe, Treasurer

Geese, cont. from page 1

predawn wake-up and the questioning time wondering if the fog would lift or the wind pick up.

As I watched in wonder as geese took flight, organized themselves and flew off into the morning sky, I was reminded of a short reading I came across a few years ago. It is titled "As Wise as Geese" and it offered the following lessons;

The first lesson is: Work together. Canada Geese migrate long distances flying in V-formation. This formation results in less wind resistance, which allows the whole flock to add around 70 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. Geese find out quickly that it pays to stick together in community.

Second, wise leadership: when the leader at the apex of the V gets tired, it is relieved by another goose. Leaders rotate, empower, delegate and even step down when it's in the best interest of the team. Wise leaders ensure all are informed and each member of such a group knows how to lead and how to follow when the time is right for each.

Third, caring behavior: if a goose drops to the ground when it gets hurt or sick, two of its fellow travelers go down with it to take care of it until it either gets healthier or dies. No helper is expected to help alone. The wise birds help each other offer help to those who have need.

My hope for all of us is that through teamwork, wise sharing of leadership and loving care we will together take flight and soar far.

Dennis Reynolds



Everyone is invited to make a joyful noise

Announcing drop-in Choir Day for spring: On Sunday, **April 15**, all interested parties are invited to come to the Fellowship at 9:15 and learn two songs to perform as part of the 10:30 service that day. (And no, the songs will not be about taxes!) No prior music reading is required, and all voices and ages are welcome. The only requirement is that you participate in the full hour of rehearsal from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on the 15th. For those of you who have said you wanted to sing but just couldn't make the weekly time commitment, this special occasion is the perfect opportunity for you!

Come share your vocal talents with other singers and with the larger Fellowship community. You'll be glad you did, and we will too.

The HUUF choir will continue to rehearse regularly at the Fellowship on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 through early June. New members are welcome at any time. Also, if you are an instrumentalist who would like an opportunity to play with the choir during a future Sunday service, please contact me. We are always looking for ways to diversify our Sunday service musical offerings and expand our collective sound and color palette.

MUUsically yours,
Elisabeth Harrington
Choir Director

Board update

The Board received an updated financial report from Debbie Coggins, and as always the Board is very appreciative of the care and thoroughness of these reports.

Shay assures us that the hearing induction loop will arrive soon which will ensure all Sunday service attendees will be able to hear clearly. Jillian was an active participant in the meeting, and Kim reminded the Board that Jillian needs an evaluation. Kim is working on getting feedback from teachers, families and child care workers to prepare Jillian's evaluation.

Board members discussed the recent Re-Fashion Show. It was fun and we earned about \$750. The current project is the annual canvass. A big thanks to Richard Kossow for helping this year. All Board members are actively involved in the canvass: Look for notices and invitations. This is a very important effort for all members of the Fellowship.

We approved \$1,000 to help with registration fees for those who will attend the annual General Assembly, with allocations up to \$320 per person. Budget assumptions for fiscal year 2012/2013 were discussed, and a bid process is underway for the memorial garden.

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, March 18. Nominating Committee recommendations for Board positions were approved by the congregation. Kim Moor will become Co-Chair, Wendy Rowan will continue as secretary, and Anna Mae Botley will join the Board in fiscal year 2012/2013. Everyone expressed appreciation to JoAnn Thomas for her active service as Co-Chair.

Wendy Rowan, Secretary,
Board of Trustees

The cupboard is bare

This is the situation Jack and I encountered when we went to the Loleta Food Pantry last week. March 18 was Loleta food collection day at the Fellowship, and the take was meager indeed. Ruth Needham was the only one with a bag of food to deliver. Food is an area of real need which we as a congregation have chosen to help address. At a time when the need for food is much greater than usual because of the depressed economy, and the statistics regarding hunger in Humboldt County are shocking, I feel that we do want to help. Many of us help in different ways, but this is a reminder of an easy way to do it. Food from the Fellowship is taken to the Loleta Food Pantry every third Sunday of the month. Everything donated is appreciated. Sometimes there are particular requests, and these are listed in the green sheet the week before the collection; but any nonperishable food is gladly accepted. The collection in April will be on Sunday, **April 15**. Let's fill up that pantry.

Jean Munsee

Religious Education

It's spring and many new activities and ideas are in the air around here. Some upcoming events to keep in mind for Religious Education are:

Earth Day Fair **April 22** during Sunday service

Milestone Ceremony **May 20**, Sunday service. This is an important event for children to attend. Please save the date to honor their hard work in RE this year.

Coming of Age **June 10**. Our teens will inspire all of us in this service when they share their credos.

Religious Education Retreat. Please talk to Jillian about a good day and time for you to spend half a day giving input into curriculum, planning RE events for the coming year, and feedback on what your family wants from the religious education program. We would like to plan this for early June.

Second annual campout is this summer. Details will be forthcoming.

April 1: Friendship Sunday. Children will play, create art and read together so teachers and parents may attend the service. Please plan to attend the canvass dinner, Saturday, **March 31**. The White Rabbit tea is planned especially for our children.

April 8: Easter Sunday. All ages will hide/hunt eggs together. Bring a basket for hunting.

April 15: All worship. Garden of the Heart donated \$200 to the RE program for musical instruments. Come embrace your inner musician with our drumming circle.

April 22: Earth Day Fair. An annual favorite, booths and activities to promote recycling, learn about worms, make cool projects and how we can take care of our earth.

April 29: Social Action Sunday. We will work in the RE gardens around our building, literally taking care of our bit of earth. Come dressed to get dirty and bring gardening tools. We have child-size garden gloves. We need extra adult help with this project.



Jillian Mooney

Spanish and Latin piano duets

Pianists Annette Gurnée Hull and Nancy Correll will play Spanish and Latin American piano duets at the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday, **April 28**, at 7:00 p.m. The program includes a range of spicy rhythms from Spanish composers Albeniz and de Falla; Ravel's romantic "Rapsodie Espagnole;" Tangos by Piazzolla; and Gershwin's "Cuban Overture." You will hear many famous flamenco rhythms of Spain: luscious habañeras, the jota, the copla, as well as the rumba of Cuba, and of course, the mesmerizing tangos from Argentina. Annette and Nancy, from PianoVoce, will be assisted by Richard Duning, narrator. The recital is a benefit for HUUF. Wear your mantillas.

Annette Gurnée Hull and Nancy Correll

Inquirers class

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism? Thinking about joining HUUF? We are offering a 12:30 class on **April 22**, taught by Maureen Lawlor, to help answer your questions. Lunch and child care will be provided. You are invited.

Awanna Kalal

Green Hallelujahs

“The voice of Zen is too lean and cold”

Chiang Shang Hua
A Chinese Woman in Iowa

The voice of Zen is too lean and cold
though I longed for it.

My religion was rounded as ample bosoms
encased in flowered dresses
sticking to slick pews the color
of Log Cabin syrup.

Sweaty as men in shirt sleeves
mopping their foreheads.

Loud as the clammy heart thudding
“while every head is bowed and every eye is closed.”
I see that hand. I see that hand.

The scent of Zen is too absent and saffron
though I followed it.

My religion was crowded with smells
tuna casseroles and rollon deodorant,
too much aftershave, pink clouds of White Shoulders.
Never the alluring bite of My Sin.
Religion tasteless, soggy as
Styrofoam wafers dissolving on the tongue,
redeeming nothing.

The flesh of Zen is too taut and big
though it aroused me.

My religion was small as promised forgiveness
teetering in tiny glasses,
purple tinkles in heavy stainless steel.

No room in this religion for curly
hair escaping
a swimsuit on the minister’s wife,
her sagging upper thigh
white as a sepulcher.

The mind of Zen is shady and webbed,
too trapped in its head
though I trusted it.

My religion shook its head sadly, clucking its tongue
for souls lost, confusion of *koans*.

My religion knew the sound
of one hand slapping,
the difference between right and wrong,
held the line against sleeveless blouses,
drivein movies, pierced ears, dancing.

The blood of Zen flows thin and clear
though I longed to lie down in its cool waters,
taste it washing over me.

No more sticky blood of lambs,
no more being born again and again.
The rod of my religion did not comfort me.
Who could hide in its cleft, clenched rock?

The stain of my religion spills like grape juice and
guilt,

cares nothing for what I now think,
though it spreads to my throat, clogging
at the first notes of “Just As I Am.”
Without one plea, it floods my eyes,
still alters the way I see
a maple tree stretching, lifting
shaggy elbows in green hallelujahs.

Pat McCutcheon



Left, participants from a past Women’s Retreat pose for a group photo. The photographer, Suzanne Moore, thinks this was taken in 2005.

District Assembly 2012: Transforming ourselves and the world

There is something for everyone at the Pacific Central District Assembly, **April 27 – 29**, at the Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

Our room block is from Thursday, April 26 to Saturday, April 28 (checking out Sunday the 29th). Once you are on the Oakland Airport Hilton webpage, click the “Book a Room” icon to choose which nights you wish to reserve.

Visit the PCD District Assembly 2012 web site for information and registration. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Pacific Central District – UUA, join 400 vibrant and vital UUs for a weekend of laughing, learning, networking and worship.

Ed Uyeki

Welcoming ceremony

Our Ingathering Ceremony to welcome new members will be during the service on **April 29**. If you have been considering becoming a member of HUUF, you may wish to join before then in order to participate. Ask a greeter for details.

Awanna Kalal

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

General Assembly 2012

June 20-24, Phoenix, Arizona

General Assembly 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. Start preparing now.

- ◆ Check out immigration resources on UUA.org for resources and stories of engaged congregations.

- ◆ Follow the weekly posts at the UUA immigration justice blog, *Cooking Together*.

- ◆ Read *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan and use the discussion guide for reflection.

- ◆ Join community partners and interfaith groups committed to immigration justice.

- ◆ Organize a congregational conversation about the Doctrine of Discovery using the discussion guide.

- ◆ Make sure your congregation’s delegation includes people from traditionally marginalized groups; raise money to help with delegate expenses.

Bringing a youth?

- ◆ Read and share Top Ten Ways to Help Youth Prepare for Justice GA.

- ◆ Read *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel and use the discussion guide for reflection.

- ◆ Visit the GA 2012 Page for Youth and Young Adults.

This is an historic moment. Be part of the story.

Ed Uyeki

More about General Assembly

General Assembly will be held in Phoenix **June 20-24**. There was substantial controversy about having general assembly in a state with (in my opinion) draconian immigration policies. However, rather than boycott Arizona, UUs around the US decided to hold general assembly in the belly of the beast and engage in justice work for people of all ages. The board is offering to help pay for registration for as many HUUF members who want to go, up to a maximum of \$320 (the registration fee due by **April 30**). In the past we’ve sponsored up to three people. This year we’ve set aside \$1,000 which will be divided equally between those who wish to go and want help paying for registration, with preference given to members willing to represent HUUF as delegates. The decision as to how much to offer each person will be made by **April 20**. Please contact Chip Sharpe for details.

Greg Blomstrom, vice president



Deadline Friday, April 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.

In May the deadline will change to a specific time of day on the twentieth of each month.

Joy Thomas, editor



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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

Access Humboldt opportunities

Last summer the Social Action Committee proposed that we become members of Access Humboldt. The Board approved and we joined in February. Here's a blurb from their Web site (www.accesshumboldt.net):

“Access Humboldt is a non-profit, community based, public service media organization serving the residents of Humboldt County. We provide air time free of charge on the local cable TV channels and online, and offer media production training, facilities and equipment. We promote free speech and community media - by the people; for the people. Programming is accepted on a fair and nondiscriminatory basis, and will be aired without editorial control.”

We envision our first production as an introduction to the Fellowship, hopefully ready for airing on Channel 11 sometime this fall. We have some archive footage, and we captured a lot of video during the ReFashion Show; but we are a long way from a finished product. In fact, we are really just beginning. Steve Newman has agreed to be a technical advisor, and Tracy Jordan French can answer questions when she's not overwhelmed by her work as the Administration & Development Director for Access Humboldt.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, please call Shay to get your name on the list.

Dave Harris, Board Co-president

Lost and found

Could any of these be yours?

Gray zipper sweatshirt
Brown pullover sweater
Bright pink plaid sparkly jacket
Size small fleece lined jacket
A very nice brownish raincoat
Blue Ladybug slip-on shoes
Bag full of new coat hangers
Several umbrellas
Blue folding beach chair

Awanna Kalal