

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



May 2010

## What is your “Wow!”?

At the April 18 Sunday pledge drive celebration, members listed several new things that would make them say “Wow!” if we did them.

Here are some of their “Wow!” ideas:

- ◆ Nineteen Members said hire a part time or full time minister.
- ◆ Five Members said: An all-Fellowship camp out, two-day vacation, retreat with workshops, summer fun activities, or at least four times a year bring all of us together for events.
- ◆ Put Jeff Knapp on rocket and send him to Mars, but with return ticket.
- ◆ A activities coordinator for enjoyable events like camping
- ◆ A full time Office Administrator.
- ◆ Young adult groups.
- ◆ A paid volunteer coordinator.
- ◆ Make sure no one leaves a Sunday service feeling unappreciated.
- ◆ All committees are fully staffed.
- ◆ Bridging rationality and spirituality through a unifying experience.
- ◆ Meet all our financial goals.
- ◆ See all new members are thoroughly welcomed and integrated into our Fellowship.
- ◆ Organize a teach-in on poverty and social justice.
- ◆ Send advocates for peace to troubled places to talk to people and support peace.
- ◆ New building with a grand hall for parties and social events
- ◆ Respond, in our UU way, to the tea party activists.
- ◆ Have six to eight people come up to each visitor, to make them feel welcome.
- ◆ Once a week meditation group.
- ◆ Take on a major social justice issue in our community (homelessness?) in a hands-on way.
- ◆ Develop a plan for feeding the homeless.
- ◆ HUUF intergenerational projects planned and executed by adults and youth as equal partners.
- ◆ More music; get us all singing.
- ◆ Have UUA President Peter Morales come to visit us.

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## People

**Selma Sonntag** had a pace-maker placed and is doing fine.

**June Davis** had a successful trip to Japan and Hawaii.

Our newest member is **Navarra Carr**. Welcome.

**Lucera, Nova** and baby **Penelope Love** are doing well and appreciate the food that members have brought over. If anyone else is interested in providing a meal, please call Devora at 822-8941.

**Mary Freedlund** has been unable to attend the Fellowship. She appreciates and welcomes visitors. Please call first.

*Karen Knapp*

## Proofreaders needed

The newsletter is proofread by two people before going to press. Carol McFarland and Ursula Osborne have been doing this important service behind the scenes, and I thank them for that.

Here's the deal: Once a month, very soon after the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, your editor prints hard copy, delivers to the proofreaders and then picks up the corrected copy in an hour or two. Speed, ready availability and a critical eye are necessary qualifications for a good proofreader.

But we are moving to Eureka in May. I seek near-by proofreaders to minimize the driving. Your reward is my gratitude and the fact that you get to see the newsletter before anyone else. Contact me at 825-1092 if you can help. Thanks.

*Joy Thomas, editor*

## Walk as one at 1

On Saturday, **May 1**, all over the world, people will be walking labyrinths at 1 p.m. to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy as the earth turns. You are invited to participate. Come walk in a private backyard labyrinth on Dows Prairie, just north of McKinleyville, inland of Clam Beach. Call 839-4770 or email [janet.ruprecht@gmail.com](mailto:janet.ruprecht@gmail.com) for directions. If you have not walked a labyrinth, please come a little early. The walk will happen rain or shine.

*Janet Ruprecht*



## Pledge drive jump started

Our 2010-11 Pledge Drive got off to a great start with over \$40,000 pledged in advance of our annual kickoff celebration on April 18. By the time the last plate was washed, we had over \$72,000 pledged to support our Dream Budget - that's the budget that helps us achieve the four goals identified by our Future Forum: hire a part-time minister, increase membership, increase volunteerism and expand our facilities. The Board thanks everyone who helped launch our effort to begin a new chapter in our Fellowship's journey.

*Dave Harris*

## Wow!

### continued from first page

- ◆ Organize transport for members who can't drive
- ◆ Let's settle only for many "Wows!", not just several.
- ◆ Host a Pacific Central District teen or MUGGs conference.
- ◆ This year's pledge skit was a Wow! for me.
- ◆ Have a photo directory of those Members willing to be in it.
- ◆ More diversity in Sunday programs such as new speakers, new ministers from other areas.
- ◆ Start a HUUF campus outreach at HSU.
- ◆ Every member brings a nonUU friend to a Sunday service at least two times a year.
- ◆ Beekeeping classes.

Please keep these ideas coming! And remember the Board has proposed a "Wow!" budget that depends on "Wow!" pledging and volunteerism, to turn "Wow!" into "We did it!"

*Jeff Knapp,*  
for HUUF Board of Trustees

## Call to storytellers

Do you have a story to tell? During the 11:00 service, the Story for All Ages is often told by the presenter, but sometimes the presenter is not comfortable with that aspect of the service. The Program and Worship committee would like to have a list of members to call on to tell the story. This is also a good way to involve more members in the lives of our children. If you would like to tell the story some Sunday, please contact me at [kathrich@arcatanet.com](mailto:kathrich@arcatanet.com) or 839-3406.

*Katherine Almy*

## Let us hear from you about hearing from us

According to Wikipedia, “Communication is a process of transferring information from one entity to another. Communication is commonly defined as “the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs.” With that definition in mind, I would like look at our current methods of communication.

We have the monthly newsletter, both on line and hard copy. We have information posted on the bulletin boards in the hallway including Board of Trustee meeting minutes. We have our Order of Service every Sunday as well as our new Green Sheet for those who attend on Sundays. We have mass emails that go out from time to time on immediate matters or reminders, and we have ad hoc telephone tree callers. We have RE postcards and committee minutes. We have open Board of Trustee meetings and a lovely directory. We have use of the Google Calendar and more.

And yet we feel we are not getting the information out to the Fellowship members as well as we could or in the way our members want to receive it.

Currently the Board is looking at two further communication tools. One is automated, spoken in a member’s voice, that can be sent to remind folks of events that are being held at the Fellowship. The other tool we are looking at is the Monkey Survey which is very simple to use and we can poll for opinions that way.

So my question to you, dear friends, is “How do you want to be communicated to and with?” Would you give it some serious thought and let the Board know what you are thinking. Our goal is to do a more through job of communicating with each and every member whenever possible.

Starting the month of May there will be a well-signed box in the lobby and a one page survey where you can let us know your wishes so that we can do our best to comply with them.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts on communication. Thank you.

*Maureen Lawlor*



## Daylighters: laughs, nostalgia

There was a hand braided rag rug of remembered flour sack dresses. There was a simple painting commemorating a trip to Scotland. There was a class ring. These and more enlivened the April meeting of the Daylighters with good memories.

“How I became a UU” is the topic for discussion at the next meeting. Surely there is many a tale on this topic. Everyone is urged to join us at Daylighters meeting on **May 11** at 1:30 at the Fellowship.

*Anne Weiss, 840-0938*

## Changes in the office

Our recently reformed and revitalized Personnel Committee has been busily working to address HUUF staffing needs. Acting on recent Personnel Committee recommendations, your Board of Trustees has asked Kathy Dillon to take the interim position recently created by the retirement of Bert Taylor, and Kathy has accepted. The Personnel Committee is putting together a new job description that updates the position based on previous job descriptions, duties recently performed by Bert and future needs of your Board and committee chairs.

Stay tuned for the Personnel Committee’s next work product, an updated job description for our office administrator. Once that is in place, we will advertise and do a recruitment to fill the position on a permanent basis.

Special thanks to Susan Allen for stepping up as Anne Weiss is having to step back and to the crew of Anne Weiss, Phyllis Heligas, Steve Newman, Cheryl Rau and Tracy Jordan French.

*Beverly Morgan Lewis, Trustee*

## Paperbacks for the jail

“Laws are only words written on paper, words that change on society’s whim and are interpreted differently daily by politicians, lawyers, judges, and policemen. Anyone who believes that all laws should always be obeyed would have made a fine slave catcher.

Anyone who believes that all laws are applied equally, despite race, religion, or economic status, is a fool.” ~John J. Miller, *And Hope to Die*

One small contribution which the HUUF congregation has made to those incarcerated in the county jail is the collection and delivery of books to the jail library. We have a long history of commitment to this simple act of service. Jean and Leon Wagner were dedicated to this social action service for years after one of their children made the sacrifice of civil disobedience in defense of our fragile, precious environment. Tom Lewis carried the ball when he was serving as jail chaplain. It’s easy to do and I’ve managed the task on my own for several years. Now I am asking for someone, or several folks, to participate in this social action with me. See the steps below and let me know if you are interested in helping with any one or more of them.

1. Check the coat closet each Sunday for “deliveries.”
2. Put the Jail Books basket out in the lobby before the 9 o’clock service.
3. Return Jail Books basket to the coat closet after the 11 o’clock service.
4. Bring paper grocery bags with handles for transport.
5. Sort out all hardcover books or romance novels. These can go to Friends of the Library or the recycling center or...
6. Load the books into the grocery bags, about one-half to two-thirds full.
7. Load the bags into a car — your car, my car, someone else’s car.
8. Deliver the bags to the jail. It’s one quick trip, two bags at a time, one in each hand.
9. Repeat.

*Tracy Jordan French, tjf@igc.org or 839.8689*

## Loleta project

On April 28, representatives of the Social Action Committee (SAC) and representatives of the Loleta Community Center and the Loleta Food Pantry will meet to develop a plan for coordination between HUUF and the Loleta community. After this meeting, the SAC will decide how to implement this coordination; and members of the SAC will contact those who replied to the Loleta questionnaire at an earlier Fellowship service. The SAC anticipates that this coordination will change over time, and volunteers not needed immediately may be called upon later.

*Jack Munsee*



## General Assembly Minneapolis June 23-27

Join thousands of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) from across the United States for the 2010 General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis.

You’ll experience wonderful and uplifting worship services led by some of our best worship leaders, with glorious music and inspiring messages. Worshipping together with thousands of fellow UUs at our Sunday Worship Service is an experience that should not be missed.

General Assembly is the way that our faith does business. Actions of social witness are passed at GA, elements that make up future policies are discussed; and you have a voice in the discussion.

You’ll hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of entertaining programs and informative workshops, offering excellent support and learning for leaders in our congregations. You’ll be able to join the witness for our faith and values, in moving and exciting ways.

Minneapolis is an ideal setting for GA. It is a progressive, culturally diverse, LGBT friendly city that is rich in cultural arts and has a stunning natural environment. There are 900 lakes and 170 parks within the Twin Cities area. Registration rates increase May 1.

Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly & Conference Services professional staff coordinate logistics such as registration, housing, the exhibit hall, services to our attendees prior to General Assembly, and the GA Program.

Future GAs

June 22-26: 2011 Charlotte, NC

June 20-24: 2012 Phoenix, AZ

June 19-23: 2013 Louisville, KY

June 25-29: 2014 Providence, RI

*Ed Uyeki*

## The usual joyful noise and more

The choir rehearses weekly from 7:00-8:30 pm on Wednesday nights at the Fellowship, and performs at two services a month, September through May. New singers are always welcome and do not need to have had prior musical training. Please contact me at [elisabethharrington@yahoo.com](mailto:elisabethharrington@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

### Still more joyful noises

Community music classes for fun, fellowship and creativity, Saturday mornings at HUUF, 10:00-12:00 on **May 22, June 5 and June 26**. Ages 6 and older.

Come play, dance and sing together in this three-part series of interactive classes highlighting the elements of musical performance. We will explore melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics and expression by engaging in singing, moving and playing drama games in a fun and supportive environment. HUUF Choir Director and HSU Professor of Music Elisabeth Harrington will lead, assisted by HSU music and drama students.

Activities will include an introduction to basic music-reading skills and exercises to combine reading printed music with the art of improvisation, emphasizing freedom and spontaneity as part of the performance process.

Classes are designed to be inter-generational. Family members are encouraged to attend together. Children under 10 should attend with a parent or older sibling. Suggested donation is \$10 per class, with proceeds going to the music program at HUUF. The classes are offered as a three-part series as material will build on previous classes, but attendance at all three is not mandatory.

*Elisabeth Harrington*

## Religious Education



### May 2: Curriculum Sunday

Preschool: We will remember our year together and what we have learned. We will each pick a Principle and draw/paint (make a picture) about it, while others will make parent gifts. We will sing "Peace like a River" and more.

K-2: We will talk about our UU Principle- All people should have a voice about the things that concern them. We will have Compromise Ice Cream

3-5: We will learn about Daniel Chester French, an important UU Sculptor

Intermediate: We will plan our Milestone Ceremony presentation. Come share your ideas.

### May 9: Family Day Tea

Come honor the people who care for you. We will have tea, lemonade and treats with our families during the 11 a.m. service. Dress up nicely and plan to serve the treats.

### May 16: Curriculum Sunday

Preschool: We will practice for bridging with songs and remembering our voices. We will sing our UU Seven Principals song and "Peace Like a River." Find your voice; sing out loud.

K-2: We will review our sources of our UU Principles and all that we learned this year. We will practice for the Milestone Ceremony.

3-5: We will practice our performance for our Milestone Ceremony. Come ready to learn a song.

Intermediate: We will finalize our plans for the Milestone Ceremony and practice.

### May 23: Milestone Ceremony

We will gather in the CARE building at 10:30 to go over our plans. Bring your costumes or anything you need. Dress up for our special celebration. Most important – have fun. We will have ice cream sundaes for treats afterward.

**May 30: Friendship Sunday.** Childcare providers will play games, read stories and do simple art together with friends.

It has been really great to have new helpers in Religious Education. Everyone took our Congregational meeting seriously and has stepped up to help, so that our young family members can step into other roles in our Congregation. It has been fun for children to get a chance to know more of our membership.

*Jillian Mooney*



## Going back to school

After serving as your choir director for nearly two years, I have decided to take things a step further. Last year I joined the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN) and attended their conference in Portland, Oregon. While at the conference I met many wonderful musicians, learned some great UU music to share with our congregation and made some new friends. I also learned of a new training program for musicians working within UU religious organizations called the Musicians Leadership Credentialing Program, to which I applied.

The program is designed to help music leaders in UU congregations develop their understanding of these three main areas:

1. Music Skills and Resources
2. Unitarian Universalist (UU) Heritage and Values
3. Leadership and Interpersonal Skills

In order to graduate I must attend three additional UUMN annual conferences (a real treat, truly), participate in three professional development training days, and complete other meaningful assignments, which include examining closely the musical needs and desires of our own HUUF congregation.

The financial obligations are not insubstantial. In addition to attending the conferences (in Madison, WI, this year), there is a modest tuition for each year of enrollment in the program, to cover the costs of the professional development days and the expertise of an experienced UU Musical mentor from a nearby region.

I am asking for partial financial support from HUUF to help me complete the program. I have some fun fundraising ideas to help with

this (please see below). In addition, the choir budget proposal I submitted for next year reflects a reduced salary request in exchange for monies to attend the conference in July.

What you can do? Please think about the role of music at HUUF and decide whether a credentialed music leader sounds like a good idea to you. You can find more information about UUMN and the Credentialing Program by visiting <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/musicleadership/index.shtm>

This is a wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to learning how to serve our UU congregation better. Contact either me or a board member if you have thoughts on the matter.

*Elisabeth Harrington,*  
Choir Director

## A house full of memories

On March 22, my hometown newspaper published a story about donating my boyhood home.

The article reads in part, "Charlie Sharpe . . . was . . . Greensboro's second-most famous soda jerk. Short-story writer William Sydney Porter (O. Henry), as a youth in the 1880s, worked the soda fountain at his uncle's South Elm Street drugstore.... Sharpe also published a book, "Poems from the Heart of Olde Greensborough." .... Sharpe died in 2006 at age 91, and his equally dynamic wife, the former Elizabeth Apple died in 2008 at age 98. Their son, Chip Sharpe, 64, of Bayside, Calif., has donated his parents' house to the nonprofit Share-A-Home of Guilford County, along with \$5,000 from him and his wife, Celestine Armenta. The property will become the Charlie and Elizabeth Sharpe Memorial House, a neighborhood gathering place. The

house will become a permanent reminder of a couple whose life didn't go with the flow. Charlie Sharpe graduated from Guilford College and attended Duke Divinity School, but preferred to work in the drugstore in south Greensboro. This left him time for preaching at churches where he was invited and for playing one of his 20 violins. He and Elizabeth Sharpe, who played tennis and basketball at Meredith College, lived from 1955 until 1999 in the house. It was built in 1925.... When the neighborhood changed almost overnight in the early 1960s from mostly white to mostly black, the Sharpes were among the few white residents who remained. Chip Sharpe, now retired from nonprofit work in northern California, remembers his mother declaring: "I'm from south Greensboro. This is where my heart is, and that's where I'm staying."

Bernestine Singley posted my memoir on her "When Race Becomes Real" website at <http://bernestinesingley.com/blog.htm>. If you visit it, you may also be interested in "The Backstory: How Chip Sharpe made it to this page" in the upper-right corner, as well as other pages on her site.

*Chip Sharpe*



## May SAC brunch

According to Wikipedia, May is national salad month. But it is also celebrated as national egg month, national asparagus month, national burger month, national barbecue month, national strawberry month, and, last but not least, national chocolate custard month. Oh my! What does one do? We could try to incorporate these varied themes into our May brunch. Or we could disregard them altogether. Whatever we decide to do, we guarantee it will be interesting and delicious. Brunch will be on **May 16**, the 3rd Sunday, served right after 2nd service. Funds raised will go to wherever the need is greatest in the local community.

*Eve Anderson*

## Social opportunities

Are you somewhat new to HUUF or are you interested in finding new opportunities to socialize and have fun with other members, friends and others? An updated list of social opportunities is available for all interested. It includes HUUF organized events, women's and men's groups, miscellaneous interest groups, conferences, and opportunities to volunteer. Also included is a list of ideas for future activities that have (or have not yet) been enjoyed to remind us that anyone can create new groups or organize an activity at any time. You can pick up a copy at the HUUF office, request that one be mailed or have one emailed to you.

*Karen Knapp*

## SAC coffee, cocoa, etc., sale

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, the Social Action Committee holds its equal exchange coffee, cocoa, chocolate bar, etc., sale. All these products are organic and shade grown. We use the small margin of profit to support the education of a young Nicaraguan girl through the Circulo de Amigas UUSC affiliated organization.

Please support our effort through your purchases. You will buy great products for your own use and for hostess and other gifts. Look for us in the lobby between the first and second services and after the end of the 11 o'clock service.

For more detailed information, contact Marianne Pennekamp, sales coordinator, or Ursula Osborne, Circulo de Amigas liaison.



## Time, talent and treasure

We talked about the Treasure part on April 18, and now we'll have some conversations about Time and Talent.

You should have received your survey for volunteering your time and talent recently. It's all about giving your time and your talent to help accomplish all that we want to do.

We are involved in a sea change here at HUUF. Great desires have been put forth and great needs have been expressed. These can only happen if people are willing to step up to the plate.

There are committees on paper that have not been in existence due to nobody willing to give their time. There are committee chairs who are burned out and have no one to whom to hand over their duties.

Now at this sea change, people ARE stepping up; they are saying, "Yes." They want to help and are volunteering to do jobs that are desperately needed. You can be one of those people. Look at the list of interests and experience. Maybe you have experience to share; maybe you want to learn about a particular area so that you can help.

What about you? What can you do? What are you willing to do?

My involvement with others and my getting to know people more intimately happened when I became chair of hospitality and had a reason to talk with people. I found that the more I involved myself, the more I cared about others and the more others cared about me.

Time Talent and Treasures – these three can become your mantra for the next fiscal year.

Show your interest and care; fill out your survey now. Look for a box in the lobby to drop it into.

*Roxanna Hand*



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Administrator Bert Taylor

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Board of Directors:

Co-President Maureen Lawlor

Co-President Jeff Knapp

Vice President Greg Blomstrom

Treasurer David Harris

Secretary Roxana Hand

Trustees Beverly Morgan Lewis

vacant

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

My own view on religion is that of Lucretius. I regard it as a disease born of fear and as a source of untold misery to the human race. I cannot, however, deny that it has made some contributions to civilization. It helped in early days to fix the calendar, and it caused Egyptian priests to chronicle eclipses with such care that in time they became able to predict them. These two services I am prepared to acknowledge, but I do not know of any others.

Bertrand Russell, *Has Religion Made Useful Contributions to Civilization?*

## Deadline Thursday, May 20

E-mail articles to Joy Thomas  
at [jthomas3@csulb.edu](mailto:jthomas3@csulb.edu).

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