

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



May 2013

Words of Joy

Interim minister's column

I once saw a Jules Feiffer cartoon which pictures a sad-looking man saying: "In the old days I was with this group that really had THE WORD. I fought like hell for them. But then this other group came along and showed me that the WORD of my group was shallow and ineffectual. They had a better WORD. So I quit the first group and joined up with those others. I fought like hell for them. But then someone came along and proved to me that there was no word, that what I should do is go off by myself as an individual and grow. So I quit the second group. Now what I do is sit by myself all day and grow." Then the poor man moans: "I sure wish there were some others who felt the same way I do." Too bad he never heard of Unitarian Universalism! We, too, are not sure about THE word; rather, we hear and consider many words, many expressions of truth. The lonely cartoon character would grow a lot more in a community like ours than he would all by himself.

The theological diversity in our UU congregations makes our discussions and interactions lively and interesting, and because we gather in community, we can be the religious mavericks we are without being lonely, like the dejected cartoon character. Here at HUUF, as one of the exercises I led small groups through last winter illustrates, theological diversity is clearly present (see House Meetings Write-Up on the HUUF website). I asked people to line themselves up along an imaginary continuum from theist to humanist (of course these categories beg for definition, and may not even be considered mutually exclusive, but just for illustration I had people define the categories for themselves). People placed themselves at many points along the humanist-theist line. Although the continuum was clearly more weighted toward the humanist side, people stood at many points on the line. Quite a few planted themselves firmly in the middle, and several went over to the "theist" side. I do this little exercise to make visually clear that, although we sometimes assume that all UUs have more or less similar beliefs, in fact theologically we are quite different from one another.

It's wonderful, actually: On a given Sunday at HUUF, you may be sitting next to a liberal Christian, who's sitting beside a Pagan, and in front of you is a practitioner of Zen Buddhism, while behind you is an atheist, and on your other side may be a theist, whose spouse is an agnostic. Here at HUUF you illustrate quite nicely that old UU adage: "We need not believe alike to love alike."

Joy Atkinson

What's inside

Page 2:

People
Service auction treasures
Playfully serious women
Art on our walls
Dennis's ordination
Lost and found items

Page 3:

General Assembly
Update on Karen
Nature is

Page 4:

Your pledge
Board update
Booty call
Loleta art project
Deadline info

Page 5:

Religious education
Social action brunch
Classified ads

Page 6:

Creating peace
Pledge of nonviolence

Page 7:

Hola from Stubblefields
Directory additions/changes
New art exhibit curators

Page 8:

To Kansas

People

Jo Anderson visited many old Humboldt friends during mid-April.

Phyllis Helligas vacationed in Hawaii.

Kathy Layton cruised Alaska.

Jenny Hansen went to London because her sister in England recently died.

Cynthia Chason and Bonnie MacGregor had an adventure in deserts and the South Coast.

Phyllis and Richard Stanewick have moved to Timber Ridge.

In mid-April, **Steve Sottong** spent eight days in Hollywood attending workshops and receiving a writing award. To see Steve in a tux getting his award, go to [youtube.com/watch?v=D2ArU092-Vs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2ArU092-Vs) Fast forward 2 hours, 3 minutes, 30 seconds. Steve's part lasts less than 5 minutes.

Debi Cooper shared a concern about her health.

Welcome home **Barbara Madaras and Jack Phipps** from 3 months in Arizona.

June and Dave Davis have returned from Myanmar (Burma) and Hawaii.

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

Karen Knapp

Lost and found

Size 44 men's brown corduroy L L Bean sport jacket

Size 12 women's gray suede jacket

Size XS black nylon jacket with hood

Size XL women's lined black knit embroidered zipper jacket

Size S black Humboldt sweatshirt with hood

Size M men's navy fleece zipper jacket

Size S Youth navy Fort Bragg sweatshirt with hood

Awana Kalal

Service auction treasures

Only a short time is left until Treasure Island, our Super Service Auction, to be held on Saturday, **May 11**, from 2-7. Services up for auction are posted in the foyer under the palm tree. If you have an additional service you would like to offer, just complete a donation form near the banners and put it into the Treasure Chest or give it to Shay in the office. Although the deadline for catalog inclusion has passed, a supplement listing of additional items will be distributed at the auction.

Service treasures will be up for your bids in both the Silent Auction and a Live Auction. Unique treasures like a 35-year-old rocking horse and a beautiful print by Jo Anderson will be auctioned at our live auction under the guidance of Mack Owen, our Auctioneer. You will soon receive an Auction Catalog in the mail, with all services and minimum bids, as well as bidding procedures and helpful hints.

There will be a Pirate's Cove, with handcrafted items, collectibles, jewelry and a children's Treasure Chest, full of books and toys for purchase. A children's Treasure Hunt is being planned and will begin around 3 p.m.

Dinner, which will be served 4:30 – 6 p.m., features island delights, including Tangerine Teriyaki Tofu and Pineapple Chicken kebabs, grilled veggies, Coconut rice, fresh fruit, vegetable salads, Key Lime Pie and Island Coconut Cake. Cost for the dinner is \$10 adults, \$5 children, with family maximum of \$30.00. Children under 3 eat free, and take-out will be available. There will also be a Lagoon with beer, wine for purchase and fruit punch available.

So plan now to join in the fun at this our biggest fundraiser of the year. If you have questions, or want to volunteer to help, call me at 442-5962.

JoAnn Thomas

Playfully serious women

There are still openings for the **May 2-5** Women's Retreat, so we are still taking reservations for full payment or scholarships. Please call Berti Welty or Bert Taylor to tell us your application is on its way. Correct mailing address for Bert Taylor is 2152 Mustang Lane, Arcata, 95521.

Art on our walls

For the months of May and June, the main hall at HUUF will again be enlivened with the art work created by the children in our religious education program. Cheryl Rau has been working with the children and maintains this tradition at HUUF. This springtime exhibit promises to be full of color, surprise and fun. So take the time to view and enjoy it.

Irith Shalmony

Dennis Reynolds' ordination

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene, Oregon, invites the HUUF family to Dennis Reynolds' ordination service on Sunday **May 5**, at 4:00 p.m. at the church, located at 1685 W. 13th Ave. in Eugene. A reception follows the service. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to dennisordination@gmail.com

Dave Harris

General Assembly, a meeting of congregations

The 2013 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association will meet in Louisville, Kentucky, **June 19-23**. The theme is "From Promise to Commitment." Building on the experience of Justice, we will gather in Louisville to examine and renew our covenant to our faith, one another, our congregations and the larger world.

Programs will explore the kinds of promises our religious communities are called to make as we seek to live out our UU values, how we make these promises, with whom, and how we hold ourselves and each other accountable. Here are just some of the topics that will be addressed: environmental justice, the next steps in immigration justice, anti-racism, anti-oppression multiculturalism, organizing for justice, multigenerational work, growing Unitarian Universalism, leadership education, spiritual growth and theology. There will also be many opportunities to worship.

On Saturday, June 22 delegates to the 2013 General Assembly will elect a UUA Moderator to succeed Gini Courter, who has served as Moderator since 2003.

Most General Assembly events will be held in the Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 Fourth Street, Louisville.

GA is the annual meeting of our UUA. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. For more information go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

Nature is...

Nature is a sparkling river traveling down the hill.

Nature is a flowing waterfall.

Nature is a peaceful lake.

The ocean is deep and full of wonders.

Waves make me feel calm.

Nature is a misty marsh.

Nature is a steep mountain.

Nature is a still rock.

Marsh mud is thick and brown.

Nature makes me feel joyful.

Nature is a lush garden

Nature is a blooming flower.

Nature is a purple blossom.

Pastures are filled with dew on the grass.

Buttercups make me feel small and beautiful.

Nature is an autumn leaf.

Nature is the canopy of a forest.

Nature is a tall tree.

Ferns are fragile and ancient.

Redwood trees make me feel tall and strong.

Nature is an orange, darting fish.

Nature is a scurrying animal.

Nature is a bird soaring in the sky.

Nature is a slimy, yellow slug.

Lady bugs are spotted and lucky.

Turtles make me feel playful.

Nature is a blue sky.

Nature is a rainbow after it rains

Nature is the thick fog.

Nature is the colorful horizon as the sun is setting.

Clouds are floaty and white.

Clouds make me feel like I can fly.

Nature means peacefulness and

care to me.

Nature is a quiet place.

Nature makes me feel loved.

Nature is our home.

Fiona Siebert

Update on Karen

Many of you have heard stories about the mystery of my health. Doctors, including teams at Stanford University Hospital, eventually found I have an autoimmune condition resolvable with time, rest and medication. This unpronounceable condition is very rare, so it took a number of medical brains to figure it out. I tire easily and must limit activities. I'll be walking the Community Forest and beaches in the not too distant future and look forward to that.

The Caring Circle and others have sent healing thoughts, cards, texts, phone calls, visits and dinners for my family. These give me feelings of being cared for I've never experienced in my life. Thank you for teaching me how to receive and that it's o.k. to ask for help at a time of need.

Although you've been an important community in my life, I now honor you as never before. Thank you for the love, support, prayers and healing coming my way.

Jeff has shown an amazing ability to calmly care for me, parent our teenage son, keep our dog exercised, ease our daughter's concern and take on many of my responsibilities. He's grateful for your help, which freed him to add more to my care.

I'll keep everyone posted on progress and deeply appreciate your concern and care as you support me and my family during this journey.

With deepest appreciation,

Karen Knapp

Your pledge...

will help the red slippers unite and reach our pledge goal of \$145,000.

Pledge now so Dorothy can click her heels and return home to start an Oz-sum year at HUUF. It is time to complete your Pledge form and mail it in or drop it off in the pledge box located in the foyer. If you prefer a visit from a canvass volunteer, they are making calls to members and friends who have not yet pledged support for next fiscal year. They are prepared to answer your questions and meet with you if you wish. Whatever your preference for pledging, we welcome your financial help to keep HUUF a vital part of our lives. We hope to wrap up the pledge drive by the beginning of June. If you have questions, call me at 839-0493.

Cynthia Chason

Booty call

The Pirate's Cove of our Service Auction is still asking for "booty" to fill our shelves. We seek quality items preferably hand made, or treasures that you no longer wish to hang on to. Just think about what you might like to choose from a "pirates loot." You may not have any gold ingots to spare, but fashionable costume jewelry will suffice. Are you a Humboldt County class baker or quilter or painter or book collector or photographer? The wee pirates among us would appreciate gently used toys and books to fill their treasure chest also. Be creative and be generous. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

You may deliver your items to me (839-3341) or you may bring them to the Fellowship on Friday, **May 10**, the day before our big event, preferably by 10:30 a.m.

Anna Mae Botley

Board update

The Board sends a big "Thank you" to everyone who helped with or attended the annual canvass dinner. It was a lively event and we hope fun was had by all. Our work with the annual pledge drive continues, with a deadline of June 30 for all 2013-2014 pledges.

With her much appreciated diligence, Kim Moor is doing research on the upkeep and replacement for the Wisconsin Mound.

The updated Personnel Manual continues to be an item for the Board's attention. We will schedule a meeting with the Personnel Committee soon to complete this work.

It is time to prepare the budget for the following fiscal year, and currently budget assumptions are being prepared. The Finance Committee will be sending out their annual letters to committee chairs soon.

We are pleased to learn that Shay, our office administrator and current Starr King seminary student, will attend most HUUF Sunday services beginning in the fall. Given her training, she will assist with some services. Those of us who have worked with Shay over the years and appreciate her talents know that her participation in Sunday services will be a real gift to us.

Wendy Rowan, Board Secretary

Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Monday, May 20, 5:00 p.m.** Please send your committee reports and articles to me at joythomas3828@gmail.com. Neither PDF files nor late submissions can be accepted.

Joy Thomas, editor

Loleta art project

The Fellowship recently received a thank-you letter from Loleta Elementary School regarding our donation of \$300. The money was raised during the used book sale that took place each Sunday this past summer. The funds paid for Michael Guerriero, a local artist, to teach the third/fourth grade class at Loleta School how to silk screen fish images. This tied in with the students' study of the salmon life cycle. The project was enjoyed by the students and greatly appreciated by the school staff.



Ilene Harris

Michael Guerriero works with Loleta students

Social Action brunch

We celebrate the diversity of salad this month. Vegetable salad, fruit salad, tofu salad, potato salad, tuna salad, and salads our wonderful HUUF cooks can dream up. There may even be some warm varieties of salad. We might even allow a soup to sneak in. And, there will definitely be scrumptious dessert.

Come join us for enjoyable food and community, following service on the third Sunday, **May 19**. Please allow 10 – 15 minutes for food to be brought from the kitchen and arranged on tables.

Recommended donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child. Proceeds from this brunch will go to the Emma Center.

Eve Anderson

Classified ads

FitzMaurice family preschool now enrolling for fall.

½ day program in McKinleyville, 2, 3 and 4 day openings.

Lead teacher Therese Fitz-Maurice teaches here in RE program. t_keslin@hotmail.com or 489-3564.

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Room to Rent/Housesitting Job

I am Inge Leonardos, an ex-HUUFer. I need a room with kitchen privileges to rent or a housesitting job from approx. July 7 to August 7. I need to escape from the heat in PA. I can be reached by: Phone 484-593-0677. E-mail ingeleonardos@gmail.com. References supplied.

Religious Education

May 5

Preschool: Let's talk about god. Do you believe in god? What/who is god? What do others think? What do UUs believe about god?

K-2nd: We will celebrate spring! What did ancient religions believe about this time of year? We will have the Intermediate class help us create May baskets. Some to keep and some to give away to help spread the joy and hope of spring and new life.

3/4th: We will revisit all the practices we did this year. Choose our favorites and begin to prepare for the bridge ceremony.

Intermediate: We will join the K-2nd class to help making May baskets. We will be in charge of the hot glue guns. We will also make some for ourselves to keep and share with others.

May 12

Mother's Day. Friendship Sunday

Enjoy the time with all ages together with games and crafts. Show the people in your life that you appreciate them.

May 19

Preschool: We will practice our bridging ceremony.

K-2nd: We will continue making recycle boxes to hand out at the Milestone ceremony, read stories about kids who help the environment, finish our UU Hero flags, capes, etc for any student who does not have one yet.

3/4th: We will revisit all the practices we did this year. Choose our favorites and begin to prepare for the bridge ceremony

Intermediate: Outstanding UU Roundup: We will review the outstanding UUs that we "met" this year and make a collage to commemorate them. We will wrap up for the year and prepare for our milestone ceremony.

May 26

Friendship Sunday. All ages together to play and connect through games and crafts.

Welcome to our newest volunteers!

Spring has once again brought new life and hope into our congregation. Religious education has been blessed with volunteers at separate times converging to make some magic. Jake Farrell has volunteered to be our new Teen Director. He has a BA in Child Development from HSU and attends with his partner Kelly and son Elam, who enjoys RE in the preschool room. Jake will join Debbie Harrison, Gordon Leppig and Shay McKay in traveling to Our Whole Lives training in July. This will begin another goal of providing this important curriculum to our youth next fall.

Ian Perris, one of our childcare providers, has volunteered to take on the task of revitalizing our playground structure. He and Jake have teamed up to make this a teen event and will be looking for other folks to help as well.

Teen group has valiantly carried on this year without a Teen Director thanks to the leadership of Casey and Trevor Lynn. They continued to meet and attend conferences. Thomas Shermer accompanied them on his first conference and enjoyed it immensely.

Thanks to all who volunteer your energy in our program. Those who do

continued on page 7

Creating peace: Session 4 discussion groups and a congregational pledge of nonviolence

Once again we witness to needless tragedy and destruction in our world. More and more often violence is the chosen solution to problems. How do we live a life of peace and nonviolence amidst this and what options do we have when dealing with the anger and hurt that lead to so much tragedy?

In my UU History class we read about an important Universalist figure of the mid-1800s, Adin Ballou. Through his ardent belief in “living what he preached,” he was led to create the utopian Hopedale community in Massachusetts. One of the most important ideals for the community was nonresistant pacificism; Ballou articulated this philosophy in his essay *Christian Non-Resistance*, written in 1846. Although he believed in nonviolence whole-heartedly, he also knew that it was virtually impossible to live such a life within normal society, and so created Hopedale as a refuge for those who chose not to participate in the rising violence of the years preceding the Civil War.

I mention Hopedale in a moment of despair, recognizing the incredible difficulty of attempting to live a wholly peaceful life. And yet, we are called to *try*. Our history is full of courageous people attempting to live out their values. Our seven UU principles implicitly urge us to be peacemakers. At a very fundamental level, peace rests on the assumption that all human beings are *inherently* worthy and that all life is *interconnected*. In our *free and responsible search for truth* we are encouraged to find alternatives and options, to look beyond initial impressions and reactions. For many wisdom traditions in this world, the alternative is *forgiveness*.

In our next discussion we will explore the peace of forgiveness in all its non-black/white glory. Please join me. Discussion groups will take place on Thursday, **May 16**, at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday, **May 18**, at 10:00 a.m.

I am also including with this article the *Congregational Pledge of Nonviolence* published by the Association for Global New Thought. The April discussion groups felt it would be a very meaningful commitment for the HUUF congregation to make together.

“The principles expressed in the Association for Global New Thought’s “Pledge of Nonviolence” supports the spiritual path that initially attracted me to HUUF. I want to be inspired to enhance my practice of compassion, kindness, understanding and helpfulness. These are the qualities that I believe reflect my higher self and that I want to be encouraged to develop in myself. These principles of nonviolence also help to set a congregational standard to which we can commit ourselves and by which we can periodically measure our progress. They will encourage dialogue within the Fellowship, pinpoint areas in need of improvement, and guide us toward solutions that will promote the spiritual health and well-being of our community.” Nancy Engel

On Sunday, **May 26**, at our 10:30 a.m. service, I will speak about our seven UU principles and how they call us to create peace within ourselves and our world. Please contemplate the pledge of nonviolence over the next few weeks and see if it’s something you could attempt to live by. At that Memorial Day service, we will discuss and explore how we can help each other become more peaceable people.

Shay MacKay

Congregation pledge of nonviolence

Making peace must start within ourselves, in our families, and in our congregation. Each of us, members of _____, commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people.

To Respect Self and Others: To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

To Communicate Better: To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.

To Listen: To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others’ feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way. To listen in order to understand, rather than in order to respond.

To Forgive: To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

To Respect Nature: To treat the environment and all living things with respect and care.

To Recreate Nonviolently: To promote athletic and recreational activities that encourage cooperation and to avoid social activities that make violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.

To Be Courageous: To challenge violence in all forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at work, in the congregation, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will check ourselves on what we have pledged once a

year on _____
so that we can help each other be-
come more peaceable people.

*“Eliminating violence, one
congregation at a time, starting
with our own.”*

Shay MacKay

New curators for HUUF art exhibits

Eureka! I found them. Debi Cooper and Berti Welty have signed on as co-curators for the art exhibits in our main hall.

They will facilitate the art shows beginning with the July/August exhibit. I have artists scheduled through the end of 2013. We are always happy to be approached by those who would like to show their work at HUUF, so if you or someone you know wants to exhibit with us please talk with Debi Cooper 677-3108 or email debcoop@yahoo.com. I have very much enjoyed working with all those people who have exhibited at HUUF during the nearly three years of my holding this position, and I am thankful for the wonderful responses to the shows.

Irith Shalmony

Religious education, continued from page 5

the important committee and Board work, cook and deliver food for our night shelter commitment, provide teaching and support in our classrooms and provide ongoing snacks. It takes an enormous amount of volunteers to help raise our children with our UU beliefs. Thank you for your support.

Jillian Mooney

‘¡Hola!’ from the Stubblefields, part one

Our family has been in Esteli, Nicaragua, for seven months, experiencing a mix of pleasure, awe, hardship and confusion. We’ve learned quite a bit of Spanish, but between the words we lack and the speed with which people speak we often find ourselves befuddled. While language is quite a barrier, it hasn’t stopped the girls from attending school, Andy from doing research, or me from volunteering and navigating the many new tasks that are part of life here. There are frequent mysteries (why is our power out but not our neighbor’s?); and issues that would be trivial obstacles in the States (internet modem not working again, the sink leaking) feel like major hurdles when you don’t know where to go, how the system works, whom to talk to or how to explain the problem once you get there. We’ve had to be very brave to accomplish the simplest things.

I am especially proud of Eva (8) and Aleta (almost 5). The first weeks of school last October were quite daunting. Luckily they each had a wonderful teacher. Eva, having attended two years of Spanish-immersion school in Arcata, went from “Worst day of my life” to “Can I go full day? I want to stay with my friends” in about a month. It wasn’t so easy for Aleta, in a loud and cramped preschool/Kindergarten class, to make sense of what was going on around her or to be understood by them. It helps that people here are so affectionate – teachers give kisses, call students ‘mi amor’ and everyone expects a hug in the morning.

Andy traveled to five regions in northern Nicaragua to sample water quality below coffee processing mills. Wastewater created by rinsing mucilage from coffee fruit to extract the beans is dumped directly into local streams. The wastewater can rot in the streams, acidifying it and taking out oxygen, making the water unusable by local communities. He’s currently presenting his findings at the Specialty Coffee Association of America conference to encourage coffee companies to support higher standards at coffee farms. It is hard for impoverished countries such as Nicaragua to implement watershed protection laws, so market pressure from within the coffee industry has a strong influence.

Andy’s also been looking at groundwater and surface water in a nearby agricultural valley. As with irrigated agriculture worldwide, the region is facing depletion of its aquifer and contamination from agricultural chemicals. Currently, ten times more water is drawn from the aquifer than enters it from rainfall each year. He and colleagues are assessing water quality in wells and rivers across the valley.

Danielle Stubblefield

This story will be completed in the next issue. Editor

Directory additions and changes

You may pick up a list of the latest directory additions and changes in the foyer or on the front patio.

Awanna Kalal



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Anna Mae Botley
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Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas
Calendar Editor Shay Mackay

To Kansas

Push off from the past,
its disarray behind you,
your self that dares too little swept away.
May your yellow brick journey last long,
be full of exploits, full of learning.
Though battered by winds and
travelling in a pair of borrowed shoes,
do not be frightened by wicked witches
or flying monkeys.
They appear only when your own fear
ferries them, when your trembling
spirit is ready for its next transformation.
May shimmering mornings be many
when warmth and gales of laughter,
rock you on porches wherever you venture.
With shining eyes and quickened pace,
may you arrive in Munchkin meadows,
meet extraordinary friends,

new folks too.
discover dripping combs of fragrant honey,
and be undaunted even by a roaring lion.
May you wake into each morning trusting,
find wizardry in far-flung cities,
overcome dangers singed with crimson.
May the journey take its time,
last long as your metamorphosis,
until you return, wearing the changes of your travels.
May you not be disappointed
though you find no emeralds here.
Kansas has blessed you,
given you the journey.
Without it, you would never
have clicked your unknowing heels,
set forth on this passage,
learned what you had in you
all along.

Pat McCutcheon