

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



May 2014

## A Note from Bryan

Why do we come to a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and with our diverse religious approaches, how do we ever organize ourselves to be effective? The nuances as to “why” we come vary, of course; but in our diversity we choose to be Unitarian Universalists and we are held together by our Principles.

Based on those Principles there are three very broad reasons we form fellowships: We do so to grow our humanity, to embody justice in the world and to create a supportive community as we grow the human spirit and encourage social justice.

To be effective as an organization, we have to know what we’re about. One way to clarify that is to ask what values, mission and ends we serve. And according to the UU Principles, our HUUF Covenant and Aspiration our values focus on love, truth, service, freedom, fellowship and peace.

Our mission as a fellowship is to create a thoughtful, diverse Unitarian Universalist community that supports people in their efforts to embody beauty, truth and love in their own lives and to promote peace, justice and harmony on earth.

Our “ends” (or what we hope to create together) are:

·Members and friends of all ages who embody wisdom and compassion and who develop their spiri-

## Call to special Congregational Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend this special congregational meeting **May 18** after Sunday Services to consider matters vital to our Fellowship’s future:

1. Budget. We will consider our sources of income, including this year’s canvass results, building use income, return on investment, use of reserve funds, Sunday collections and fundraising events. We will then prioritize the items in the proposed budgets and adopt a final budget for our fiscal year 2014-15.

2. Values, Mission and Ends. Your minister and Board of Trustees has been distilling our Covenant (found in the directory) and our Aspiration (recited at Sunday services) into a statement of our Values, Mission and Ends. [see Bryan Jessup’s article in this newsletter.] The Board is asking the congregation to give its blessing to use these statements as instruments to guide and measure the work of the Fellowship.

*Richard Kossow*



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## People

We welcome our newest members **Rochelle Frankel** and **Allison O'Dowd**.

**Kinara Erickson** is confined to bed and would like visitors who call first and preferably come bearing vegan goodies. German speakers are encouraged to practice their German with her.

**Roxanna Hand** is progressing well with movement of her left leg and arm/hand under the watchful eye of the physical therapy staff at Eureka Rehabilitation across the street from the Senior Wood Project in Eureka. She is excited about securing an Arcata apartment in May close to a daughter.

**Richard Stanewick** thanks those who have inquired about him. He feels as well as he can hope for under puzzling circumstances. He does not hurt; but energy is low, and there is not much he can actually do. So he lies a bit and works on things in his head.

Best wishes to **Marilyn Gurnee** who was recently in St. Joseph Hospital for pancreatitis and gall bladder surgery.

Congratulations to **Navarra Carr** who is graduating from Sacramento State University this month.

We are pleased that cataract surgery went well for **Anne Weiss** and that her recovery continues smoothly.

**Marion Kofford** died in April and a memorial will be held at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville, date unknown at this time. Marion has not attended the Fellowship for several years but was very active in the past with RE. Cards can be sent to her daughter, Judi, at 2208 Palomino Lane, Arcata 95521.

**Eddie Watson** is doing fine but would love more visitors. Please call first.

*Sylvia Shaw*

## Caring Circle mixer

The Caring Circle is calling all of you radicals and rascals to help celebrate a belated International Workers Day on **May 6** at the Fellowship, 2 - 3 p.m. We will reminisce the political struggles of our lifetime in song, eats and company. Who knows, we might even light the fires for another round! Call the HUUF office if we can help you with transportation.

*Sylvia Shaw*  
for the Caring Circle

## It's still Halloween Festival planning time

We invite you to be a part of this wonderful event. There are many ways to help out: skit writing, skit acting, cup-cake making, guiding-lighting, craft making, set-up, clean-up, and much more.

Whatever it is that piques your interest, even if you're not sure yet what you would like to do, you can talk to Sandy Lynn, Judy Rishel, Berti Welty or Katherine Almy and let us know that you would like to join in. You can also contact me at [sandy5527@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandy5527@sbcglobal.net) or 499-1131 (talk/text).

*Sandy Lynn*

## Congregational information session

Sunday, **May 4**, after service, we'll have another information session about the Board and minister using a Mission Based approach to guide our efforts as a fellowship. Come with your wisdom, your enthusiasm and your questions.

*Bryan Jessup*

## Marianne is 90!

Please join us for Marianne Pennekamp's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday open house on Saturday, **May 10**, 2 - 5 p.m. at the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Cake cutting at 3:15. Please, no gifts.

*Bryan Jessup*



## Miss a good one?

Did you know that Bryan's sermons are available on HUUF's website? You can find them archived at [huuf.org](http://huuf.org) under Sunday Services.

*Communications Committee*

## Artful HUUF

The exhibit on the walls for May is "With pencil, paint, glue, stuff, and friends we explore UU Principles." This year the project for the Religious Education art day was to create a self portrait using oil pastel and watercolors then decorate a frame to display the portrait. Discussion before and during the process was about how each of us is special and unique yet as human beings we share basic needs like food, clothing and a place to live. As Unitarian Universalists we are committed to working toward a world in which each person has these needs met. And we want to create a world where each person can have the opportunity to strive toward a life that allows one dreams, a life that allows for education, fun and beauty.

*Cheryl Rau*

## Electrifying

Bryan Jessup wrote last month of connecting with someone who had stopped by to plug into our Electric Vehicle Charging Station and found an opportunity to share with Bryan her positive impressions of how Fellowship folks bring good energy to their various community endeavors.

Bryan's article reminded me of when we mounted and wired our 30 photovoltaic panels. We volunteers were directed by solar-power whiz Roger. At that time, we chose to also install the Electric Vehicle Charging Station as a way of advocating clean and renewable energy, encouraging conversion to electric-powered vehicles, and sharing our bounty with the larger community.

I remember imagining a banner on the roof to proclaim our solar power and offer EV charging to passers-by. We may never have such a banner, but I am glad to know that our EV station is making positive connections.

*Chip Sharpe*

## Lifelines group discussions

*"When we walk toward our pain, not away from it, we walk hand in hand with others, hesitant sometimes but no longer fearful, for love is strong, strong enough to cast fear from our hearts."*

*~ Rev. Forrest Church*

Join me and other HUUF folks for a series of small group discussions exploring our individual and collective lifelines. Together, we will begin to discover the many ways in which awareness can draw us deeper into the connections that make life worth living.

The first three group meetings will take place on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the following dates:

May 3 ~ Introduction to Lifelines

May 17 ~ Opening the Lifelines to Our Hearts, Part I

May 31 ~ Opening the Lifelines to Our Hearts, Part II

Please contact me if you have questions or would like more info at email: [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org).

*Shay MacKay*

## Newsletter survey

The recent survey of congregant's opinions toward the newsletter showed a positive attitude. Participants in the recent newsletter poll rated it 4.63 out of a possible 5 as an important information source. We received a number of good suggestions, some of which you'll find initiated in this newsletter. Overwhelmingly members would like to see more info about other members. Several people requested additional material in the newsletter, such as pictures and bios of new members; features on different people; celebrations and joys; an historical column; inspirational pieces; a teen column; articles about unsung committees and people; book reviews by members; and creative writing by members. The editor would be delighted to have such articles, but a big caveat is that all of this requires input from members of the congregation. Joy is the editor; you members are the reporters. Poets and writers, start polishing your work to contribute to an upcoming Fellowship anthology.

*Communications Committee*

## SAC brunch

We celebrate the diversity of salad this month. Vegetable salad, fruit salad, tofu salad, potato salad, tuna salad and whatever other kinds of salad 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 some varieties of scrumptious dessert.

Join us for enjoyable food and community, following service on the third Sunday, **May 18**. Please allow 10 – 15 minutes for food to be brought from the kitchen and arranged on the table.

Recommended donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child.

Proceeds from this brunch will go to the Tri-County Living Center.

*Eve Anderson*

## New web page

You can look at the current newsletter or previous ones on the Communication Committee's new web page to be found at [huuf.org](http://huuf.org). Help with event publicity is also available there in the form of HUUF's Media Form and sample Media Form submission. From the Communication Committee's new site you can also access our Facebook page.

*Pat McCutcheon*

## Thursday Reflections

Thursday Reflections meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Main Hall. Thursday Reflections offers a time to center, meditate, come together around a life question and open our hearts in gratitude to the universe. This is an open group. Come!

*Bryan Jessup*

## Note from Bryan, continued

tual, rational, emotional and aesthetic natures.

·A cooperative, open, diverse, supportive religious community.

·And increased peace, justice and respect for the interdependent web of life in our own lives and in the world.

The famous philosopher Yogi Berra says: "If we don't know where we're going, we probably won't get there." That's why, from time to time, religious congregation and their Boards need to ask again: "Now - what are our values? What is our mission? What ends do we hope to achieve?"

The values, mission and ends listed above are your Board's and my response to those questions as we work to help our Fellowship become even more effective in its service to individual people and the world. On **May 4** after service, we'll have a congregational information session about "Mission Based" organization. And on **May 18** the Board invites you all to a congregational meeting to seek your blessing in continuing to develop this "Mission Based" approach.

Yours in the journey,

*Bryan Jessup*

## Memorial Day

Last year, some of us brought flowers and met in the Memorial Garden on Memorial Day at 11:00 to remember not only those dear ones from HUUF, but memories of others who have died. You are invited to bring flowers and join us for this informal gathering.

*Awanna Kalal*

## Aging with Good Company

Aging with Good Company will gather following the service on **May 11** in the Sanctuary at 12:30. We will hear the stories of a couple of Fellowship members who are traveling the aging road and will share resources with us. There will be time for participants to make their own requests for assistance and questions about being elders. Volunteers and information will be sought for follow-up on suggested side projects such as a directory of elder-friendly businesses and professionals and getting intergenerational interaction in our lives. You are encouraged to brown bag or bring food to share. Call Nancy Engel, 839-5789 or Sylvia Shaw, 599-1563, for a ride or questions.

*Sylvia Shaw*

## Financial advice sought

The Fellowship has had three investment accounts for some time. However, at present, we do not have anybody who really understands about investment funds to review these accounts. If you are knowledgeable in this area, and are looking for a way to contribute your time and talent to the Fellowship, this might be a great opportunity for you and a great help to us. The Finance Committee would really like to have someone on the team who can take the investment funds under their wing and monitor them more closely. If you would be interested in this, please contact Dave Harris (725-9043, [harris2761@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harris2761@sbcglobal.net)) or Katherine Almy (839-3406, [kath.almy@gmail.com](mailto:kath.almy@gmail.com)).

## Religious Education



**May 4.** Preschool: We are Unitarian Universalists. What does that mean? We will explore what that means to us through dance, story and art.

K-2: From our Free to Believe Curriculum we will focus on our fourth and fifth UU principles. We learned about Thomas Jefferson last time and will learn about Susan B Anthony this time. How are these two similar and what have they done for our world?

3-5: We will work on our reader's theatre program for our Milestone Ceremony. Come share your ideas and pick a way to contribute.

Intermediate: We will have our guest visitor talk about their experience with another spiritual practice/religion.

**May 11:** Mother's Day. All Worship

Did you know a Unitarian started Mother's Day? Come find out what its true beginning was and why it's important to remember it. We will practice a litany and bring some coins to contribute to our generosity of spirit basket. We will plant sacred seeds of gratitude to watch grow and remind us of why we are grateful for those in our life who nurture us.

**May 18:** All classes will prepare for our Milestone celebration June 1. Come practice your part, make decoration or finish projects.

**May 25:** Friendship Sunday. All ages together to make crafts and play games.

*Jillian Mooney*

## Deadline info

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

Please send crisp, clear graphics as a separate file, not embedded in your article.

*Joy Thomas, editor*



## Seder thanks

Forty-four people came together Friday evening April 18 for the HUUF Family Seder. It was a wonderful group effort. Jana Kirk-Levine got the ball rolling by suggesting the seder. Then she, Lillith and Asher worked wonders to help prepare on Friday afternoon. Fry Woolhandler provided invaluable background information plus Hebrew for the ceremony. Jan Rowan, Sylvia Shaw, Chip Sharpe and many others pitched in for the classic HUUF “spontaneous community clean up;” and everyone in attendance brought great energy and delicious, appropriate food to share. Vladimir Zagatsky (Jewish Cantor from San Francisco) led the singing. Chip Sharpe dealt with Coyote who appeared in the form of a clogged, overflowing toilet in the women’s rest room. It wasn’t quite the parting of the waters like Moses at the Red Sea, but no one was seriously injured and the people made it through the seder. Dayenu!

*Bryan Jessup*

## My experience at a Teen Con, part one

In February I had the privilege of spending a weekend as an adult advisor to a UU teen conference (or “Con” as they are called).

The YRUU Teen Cons are for teens from age 14 to 20, and are put on four times a year as weekend events, plus a week-long summer camp in July (called WUUKY).

Tomas Shermer and Justin Knapp (two of our HUUF teens) came with me, and Trevor and Casey (my 19-year-old twins) were there as well, so I had familiar company to help ease my way through my first Con experience.

I went with some idea of what to expect since Trevor and Casey have told me about their Cons and WUUKYs for the last five years. My own experience was everything I expected, and more. (And in a good way!)

These events are completely organized and led by the teens, from registration to final clean-up. As an adult advisor it was made clear to me that I was *not a supervisor*. The adults were there to help with any emergencies, but not there to enforce rules or to be in any leadership role. I felt a bit like a lifeguard at a swimming pool in that there was probably not going to be any need for me to actually do anything; but there I was, just in case. I could participate in any and all Con activities (as a participant, *not a supervisor*; of course), to whatever extent that I wished, and I was encouraged to do so.

I watched with growing admiration as I saw the kitchen group (who had been out shopping for food) set up their space, the registrars set up their table and start taking registration forms and fees, then later the “deans” (the two over-all leaders of the Con) started the orientation. The various “YELLERS” (there are all sorts of creative acronyms. This one is “Youth Empowered Lay Leader”; coordinator roles for the Con) were introduced, and the schedule for the weekend was posted. The basic structure includes meals, workshops, workshops and touch groups.

The name is short for “In-touch Group” as in keeping-in-touch. Since the Cons have over one-hundred participants, the smaller touch groups (ten to fifteen people) are designed to help everyone have a more personal experience and to have a place to check in. The touch groups usually met after each meal, and usually involved some sort of communications type game or theater game. If you were ever part of a rap group or sensitivity group in the 70s, you know what I’m talking about. Some of the games are fun and light, and some go deeper and can be intense. I found that the people in my touch group were very open. All that is said in a touch group is confidential. I’ve known since I was a teen that it is very special, and important, for teens to have a supportive adult in their lives that is not their parent. At this Con I realize that it is also very special for the adult.

The overall feeling, for the touch group as well as the Con as a whole, was one of great moral support and emotional growth. Everyone was supportive! And so UU!

There is much more to tell that I will have to save “Part Two” for next time. And perhaps we can hear from Justin and Tomas as well. There will be even more to add, since we are all going to the next Con in May.

*Sandy Lynn*



# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Kim Moor

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Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

Calendar Editor Shay Mackay

## New member bios

I am thankful for having lived a full rich life. My children are doing well in their chosen professions, well educated and in charge of their lives. I have been a teacher for 42 years, elementary through adult education. My life now is "get to" instead of "got to." My student body now is just me.

*Andy Anderson*

I began attending this fellowship two years ago when I moved here from Michigan to be near my daughter and her husband, and to help out with a new grandchild, Benjamin. It was not easy to leave the UU church of Flint and many good

friends, as well as two sisters and their families. I am the mother of four and grandmother of five. My children and grandchildren live in Michigan, Chicago and New Orleans as well as Arcata. I know this family situation is shared by many of us.

I am a retired landscape architect and find my new landscape very interesting. Lately I have been helping Barbara Barratt and others map out our memorial garden and am in the process of creating a visual record of existing plants and memorials. It has also been rewarding to volunteer at the Humboldt Botanical Native Plant Garden and with the California Native Plant Society. I am interested in exploring more and dif-

ferent kinds of volunteer opportunities.

I like to read, hike, take fitness classes, practice yoga, sing in the choir and am learning to dance. I really enjoy the activities and people of this fellowship and I am very happy to be a member of such a warm and interesting community.

*Virginia Chatfield*

