

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Swan song

June 2010

As I approach my last Board of Trustees meeting, I start to reflect on what these two years have meant to me. It has been a mixed bag. Making sense of who we are and how we will work together to represent this fellowship is daunting, but each meeting provides us with a bit more of this understanding and always generates new ways to work together.

During the first year we prepared for the Future Forum as well as handled all the regular issues. When we actually held the Future Forum, the starting spot for our next five years, a lot of information had to be tallied and sorted to have manageable goals. Then we studied to decide how to reach those goals.

We had a consultant help us visualize these goals to make them more real. We asked the fellowship for help to work these goals and visions into concrete steps. We asked for help to fill empty spots on committees and staff and you came through. You came through again and again.

Now, as I leave the board, pieces are coming together, paths are being formed, next steps are closer. The new board will have to hit the ground running to stay with it.

Actually that should be the motto of each new board: “We hit the ground running.”

I will miss the special involvement of being a Board Trustee and look forward to my next challenge in continuing to be an active member of this congregation.

Roxanna Hand

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Pledge progress

As of May 20, our Time, Talent and Treasure annual pledge drive has \$101,000 in pledges, with 40 members still not heard from about their pledge decision.

If you're a still “unpledged” member or friend with questions or you want help with your decision, call me at 825-7674 to discuss—in person if you wish—what to consider in making your decision. Remember that pledges can be paid in installments to fit your budget, and that your pledge, although important to our success, can be changed if changed circumstances require.

Your and others' pledge decisions determine what things we accomplish, especially exciting things beyond our basic programs and services. So if you have already pledged, thank you for your pledge. And if you're still unpledged, remember, as you decide, that our financial and volunteering support are what make our Fellowship dreams come true.

Jeff Knapp, for the Canvass Committee

People

Selma Sonntag died May 10. A memorial was held at the Fellowship on May 22. Selma's warmth and good humor will be missed.

June and Bill Thompson mark their 40th anniversary on June 30. They are not up for celebrating—just grateful for their years together.

June Davis is on a long solo car trip to be present at her new granddaughter's birth. Dave is flying to meet her.

Jean Wagner is exhausted from hard work while at St Joseph's Rehab recovering from a stroke. Visits are on hold, but cards are very welcome.

Jessica Knapp is thrilled to be going to Mills College. Her parents are very appreciative of the scholarships that she received.

Navarra Carr is graduating from North Coast Preparatory Academy and will attend Sacramento State. Congrats.

I would have never guessed it...**Beverly Allen** has celebrated her 80th birthday.

Ann Hunt had surgery on her arm. As a result, she's wearing down shoes faster than ever because she walks everywhere she needs to go.

Karen Knapp



Arizona SB1070

The UUA Board of Trustees has made a Resolution on Phoenix General Assembly 2012:

“Whereas the state of Arizona has recently enacted a law—SB 1070—that runs counter to our first principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person,

Whereas the Association stands in solidarity with allies using a widespread economic boycott of Arizona as leverage for Love against this hateful legislation;

Be it resolved: we will not meet in a state of fear.

Accordingly, the Assembly hereby:

*Directs the UUA General Assembly Planning Committee to recommend to the Board of Trustees an alternate location for General Assembly 2012 at a location outside the state of Arizona;

* Pledges to generate from Member Congregations the amount sufficient to cancel arrangements in Phoenix for GA 2012;

* Pledges further to generate an equal or greater amount to fund ongoing efforts to Stand on the Side of Love in Arizona.

* Pledges to renew and redouble our efforts to become a multicultural, anti-racist Association; to live as a people standing faithfully in opposition to systemic racism in our congregations, local communities, and in our own lives.”

Ed Uyeki

Daylighters: How I became a UU

Former Methodists, Catholics, a Sophist, and Episcopalians joined in telling about their journeys into the UU fold at the May Daylighters meeting. The tales were dramatic for some, but none too traumatic. On our next regular meeting, **June 8**, 1:30 p.m., at the Fellowship, we will tell about our hobbies or what brings passion into our everyday lives. All are invited to an afternoon providing friendship and good conversation.

Anna Mae Botley

Deadline Sunday, June 20

E-mail articles to me at jthomas3@csulb.edu. There will be no newsletter in August, so the July newsletter will cover activities in both July and August.

Joy Thomas

Council of Chairs meeting

A Council of Chairs meeting took place at the fellowship on Sunday, May 2, at 12:30. The following were in attendance:

Jeff Knapp, Canvass; **Archie Mossman**, Building and Use; **Scott Allen**, Stewardship; **Tracy Jordan French**, RE and Personnel; **Dave Harris**, Finance; **Joy Thomas**, newsletter; **Steve Sottong**, P&W; **Katherine Almy**, P&W; **Awanna Kalal**, Membership; **Elisabeth Harrington**, Music; **Cathy Enis**, Hospitality; **Ursula Osborne**, Social Action and **Greg Blomstrom**, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees.

The agenda included 1) Introductions, 2) Short description of committee goals and objectives for next year, 3) Comments on draft budget and 4) Suggestions for items for the board to consider next year at its retreat

Committee goals and objectives - Council members gave a short presentation on what their committees had done and what they planned to do in the coming year. Hospitality is intending to upgrade congregational social activities. Canvass needs additional members and a new chair for the canvass committee. RE committee is going well – however Jillian is looking for a new Teen director to replace the existing director who is joining the Peace Corps. Program and Worship is limping along with Steve and Katherine learning – Maureen is taking over for the summer. Program and Worship desperately needs facilitators.

Items for Board to Consider - Council members discussed items they want the board to consider at its June retreat. Items included the Membership Committee wanting to stay with two services due to space limitations. Building Use wants the board to consider whether they want to really ramp up building use for profit. Stewardship made a plea for a volunteer coordinator as the Saturday work parties have been sparsely attended. Steve Sottong made a plea for the Board to upgrade the sound system as the mikes are not working well, which is a frequent distraction during Sunday service. Membership pointed out building security issues.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Greg Blomstrom

H2W2 Task Force making great progress

No, it's not a new form of water created by HUUF committee, it's the How To Who Too Task Force (H2W2); and it's making great progress on the board's request to have an implementation plan to address our four big questions: 1) whom do we get for a minister; 2) how do we increase volunteerism; 3) how to we improve our financial situation to do all of the things we want to do; and 4) how or do we grow? The board requested that the Task Force members (Bonnie MacGregor, Berti Welty, Lisa Roberts, Phyllis Helligas, Nick Appelmans, Danielle Stubblefield, Valerie Gizinski, and Carl Thomas) complete their draft plan in time for the board to review at its June 11-12 retreat. The task force first met on March 26 and has met three times since as a committee of the whole. H2W2 has also created three subcommittees to work on each aspect of the plan, one subcommittee each on ministry, finances and volunteerism. Stay tuned to find out at least one vision for moving forward through improving our financial resources in order to do all of the things we've said we want to do, including having a HUUF minister, increasing volunteerism and growing our fellowship.

Greg Blomstrom

Religion for our time

The Unitarian Universalist Association has just released the fifth short video in the exciting new series, *A Religion for Our Time*. Episode Five, *Celebration Worship Service*, explores the creation of an alternative worship service at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC) in Tennessee. When several congregants realized that they yearned for a worship service with more music and interaction, they started working with the minister to create a "celebration service." They call it a work in progress.

Please view the five-minute video at <http://www.uua.org/multimedia/religion5>. *A Religion for Our Time* highlights inspiring work in Unitarian Universalist congregations, including innovative projects relating to worship, social justice, membership and fellowship. New episodes will be added every few weeks to this multimedia page: <http://www.uua.org/multimedia/religion/index.shtml>

Ed Uyeki

Newest members

Ingathering of new members was held on May 2. **Navarra Carr, Judy Rishel, Robin Blythe, Judith Barry, Marianne Pennekamp, Katherine Almy** and **Elisabeth Harrington** were recognized and honored. **Susan Brauner, Michael Chandler** and **Theresa Jennetti** were unable to attend. Co-President Maureen Lawlor presented each with a long-stemmed red rose. All were given the UU Primer. Each lit a candle. It was a joyful occasion. Photos of the newest members are displayed in the foyer and all have green name tags. Do seek them out and get acquainted.

Aiko Uyeki

Loleta project

At the end of April, Marianne Pennekamp, Ursula Osborne and Jack Munsee of the Social Action Committee met with Marina Cortez-Hash, Director of the Loleta Community Center; Gillian Sparrow, Director of the Loleta Food Pantry; and Tim Huffman, pastor of the Loleta Community Church to discuss how SAC can help those in need of assistance in Loleta. We discussed the following items as ways that members and friends of HUUF can help:

1. taking people to appointments, etc.
2. delivering food to the Food Pantry.
3. helping distribute food at the pantry Thursday each week.
4. providing shoes, socks and pants for children.
5. providing fruit and snacks for parents of the children who are served lunches. Parents may not eat the children's food. If they did, they would not be eligible for the federal program in which they are participating. Program runs June 21 through August.
6. tutoring at the school.

SAC will discuss how to implement actions to assist these efforts. When we know how we are going to proceed, we will contact people who completed the Loleta Questionnaire to help with programs in which they indicated interest.

SAC received two contributions totaling \$1100 for the Loleta Project. We voted by email to use \$300 for shoes, socks and pants for children who need them and have forwarded a check to the Loleta Community Center for that purpose.

Everyone is invited to the June SAC meeting after the **June 6** service in the room beyond the restrooms where more discussion of this project will take place.

Jack Munsee

Religious Education



June 6 will mark Navarra Carr's Coming of Age Ceremony. This is a UU tradition signifying the entrance of our UU youth into adulthood. As Navarra leaves for Sacramento State this fall, she takes our UU values and her experience in this congregation growing up as a UU. She has completed a program with the help of Mentor/curriculum author, Beth Bray and will share her Credo with the help of the Teen group in this multigenerational event. Please come and share this experience with her, as we have all shared in her growing up as a UU in our congregation. Congratulations, Navarra!

It has been another wonderful year in Religious Education. We have had a wealth of dedicated teachers and the support of our congregation. We had successful fundraisers, both of money for Haiti and for socks for Betty Chin's program.

We will miss Cathy Morin's capable teaching. She always was planning wonderful activities and fun projects for our 3rd – 5th grade classroom. Thank you, Cathy, for the many years teaching our UU children. Judy Rishel replaces Cathy as the teacher in the Adventurers Room. She comes with many years' experience of teaching. She is a longtime UU and raised her children as UUs. She has co-taught with Cathy this year. Welcome, Judy.

Religious Education couldn't do all the things it does without the support of the RE Committee, the families and the rest of the congregation. This year, many new volunteers stepped up to help in RE and found it to be fun. We hope you will continue this tradition as our family members step out of "the back" and into new roles on the Board, in Program and Worship and many other places in the whole congregation.

We are one community. We saw this as our Family Ministry Nights grew from RE families to our Fellowship Family. We hope to continue these fun and joyous nights as multigenerational events. We had such fun with our holiday services with music and service together, we will create more of these for next year. Thank you to all who have taught, volunteered to bring food to the Night shelter, brought snacks, helped with All-Worship and Social Action Sundays and donated to our endeavors. You have had a part in mentoring our UU children.

Jillian Mooney

CLASSIFIED AD

Looking for someone attending UUA-GA this June, to deliver five books on first day, Wednesday, to UUA Bookstore after it opens, and to pick up unsold copies on Sunday, before it closes. Ursula 825-8995.

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