

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



June 2011

Annual pledge drive results

With 27 members yet to “Follow the Yellow Pledge Road” and make their pledges, on May 18 our annual pledge drive had \$106,299 in pledge commitments. Thanks to those who have pledged.

Our goal of \$125,000 is within our reach. If you’re among the 27 members still undecided, remember your pledge can be made in installments. And although your pledge is part of our most important source of funds, if circumstances later require you to change your pledge, you can do so. So please make your pledge now to support our wonderful religious education program, great music, wide variety of Sunday services and making your voice heard on peace, environmental protection, equality, freedom and justice.

Jeff Knapp
for the Canvass Committee

Summer services

Beginning June 5 we will hold single services every Sunday at 10 a.m. The summer season will run **June 5 through and including August 28.**

Please join us any chance you get this summer for our programs that are focused on being relaxing, informative and contemplative.

Maureen Lawlor

Board update

HUUF Board activity continues to be lively and engaged as we come close to the end of the current fiscal year. Greg recently facilitated a productive Council of Chairs meeting, JoAnn was a key organizer for the Fiesta de Mayo fundraiser, Beverly assists the ministerial search committee, Jeff has worked on changing our insurance carrier, Dave is focused on finances and Kim is attentive to the RE program. So there is no dead weight on the HUUF Board.

Incoming Board member Chip Sharpe has attended Board meetings to prepare for his transition, so we look forward to his future contributions to our work together. The Board approved Chip representing the Fellowship as a delegate to General Assembly this summer.

The Board Retreat takes place in June. We have a long list of topics to address including increased support for the Program and Worship Committee, strengthening the RE program and increasing volunteerism to name just a few.

Beverly reports that the Personnel Committee is working very hard to create job descriptions for all Fellowship positions, developing a good evaluation tool and updating the personnel manual. This is important to ensure continuity and fairness in our personnel practices.

Plans are well underway for the opening of the Alder Grove Charter

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School Kindergarten here at the Fellowship in the fall. So our lovely RE rooms will serve children throughout the week soon.

Wendy Rowan, Secretary

People

George Allen died on May 9 at the age of 87. He was one of the earliest members of HUUF as well as a creator of our well-loved and internationally recognized Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. A celebration of George's life will be held on Sunday, **July 17** from 2 to 4 pm at the Fellowship. Those who knew George already miss him.

Bonnie MacGregor and Cynthia Chason celebrated Cynthia's retirement in Kauai. Congratulations and aloha.

Stephen Sottong and Joy Thomas celebrated her 65th birthday with a cultural and gastronomic trip to Ashland.

Kinara is very tired from chemotherapy, but the doctors are happy that there has been no change. She will move to Arcata in June and would appreciate rides to the Fellowship on Sundays after that move.

Jessie Wheeler is progressing slowly but surely and finds it to be a test of her patience. If you desire to send her good wishes, she loves receiving contacts through <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jessiewheeler>.

Irith Shalmony adventured at Machu Pichu and the Galapagos. Those of us with wanderlust are envious.

Karen Knapp



Fiesta gracias

The Fiesta de Mayo, our Service Auction Fund Raiser was a huge success. We earned over \$6,000 and had a great time doing it. The items were intriguing, the food delicious and the Loleta Elementary School dancers superb. The sun warmed our patio so we could eat outside and enjoy the entertainment which included a demonstration by Beverly Morgan-Lewis and her agility corgis.

Thanks go to a hard working committee: Anna Mae Botley, Nancy Cook, Steve Sottong, Ginger Gardner, Marie Escher and Chip Sharpe.

Bob West, Chip Sharpe, Steve Botley and Carl Thomas set up the auction tables and food tables.

Food prep was done by Ilene Harris, Ginger Gardner, Nancy Engles, June Davis, Nancy Cook, Jean Munsee, Chuck Pierson, Jackie Wood, Anna Mae Botley, Debbie Harrison, Thea Gast, Ann King, JoAnn Howell, Ginger Gardner and Chip Sharpe. Susie Smelser prepared the children's taco bar.

Cantina keepers were Larry Holsen, Carl Thomas, Greg Blomstrom and Dave Harris.

Debbie Coggins and Maureen Lawlor organized the Mercado.

Bob Billstrom and Cheryl Furman sold raffle tickets.

Pinata makers were Judy Rishel's 3rd-5th grade RE Class. Auctioneer was Mack Owen. Cashiers were Kathy Dillon, Dave Harris and Shay MacKay. Totaling the auction bids were Barbara Barratt, Nancy Cook, AnnaMae Botley, Kathy Layton and JoAnn Howell.

Many, many volunteers cleaned up late into the night.

Special thanks to Marie Escher and Kathy Dillon for the publicity, and to all of you who supported this year's auction with your donations and purchases. Gracias, my friends.

JoAnn Thomas



June 4, 8:00 p.m.

Please join us for the Fellowship's fundraiser performance of *The Government Inspector* at The North Coast Repertory Theatre in Eureka.

Tickets are \$20 each and will be on sale after the 11:00 a.m. service. We need to sell all these tickets in order to fulfill our commitment to the theatre - don't miss out on this very funny play and yummy reception.

If you are not going to attend Sunday services and would like to reserve a ticket, please contact me at 442-3390.

JoAnn Howell

Celebration of life

Please come celebrate the life of Betty Segal with her friends and family on Saturday, **July 16**. The celebration will be at the Fellowship from 2 - 5 pm. Call me at 822-7130 with any questions.

Mara Segal

Ingathering Ceremony

On May 15, Chip Sharpe conducted the Ingathering Ceremony to welcome our newest members, **Cedric Seaman, Ouida Cooper-Rodriguez, Ruth Needham, and Nancy Engel**. In keeping with our commitment to a more healthful environment, we used beeswax candles.

Awanna Kalal

UU assessment visit June 3-5

The dates for the UUA Assessment visit has changed to **June 3 to 5**, a better weekend for attendance and giving more time for preparation.

Watch for a message about which meetings will be open to all members. This is your opportunity to talk to an experienced financial expert from the UUA, who will review our finances and planning and suggest improvements. For more information, contact me at headhunter1942@gmail.com.

Jeff Knapp for the Board

Flowers at HUUF?

Responsibility for bringing flowers to HUUF has not yet been claimed for June 19 and 26 while I am taking an Amtrak trip across the country. Please call me if, on those Sundays, you would like to bring flowers for the niche and the main hall to visually enhance the worship.

Ursula Osborne

Gracias otra vez

At the May 14 fundraiser, our Mercado made just under \$1,000.

Together we made it happen with your donations, your assistance in setting up and in pricing items and of course, your encouragement.

We had a country store with kitchen items, toys, sweaters, artwork and much more. There are many ways to express appreciation and we would say "Gracias" one more time.

*Debbie Coggins
and Maureen Lawlor*

Council of Chairs squeaks

The HUUF council of chairs meeting took place May 4. I will try to repeat the impassioned discussion, with apologies to the committee members whose hard work and concerns I may mischaracterize. About 13 people attended, representing ten of HUUF's 28 committees.

Ursula Osborne and Jack Munsee from the Social Action Committee made a strong case that both the Loleta Connection and the All Faith Partnership donations that have been administered by and funded by the Social Action Committee should instead be projects of the entire congregation. As such, Social Action believes that these projects should have their own budget lines and funding separate from Social Action. Jack also made a plea not to cut the Social Action Committee budget in this time when social conservatives have forced government to cut programs for the neediest of our fellow citizens. As Vice President of the board of trustees, I agreed to bring the matter to the Board at its retreat on June 24 and 25.

Joy Thomas, our single-person newsletter committee, made an impassioned plea to return the newsletter to hard copy mailed every month, except for those who would prefer that it be emailed to them. Joy made quite a case that many people don't read the email newsletter. Her plea did not fall on deaf ears, as many attendees agreed that we need to return to mailed copies of the newsletter. In addition, the board of trustees has also discussed the issue and with Joy's concern ringing loudly in our collective ears, will discuss a return to mailed newsletters (and other communication issues) at our Board retreat.

Steve Sottong also made a plea for additional help on the Program

and Worship committee as he said that burnout is rapidly approaching for the committee members of this important program. Most of us at the Council of Chairs meeting agreed that the work of the Program and Worship committee is perhaps the most important work being done by Fellowship members since it, along with the RE committee, is responsible for the vast majority of our Sunday program. Come on people, we don't want to default to a series of Sunday's where we sit cross-legged on the floor and sing *Kumbaya* as our Sunday service. Step up to the plate, join P&W, and help out Steve, Katherine and our Fellowship. Again, this is something that the Board will discuss at its retreat.

Quite a number of other issues were also discussed, including recent changes in our insurance policy that are going to increase the number of people who will need to have fingerprints and security clearances if they intend to interact with our RE kids. This is quite controversial and is being discussed by the board.

A copy of the full set of minutes of the Council of Chairs meeting is posted on the wall near where minutes of board of trustees meetings are posted. People attending the Council of Chairs meeting included: Jack Munsee, Jean Munsee, Awanna Kalal, Joy Thomas, Steve Sottong, Ursula Osborne, Nancy Cook, Archie Mossman, Scott Allen, Susan Allen, Jan Rowen, Erica Alston, and Wendy Rowan. Thank you everyone who attended.

Greg Blomstrom, Vice President
HUUF Board of Trustees



General Assembly

June 22-26,
Charlotte, North
Carolina



General Assembly (GA) in Charlotte will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America.

◆ Join thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the country as we remember the persons and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in May, 1961, to reflect on our denomination's relevant achievements and struggles and to chart new aspirations for the future we are determined to shape.

◆ Experience wonderful and uplifting worship services—morning and night—led by some of our best worship leaders, with glorious music and inspiring messages.

◆ Participate in our democratic process. GA is the way that our faith does business, bringing together the distinctive character of our individual congregations.

◆ Hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of dynamic, entertaining programs and informative workshops.

◆ Connect with craftspeople and artisans, social action groups, professional and educational resources, theological schools, UUA organizations and staff, Beacon Press and the UUA Bookstore in the General Assembly Exhibit Hall.

◆ Network with other congregation leaders, share best practices and learn from one another. Return to your congregation reinvigorated and inspired to put your values to work.

◆ Witness for our faith in moving and exciting ways as we look forward to and prepare for a special "Justice" General Assembly in Phoenix in 2012.

UUA GA and Conference Services professional staff coordinate logistics such as registration, housing, the exhibit hall, services to our attendees prior to GA and the GA Program. Contact General Assembly & Conference Services Office Staff.

The GA Planning Committee selects the site for each GA, sets the daily schedule and determines which organizations affiliated with the UUA may present program material. In addition, the committee oversees the annual Ware Lecture, Opening Events, music, ambiance, and evening activities. Contact members of the Planning Committee.

Ed Uyeki

Kitchen Witches

A benefit for Humboldt Mediation Services, Saturday, **July 30**, 8:00 p.m. North Coast Repertory Theater, 300 Fifth Street, Eureka.

Join us for this entertaining comedic play that follows the trials and tribulations of Isobel Lomax and Dolly Biddle, two mature cable-access cooking show hostesses who have hated each other for thirty years. When circumstances force the rivals to co-host a new show called *The Kitchen Witches* the insults are flung harder than the food. Foodie puns, sabotage, and slapstick humor abound in this critically acclaimed play by Caroline Smith.

Proceeds from ticket sales go to Humboldt Mediation Services, a community-based, non-governmental, non-profit organization of volunteers which has served the Humboldt County community for 28 years, providing peaceful alternative conflict resolution services and training.

Tickets available now: \$20 each, two for \$35, three for \$50. Available through our volunteers, on our website, or at our office at 517 Third Street, Suite 3, Eureka.

I'm eager to sell you tickets and join you at NCRT for drinks, munchies and hilarity. Give me a call at 599-6009 or email to arrange delivery of your tickets.

Chip Sharpe





Summer camping trip for all ages

Do you enjoy camping? Would you like to get to know your Fellowship members even better by sharing an outdoor experience on the banks of the Eel River this summer? The Religious Education Committee has reserved a group campsite at Williams Grove (near Myers Flat) for Saturday, **July 16**; and we welcome Fellowship members of all ages to join. The RE Committee is sponsoring the group site rental and will share ‘smores around the campfire. Please bring food for yourself and family and the usual gear for camping, including tents, sleeping bags, cooking and eating utensils, stoves, etc. Please bring musical instruments and firewood, too, because we will have a traditional sing-along around the campfire. On Sunday morning, we hope to provide an outdoor lay-led Sunday service, so we encourage you to bring inspirational poetry, readings and songs to share. Check in is 2 p.m. on Saturday and check-out is noon on Sunday. More details to follow. Don’t forget your swimsuit.

Irma Lagomarsino

Goodbye hello

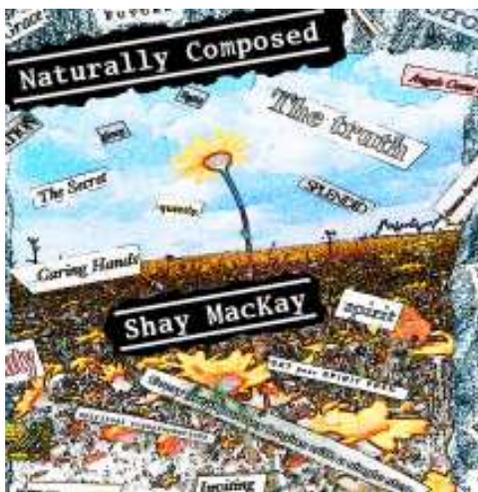
We say goodbye to Clara Arndt who has been our Childcare Coordinator. Thank you for your service and gentle nature with our youngest and newest UUs. She plans to enjoy more time in our services and her son, Quin, has begun to try out our preschool room.

Our Summer Childcare Coordinator is Jovanah Hoboo, usually known as our Preschool Teacher. Thank you for taking the reins during our summer program, as we will continue to provide childcare for all ages. Welcome!

Thanks to all the folks who made our Annual Milestone celebration happen. Teachers, parents, committee members and all of you who help in RE and contribute to our program.

Congratulations to Kai Neander as you graduate and move on to college. We know you will take our UU values and good wishes with you as you take a new path in your life. May it always lead you back here to share with us all the wonderful things you will do for this world.

Jillian Mooney



Book review

Food Rebels, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cookin’ Mamas. The rapidly growing alternative food system is made up of people reclaiming their connections to their food and their health. A 40-year veteran of this movement, Mark Winne introduces us to innovative “local doers” leading the charge to bring nutritious, sustainable and affordable food to all. Heeding Emerson’s call to embrace self-reliance, these leaders in communities all across the country defy the authority of the food conglomerates and take matters into their own hands. They turn urban wastelands into farms, create local dairy collectives, preserve farmland, and refuse to use genetically modified seed.

Food Rebels, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cookin’ Mamas challenges us to go beyond eating local to become part of a larger solution, demanding a system that sustains body and soul.

UUA Bookstore

Naturally composed

With her debut album *Naturally Composed*, pianist and composer Shay MacKay offers the world of listeners a collection of poignant solo piano and emotive instrumental orchestrations. Perfect for those meditative and introspective moments, let Shay’s music caress the senses and stir the soul. As an independent artist, Shay has poured her gift and love of music into every note and sustain. Whether you download your music or prefer cds, watch for it on CD Baby, iTunes, Amazon and other online retailers on **June 1**. Please visit www.shaymackay.com for more information and updates. Happy listening.

Shay MacKay

Transforming power

Creative nonviolence transforms our lives and our world by unleashing our capacity for connection, compassion, and cooperation.

Creative nonviolence can help us discover: nonviolent options in the face of the conflicts and challenges we deal with every day; tools for nurturing peaceful relationship and tapping healing power in our lives; and ways to mend the broken circles in our communities and in our larger world.

Through this *organized love* creative nonviolence can:

- Break the cycle of violence
- Free ourselves and others from destructive fear
- Struggle actively for change
- Create a more even playing field
- Celebrate differences while affirming the interdependence of all beings, and
- Discover constructive and sustainable ways of life.

Creative nonviolence is a global legacy of every human being. It has been cultivated by communities throughout the world that have faced enormous oppression and violence. Over the last century, this nonviolent power has been used to challenge violence and injustice in India, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Chile, Argentina, Ukraine, Serbia, and the former Soviet Union.

In the United States, nonviolent movements have sparked several meaningful historical social transformations, including women's suffrage, the eight hour work day, ending legal racial segregation, environmental protection, stopping the Vietnam War, nuclear testing, and championing a wide spectrum of human and civil rights.

Throughout the world, people from all walks of life have unleashed creative nonviolence to work for the survival and dignity of all.

Violence is any personal, interpersonal, institutional or systemic act, attitude or policy that dehumanizes, diminishes or destroys. It thrives by passive or active support.

Creative nonviolence actively withdraws consent from violence and breaks the cycle of retaliation. It creates the conditions for a way that is neither violent nor passive — a way that is more human and effective.

It does this by unleashing a different form of power.

Power is the capacity to bring about change. Economist and peace researcher Kenneth Boulding writes that there are three kinds of power: coercive

power; exchange power; and integrative power. Building on Boulding's thought, Professor Michael Nagler highlights the impact of each:

- Coercive power, which operates by threat, leaves those involved more separated and estranged.
- Exchange power, where one item is traded for another item of equal value, has a neutral impact — it leaves the qualitative relationship between the buyer and the seller unchanged.
- Integrative, collaborative or unifying power — the power of creative nonviolence — draws the parties closer together.

Violence distances us; creative nonviolence brings us closer together. This is possible because, at our very foundations, we are already connected, united, "integrated." As science is revealing in new ways every day, the interconnectedness of all being — the unity and oneness of all life — is a reality. Violence, including injustice and many forms of destructiveness, tears at this web of reality, while creative nonviolence is geared toward rediscovering and strengthening this unity.

Love is the heart of creative nonviolence. This organized love includes loving our opponent. In this context love is a process that acknowledges, safeguards and engages with the humanness, woundedness, and sacredness of the other, while actively challenging and resisting her or his violence and injustice.

Creative nonviolence is a core human value that unifies rather than threatens; integrates rather than fragments and destroys; and transforms rather than tears apart. It is rooted in the depths of our being that make alternatives to cruelty and injustice possible at all: love, compassion, hope, possibility, self-transcendence. These powerful forces draw us to our inmost, elemental foundations, even as they urge us to change the world.

From <http://paceebene.org/nonviolent-change-101/power-nonviolent-change/transforming-power>

It's all about the green thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not



Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire rank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But that old lady is right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Jim Knowles

San Leandro Times

No, it's all about me

When you send an article to the newsletter, please please please make sure that you are sending it to me, Joy Thomas, and not to Board member JoAnn Thomas (no relation). One article this month almost did not make it to the newsletter because it was inadvertently sent to JoAnn, who, as a Board member, naturally assumed it was for her. And I myself have gotten some Board business intended for JoAnn. If you have both JoAnn and me in your email address book, please take two seconds to confirm that the person who needs the message is one who will get it. My email is the funny-looking one with the .edu at the end.

Thanks.

Joy Thomas, editor

Next deadline: Monday, June 20

The next issue of the newsletter will include activities for both July and August. No newsletter is published in August. Please e-mail articles to jthomas3@csulb.edu. Print and .pdf items cannot be accepted. If you need a copy of the newsletter guidelines, contact me.

Joy Thomas, editor



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way (off Jacoby Creek Road)
(707) 822-3793
www.huuf.org
e-mail: office@huuf.org
Administrator Shay MacKay
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Ministerial Search Task Force update

The Search Task Force has received packets of information from several ministers interested in applying for our half-time Consulting Minister position. Members have reviewed the materials and been in touch with the applicants. The Task Force has met a number of times to discuss their merits and shortcomings and continue to explore possible candidates to find the very best fit for our unique situation.

We developed a recruitment flyer, posted on the hallway bulletin board, which has been distributed to Pacific Central District, Starr King and other schools. It will also be distributed to potential candidates at General Assembly by Chip Sharpe and Ursula Osborne. In addition, our website now has a special recruitment section targeting prospective ministers.

We continue to look for a minister who will energize our Fellowship and help us make the transition from lay-led to shared ministry.

Pat McCutcheon