

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



June 2012

Life is...

My sister-in-law Peggy has long had hanging on her wall a calligraphic motto. It is penned in an elaborate medieval style script, though its author was a 20th century thinker. It reads,

Life is What Happens While
You Are Busy Making Other Plans

John Lennon

When she retired and moved to a new home, she relocated that statement from a back hallway to a special spot above an altar in her living room. Her health crisis has made that slogan more obviously true for all of us. Her life-ending illness changed all our plans.

I had planned to be building planter boxes to create a garden in our rented Eureka backyard. I was checking out on-line plans for chicken tractors to house urban critters in that same yard. We had moved our books and our garden statuary from Oregon to our California home.

Suzanne was beginning to explore options for chaplain work here in Humboldt.

We were settling in for the long haul, and then life happened and changed all our plans. Now, we are rapidly revising. My internet exploration is now comparing rates for rental trucks. Suzanne is offering hospice support to a family member.

Here at the Fellowship, I was pondering silently and out loud programs and parties and services and

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Go from here in peace, go with love

How many ways can you say goodbye to such dear friends as Dennis and Suzanne? I think the best answer is not to say goodbye but to limit the farewell with the thought that our relationships will continue. Maybe not with the closeness we have all shared these past eight months, but with the knowledge that we have gained from our shared ministry, our love has grown and there will be opportunities to continue to interact with each other. Dennis once said, "It's the message that counts, not the messenger;" and although I believe the messenger in his case *is* what has counted, we do share a mutual message of love, peace and the joy of working together towards a common cause.

We will bid farewell to Dennis and Suzanne on Sunday, **June 17**, following the service at a family picnic. Bring a potluck item to share, such as a salad, fruit or a dessert. The HUUF Ministerial Relations Committee and the Board will provide sandwich makings (breads, meats, cheeses and condiments) will be provided, as will grilled vegetables and drinks.

Please join us as we say goodbye to Dennis and Suzanne and wish them safe journeys filled with love and peace.

JoAnn Thomas

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People

Awanna Kalal fell in our parking lot and broke her wrist. Get better!

Cathy Enis is still recovering from her knee surgery. She is home and wants to express her great appreciation to everyone who has helped her –delivering meals, providing transportation, visiting...thank you.

Steve Sottong went to Indiana to wish his mom (and sister) a Happy Mother's Day. What a guy!

Jessica Knapp is graduating from the pilot year of the Spiritual Activist Leadership Training (SALT) where she learned stories of justice making, put tools for leadership into practice, and reflected on her faith over the past ten months. It was said, "Never before in Unitarian Universalism has a group of 18-35 year olds made such a commitment to their faith and to serving justice."

Fiona and Kinara performed at HSU's Van Duzer theater singing with the Redwood Coast Children's, Women's and Alumni Choruses in collaboration with Redwood Concert Ballet. Wonderful!

Susan Allen is retiring and is tickled pink at taking the summer off. She is *ready* for this transition.

Connor Alston and Trevor and Casey Lynn are graduating from high school and have exciting plans for next year.

Steve Temple and Eve Anderson were fabulous in Ferndale Rep's *Evita*.

Sue and Archie Mossman are on their way to Zambia and South Africa.

June Thompson thanks the HUUF community for the continuing support they send her way. Both she and Bill are very appreciative.

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

Karen Knapp

Women's retreat a great success

The 2012 women's retreat "was even greater than the sum of its parts," enthused Debby Harrison, planning committee member, voicing the sentiment of most of the 31 other attendees who thought the parts themselves were also wonderful. From Friday evening's opener, when we created clothespin dolls to hold cares and concerns we'd brought, to Sunday afternoon's worship service and non-verbal farewell ceremony, we relaxed, ate delicious food and grew friendships. Also available were workshops in mask-making, collage, porcelain painting and poetry writing. Other highlights were a wildflower-filled nature walk and a campfire with drumming circle and spotting scope on the night of the supermoon. Saturday night featured a coffee house presenting poets, plenty of singing and a side-splitting skit. Sunday morning was marked by a maypole with dancers twining multicolored ribbons. The event was held at beautiful Escot Farm on the Trinity River and was so enthusiastically received that plans are already underway for next spring's retreat, as well as a one day retreat at the Fellowship in the fall.

Pat McCutcheon



Most of the women at the retreat participated in dancing a Maypole.

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June 2012

Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Send text of your ad to joythomas3828@gmail.com and your check to the HUUF office.

Seeking a minister: déjà vu all over again

By now you will probably have heard that Dennis Reynolds, our consulting minister will leave at the end of June for a half-time minister position at Whidbey Island, WA, so that he and Susan can be with Susan's sister Peggy who is gravely ill with a brain tumor. We were fully prepared to offer a second year of consulting ministry to Dennis until we got the news on May 1 about Dennis ending our consulting ministry trial at the one-year mark.

After much discussion at our May meeting, the Board has decided to move forward on two fronts, the first to seek input from the congregation and the second to reinvigorate the search committee and start immediately to search for a new half-time consulting minister.

Dennis advised that our original search left candidates not knowing what might happen after two years. So we've changed our advertisement to approximately the following: "HUUF is searching for a half-time consulting minister with a renewable contract that could become a called position." Here's where we need the congregation's help. We want your input as to the type of minister we want and what important strengths that person ought to have. Because the search is likely to take well into the summer and early fall, we will appreciate your comments and concerns which can be made to Board members at any time. In the mean time we've reestablished the ministerial search committee and would love to have HUUF members volunteer for this important task. We need one additional member for the search committee; and the Board hopes that an RE parent member will volunteer. The search committee presently meets during the daytime, but that could change.

We will solicit for consulting ministers at the GA in Phoenix at the end of June, and we'll update our congregational record and advertising materials between now and our Board retreat on June 8.

Some have characterized HUUF's situation as a fork in the road. We're thinking we're on a road that has a few speed bumps, and we've had to slow our journey; but it's only a momentary slow down on our path to having a permanent half- to full-time called minister at HUUF.

Greg Blomstrom, Vice President, Board of Trustees

A Sorrow

Many Fellowship members are aware of the tragic passing of former member Heather Bonser-Bishop in April. Heather drowned on the Chetco River while paddle boarding with her husband and two daughters. Heather was in the prime of her life—parenting two young children, doing meaningful work and engaged in the spirit of life and community. Her leaving the planet far too soon is a loss for the community as well as for her family. She made an important contribution to health care access on the North Coast, and we are all now left to wonder what else she might have done. A memorial scholarship fund has been set up for her daughters' future education. The HUUF Board is sending \$200.00 as a contribution from the Fellowship. Others who may wish to contribute can send funds to:

Heather Bonser-Bishop Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o Heather Bonser-Bishop Children
P.O. Box 966
Eureka, CA 95502

Board retreat preview

This year's Board retreat is scheduled for **June 8** (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Judy Rishel's) and **June 9** (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Humboldt Area Foundation). In addition to the traditional agenda topics (staff and committee reports, budgets, calendar review and goal setting), other notable topics will be discussed.

We will hear from our departing minister, Dennis Reynolds, and fine-tune our newly re-activated ministerial search plan. We will look at our five-year building and maintenance plan, with special attention to the foyer expansion proposal. We will again discuss how to address our need for a volunteer coordinator, and we will set out plans for two major fundraising events next year. After considering input from several committees, we will set the start/stop time for Sunday services.

Of special interest is our planned discussion of a year-long theme/focus for careful congregational study. There are five general topic areas under consideration: Covenant of Right Relationship, Creating Peace, Welcoming Congregation, No Just War, Immigration. These are complicated, interrelated, and very relevant subjects, each with its own UUA-assisted curricula. It's the Board's intent to establish a means by which we, as a congregation, can select a topic and implement a study plan.

Dave Harris, Board President

Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is Wednesday, **June 20, 5:00 p.m.** The newsletter is not published in July, so this is your last chance until the August issue.

Joy Thomas, editor

Wendy Rowan

Board update

At the Board's regular meeting on May 8, a lengthy and thoughtful discussion was held on our approach to managing the departure of our much appreciated consulting minister, Dennis Reynolds. In recognition of the benefit to the Fellowship that Dennis has provided, the Board believes our community has affirmed the desire for a minister. Given our experience with Dennis, we also believe that we are in a stronger position to secure another consulting minister. So actions are currently underway to again seek ministerial support for the Fellowship, and we will keep members well informed of our activity. Meanwhile, we are making good use of Dennis in his remaining days with us. For example, he will lead a Program & Worship workshop in June to help us reflect upon the structure of Sunday services and what worship means to us.

In other business, the pledge drive is winding down and it looks like a successful canvass has been conducted. A special thanks to all of you who contributed. It is apparent that the array of activity within the Fellowship and our desire for ministerial support requires increased revenue. The Board is very grateful for the generosity of members.

The Board Retreat will be held on **June 8 and 9**. Examples of topics for the agenda include a review of our fiscal process, a discussion of a congregational study, overview of committee needs, and tasks related to securing a consulting minister.

Please put **June 17** on your calendar for the Farewell Party for Dennis. Come show your appreciation for Dennis, and also reflect upon what this time of transition means for you as a participant in the life of the Fellowship.

*Wendy Rowan, Secretary,
Board of Trustees*

High notes from the choir

During the 2011-2012 season, our HUUF choir performed at 19 regular services, shared holiday carols with our less-mobile HUUF community members and hosted an all-music service. Individually, our singers have participated in shows and performances throughout the Humboldt area as singers, dancers and instrumentalists. We are so fortunate to have such talent right in our very own congregation.

The choir is officially on summer break. Regular Wednesday evening rehearsals will resume on August 15. However, there will be an opportunity for everyone to come and sing together on Sunday, **June 17**. Come join us for drop-in choir. We will learn two songs during the hour between 9:15 -10:15, and then perform them at the 10:30 service. No prior choir experience is necessary, and all ages are welcome. For more information, contact me.

New choir members are also welcome at any time during the regular September-May "season," so please join us when you can.

mUUsically yours,
Elisabeth Harrington,
Choir Director

Council of Chairs

The HUUF Council of Chairs met May 2. Attending were JoAnn Thomas, Dave Harris, Greg Blomstrom, Scott Allen, Archie Mossman, Sue Mossman, Jan Rowen, Ursula Osborne, Awanna Kalal, Katherine Almy, Tracey Jordan French, Cheryl Rau and Wendy Rowan. Thank you to all who attended. Reports and input from Committee Chairs are summarized below:

Program & Worship - Given the loss of Dennis, the budget for next

Last chance to cash in on Berti and Jo's offer

You may recall that at the beginning of the pledge drive, we issued a challenge. Since we consider inheritance 'found money' on which we tithe 10% to worthy causes, to encourage the necessary increases in pledges that it will take to continue with professional ministry, we offered to contribute to the Fellowship ministerial fund 50% of any new pledges or increases in pledges.

As of this writing, increases in pledges are \$24,665. New pledges are \$2600. That totals \$27,265, which means we owe \$13,632.50, to be paid after Jo's family house sells. However, there are at least 21 pledging units who have yet to submit their pledges. If you haven't actually mailed in your pledge, emailed it or confirmed your amount by phone, you have not pledged. Our deadline for paying 50% on new pledges or pledge increases ends **June 30**.

Even though we are losing Dennis, the Fellowship is on a roll. We are actively searching for our next dynamic minister. Be a part of what we in the HUUF community are becoming.

Berti Welty and Jo Weisgerber

year must be revised to accommodate increased costs for visiting ministers and presenters. Bonnie McGregor and Wendy Rowan will become Co-chairs. There are concerns about too much stuff before the main program/speaker. Katherine reviewed the challenge of the Shaman's Beads. We will live without them for awhile. They have been found and are now safely stored.

Religious Education - The RE
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GA in Phoenix June 20-24

General Assembly (GA) 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. The GA grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.

Events at GA will be covered extensively on UUA.org and by the UU World. The *UU World* will provide timely reports and articles on their GA Blog, illustrated by some striking selections from their Photostream on Flickr.

Many events should be available via live-streaming on UUA.org. All times are Pacific Daylight Time.

- June 20, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Opening Celebration/Plenary I
- June 21, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Plenary II
- Thursday, June 21, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. May All Beings Be At Ease
- June 21, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Synergy Worship: The Call Across All Ages
- June 22, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Working Together for Social Justice
- June 22, 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. Plenary III
- June 22, 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Candidates Forum
- June 22, 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. Service of the Living Tradition
- June 23, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Worship: 50 Ways to Cross a Border
- June 23, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Plenary IV
- June 23, 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. Sing for Justice!
- June 23, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Ware Lecture
- June 23, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Worship
- June 24, 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship
- June 24, 2:15 to 6:00 p.m. Plenary V
- June 24, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Closing Celebration

Ed Uyeki

Life is, cont. from page 1

sermons for the fall. We were looking forward to hikes in the woods and journeying together with this religious community.

As we plan our move to the Puget Sound to be available to Peggy, the Fellowship's leaders are also altering their plan. The Search Committee has been reactivated and a updated vision for shared ministry is, as I write this, being drafted.

Yet in the midst of all this revision of plans we are, individually and collectively, continuing to live our daily lives. My daily runs, my spiritual practice, take me into the woods and down the beaches. In the midst of planning for the upcoming Sunday's service I took time to hike Trinidad head twice, once with friends from the Fellowship and again to show it to Suzanne and my visiting son Nick.

When we gather on Sundays, we share our joys and our sorrows, we sing, we celebrate, and we sit together in holy silence. We connect in circles of care and craft community. We savor each moment spent together.

We live life fully and we plan.

Dennis Reynolds

Religious Education

It's been a wonderful year in Religious Education. Thanks to all who make it happen. Snack donators and our Snack Coordinator, Trisha Sanders, kept our children happy. Room assistants Jean Munsee and John Broderick helped our teachers on a regular basis. Subs like Susie Smelser and Debbie Cooper gave our hard-working teachers time to spend in their own pursuits to keep them fresh. Danielle Stubblefield gave our childcare providers some time after graduation and for Mother's day so they could spend time with their own families. Julie Neander and Valerie Gizinski took charge of Social Action Sunday so Jillian could attend the District conference. Other folks volunteered to add their skills to our All-Worship Sundays provided children with an avenue to explore their spirituality through drumming and art as well as dance and singing. Thank you to all who volunteered, supported and cheered our program on.

Our teachers' dedication and talent make our program work. We thanked and honored them at our recent Milestone ceremony. Committee Chairs Erica Alston and Tracy Jordan French kept our committee going. Erica will retire this year, and we hope to have new members to support our program.

We say goodbye to Jennifer Williams, Teen Director of two years. She brought experience and positive energy to our teen program. Thank you, Jenny; we wish you well.

Dates to remember are:

June 10: Coming of Age service 10:30

June 23: RE Retreat at Fellowship. You will get reminders and postcards.

July 14: Camping at Williams Grove Campground

Jillian Mooney



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.

Board of Directors:

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Kim Moor
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Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas
Calendar Editor Shay MacKay

Council of chairs, continued from page 4

Retreat is set for June 3. Looking at the OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum. They want to integrate it within the current program. There will be a camping trip this summer

Membership Committee- There are 11 new members, for a total of 144 members of the Fellowship.

Social Action - Ursula will attend GA. She wants to know what folks want her to bring back or pay attention to for us. Ursula will not chair next year but will remain on the committee.

Aesthetics - Needs guidelines in regard to the art displays specific to rental of the building. How the art or Fellowship items are removed, stored and replaced when the building is rented to private individuals must be clearly understood and implanted. This is a policy issue that needs to be addressed ASAP. A charge for this committee was written but nothing happened. This committee needs to be a Board agenda item to create a more viable committee because: 1) Building use/maintenance needs help to interface with this committee, 2) Adequate support needs to be determined.

Building/Stewardship - Currently does not have a budget and hopes he does not go over. There needs to be Board/Fiscal Committee follow-up on this. Need to put paperwork on Google docs. Need paper calendar up on the wall, and to communicate that it is in place. Overall, the Fellowship would benefit from a volunteer coordinator. Need to groom a younger replacement. Archie is concerned about the impact of foyer expansion. Future Fellowship Group focused on 5 year plan; 1) Further coordination needed, 2) Foyer expansion—cost will be about \$80,000, 3) Book case installation a potential project, 4) Paint exterior of the CARE Building, 5) Paint interior of the Fellowship Building

Caring Circle - There is no chair, but the committee is active. Dennis has helped with reinvigorating this group and their work.

Greg Blomstrom