

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



June 2013

## Interim minister's column: Words of Joy

*My eyes already touch the sunny hill,  
going far ahead of the road I have begun.*

*So are we grasped by what we cannot grasp;*

*it has its inner light, even from a distance—*

*and changes us, even if we do not reach it,*

*into something else,*

*which hardly sensing it, we already are.*

*A gesture waves us on, answering our own wave—*

*but what we feel is the wind in our faces.*

—Rainer Maria Rilke

The time for me to say “good-bye” to you is fast approaching. The last Sunday service I will conduct as your interim minister will be on June 16.

As the transitional time between settled ministers comes to an end, the interim minister must say a fond farewell, and then leave completely. Before I became an interim minister eleven years ago, I was a settled minister for 25 years. Although settled ministers must also at some point bid farewell to the congregations they serve, they don't usually

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## 2013-14 budget review

After the service on **June 2**, the Finance Committee will hold an open meeting on the draft budget to be submitted to the Board for their retreat June 8-9. The meeting will start at 12:30 in a room still to be determined. A copy of the draft budget, along with the room information, will be posted on the bulletin board where you normally find minutes of Board meetings.

The Board is scheduled to adopt a “working” budget at their retreat. The “working” budget will also be posted on the bulletin board and will guide us until the Congregation approves the budget at our October Congregational meeting.

As always, the Finance Committee values your input as we move through this lengthy process. The members of the Finance Committee are Chip Sharpe, Dave Harris, Edie Wolterbeek, Katherine Almy and Nancy Cook.

*Dave Harris,*  
Board President

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## People

**Jamilla Tharp and Michelle Hasting's** family have moved from Salt Lake City to Salem, Oregon, where Michelle has a good job. Jamilla will be an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister by next spring.

**Darsty McAlinn** had breast surgery and is doing well. She will soon have radiation treatment.

We are sorry that **June Thompson**, a long-time friend of HUUF, died May 16, surrounded by her family and much love. She will be greatly missed. Her memorial service will take place **June 1** at 2 p.m. June wrote her own obituary, which is posted on the HUUF bulletin board.

**Karen Knapp** is celebrating how well her health continues to improve and looks forward to being back to HUUF soon. She appreciates the continuous good thoughts from our members and friends at HUUF.

**Eddie Watson** is now home from rehab.

Rev. **Joy Atkinson** will move to her next congregation in the fall at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists. For information about her new gig, go to [www.bfuu.org/](http://www.bfuu.org/).

**Trevor Lynn** has graduated from Eureka High and is off to UC Davis.

**Casey Lynn** graduated from Arcata High and has gone to Mills College.

**Claire Appelmans** graduated from Arcata High and is going to Oberlin College.

**Jan Rowen** caught two Lyme-carrying ticks on herself and is now on antibiotics. She is confident that all is well.

If you have news to share through the People column, please email me at [jessica@reninet.com](mailto:jessica@reninet.com).

*Karen Knapp*

## SAC brunches

There will be no SAC brunches in June or July. Our Midsummer Brunch this year has been shifted to August, when our new HUUF minister is scheduled to be here. The theme will most likely be along the lines of tropical and/or island cuisine, and the date will most likely be August 18.

*Eve Anderson*

## An artsy change

Debi Cooper and Cheryl Rau will coordinate the art exhibits at HUUF and will share the curator tasks. This is a change from the notice in the last newsletter. Please contact either of them with your ideas for art shows at HUUF.

*Irith Shalmony*

### CLASSIFIED ADS

For sale: Kawai, ebony, 5' 10" grand piano in superb condition. If interested, please phone June or Dave at 826-1770.

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Available for house sitting: Going on vacation? Need a pet or house sitter? Trevor and Casey Lynn will be available for house sitting most days this summer. Please call the Lynns at 422-8979 to check available dates.

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Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Send text of your ad to [joythomas3828@gmail.com](mailto:joythomas3828@gmail.com) and your check to the HUUF office.

## Hawaii bound

Dear Fellowship friends,

Yes, the rumors you may have heard are true: we are moving to Hawaii. We would have preferred that you had gotten this news from us in person, but that is obviously not possible. We hope you will forgive this impersonal note.

We have been going to Hawaii frequently since June's parents moved there seven years ago and have come to love the lifestyle, the people, the cultural and ethnic diversity, and the big city opportunities of Honolulu. We bought a condo near the beach park last year and decided to go ahead and move, since a short trial would undoubtedly just confirm that we like it there. We have explored music, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship there and other important interests and opportunities. We are not worried about adjusting to the climate. We plan to sell our house this summer and move in October.

We are well aware that we will miss you all and this Fellowship that we have enjoyed and come to love since January, 1974; but this is an adventure that we want to pursue, now or never, as they say. Meanwhile, we remain fully present and engaged among you and with Hum-boldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

With love and in fellowship,  
*Dave and June Davis*



## Buddhist/UU collaboration

For many years the Buddhists of the Zendo in Arcata has collaborated with the Social Action Committee (SAC) of HUUF. Specifically, Maggie Shaffer and I meet on Tuesdays to pass used paperback books from my car to Maggie's car. These books are collected on Sundays onto the table near the entrance of the HUUF building, into a cube-shaped basket, labeled with a red tag that has "jail" written on it. Maggie delivers them to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility, Eureka. During their many hours, which can become quite boring, men and women inmates very much appreciate having books available.

Last Cinco de Mayo, SAC provided piñata-colored sherbet for an event sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. It was a taco dinner to raise funds for Eureka's St. Vincent de Paul's roof repair. Likewise both, denominations have worked, and will work, with the City of Arcata on the Lantern Floating Ceremony to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day every August.

Let us continue this collaboration, and in particular, bring our used paperback books, on all subjects except romances, to HUUF on Sundays.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the Buddhists, consider morning and evening Zen meditation at 6:10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone 826-1701 for more information.

*Ursula Osborne*

## Creating peace: radical joy for hard times all-congregation earth exchange day and picnic

As a closing celebration of the Creating Peace program, I invite you to join me in putting into practice all that we have discussed over the past few months. We will work as a community to restore some joy and beauty to our Earth, finding time to individually commune with Nature, and spreading peace through cooperative work with our neighbors in the Jacoby Creek Valley.

Saturday, **June 22**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At the Fellowship – for all ages.

2013 Global earth exchange: join the world in making beauty for the earth

The Earth gives abundantly—and not just resources like water, fruit trees and minerals. The Earth also us gives beauty, wonder and inspiration. Sometimes we take too much from the Earth, and the places we love become depleted, scarred, wounded. For the Global Earth Exchange on Saturday, June 22, people all over the world give back to these places. Sing, drum, pray, play, dance... You're sure to discover that it's not only the Earth that receives a gift that day, but you yourself as well!

Global Earth Exchange Day is created and sponsored by *Radical Joy for Hard Times*. From their website:

“We are a worldwide community of people dedicated to rediscovering meaning and value in those places in our communities that have been damaged by human or natural acts. By renewing our appreciation for these wounded places, making simple works of art for and in them, and sharing our personal experiences, we rebuild our communities, create beauty out of waste, and empower ourselves to take action on behalf of the place we love. Our mission is not to protest or to restore broken places to the way they used to be, but to find ways of living in them with compassion, community, creativity, and even joy.”

You can find out more about them at [www.radicaljoyforhardtimes.org](http://www.radicaljoyforhardtimes.org) and <http://radicaljoyforhardtimes.blogspot.com>.

For our Global Earth Exchange activity, we will work with the Jacoby Creek Land Trust, a community based organization dedicated to the protection of land with conservation values in the Jacoby Creek Valley, and around northern Humboldt Bay, for scientific, historic, agricultural, cultural, educational, recreational, scenic or open space values.

We will also visit Redwood Roots Farm and explore all the delicious offerings of their Farm Stand, open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Gather at 10:00 a.m. to greet each other and discover what we will do to help our land recover some beauty. All activities will be within safe walking distance from the Fellowship. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. we will work, commune, sing and play. At noon we will gather back at the Fellowship to share a potluck picnic lunch, hopefully supplemented with yummy fresh goodness from Redwood Roots Farm.

Please join me in this celebration of our community and our covenant: We pledge to combine our strengths in active commitment to social justice, cultural and religious diversity, harmony, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

*Shay MacKay*

## Words of Joy, continued from first page

start out knowing when the eventual “good-byes” will be uttered. We interims know from the outset that “hello” will be all-too-quickly followed by “goodbye.” But despite the fact that we are “temps,” we come to feel connected to the congregations we serve, as a minister, interim or otherwise, naturally does with a congregation. I have felt a deep connection to you during this year. But now, I must sever that connection to make way for your new minister, Bryan Jessup, who will form that special bond with you.

Just as I have carried fond memories of HUUF throughout my years of ministry, since this is the congregation that ordained me into UU ministry 39 years ago, I will now carry additional good memories of our more recent time together. Being your interim minister for this brief time has been very enriching for me. My interim work will continue at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, right in my hometown.

It has been a pleasure to serve you during this past year as we worked on interim tasks and issues together. As I leave, I have great faith that you will grow, and thrive, and be the beacon of light you have told me you aspire to be in the larger Humboldt community.

May your summer be restful,  
and your future bright.

Warmly, and with grateful fondness,

*Joy Atkinson*

## More high notes to come this fall

As our rehearsals and Sunday performances come to an end for summer break, I would like to extend a special “thank you” to each and every member of the HUUF choir for their patience, dedication and flexibility this year. It has been a very busy one for me, and you have been so wonderfully supportive. Getting married and then spending the first six months apart ain’t easy, ya’ know.

Also, thank you to everyone at the Fellowship for giving me the opportunity to make music with such lovely individuals in a beautiful setting. I am so proud to be part of HUUF and am glad that my extra music hours are spent among all of you.

I look forward to our future musical adventures together when the choir resumes rehearsing in August. Future choir members should watch for details in next month’s newsletter. Until then, keep singing.

mUUsically yours,  
*Elisabeth Harrington*

## Board update

The Board received a progress report on the annual pledge drive from Cynthia Chasen. Our goal this year to support the proposed budget is \$145,000. Follow-up with each member that has yet to submit their pledge is underway.

A donation was made for the foyer expansion project and as a result a special equity account is being set-up for this project.

Anna Mae reported on the results of the Service Auction. It is estimated that \$5,000 was earned from this effort. A big thanks to JoAnn Thomas for all her work organizing the Service Auction.

Progress has been made on revising the Dog Policy. A compromise has evolved between folks who don’t want dogs around and those who have dogs. Look for further details in the next few months.

The Board discussed details to be resolved for the Personnel Manual and efforts underway to prepare the budget for the new fiscal year. They also planned for the June HUUF Board Retreat.

Most Board members are active in Fellowship committees and reported on current activity. Overall the Board is focused on work to prepare for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1, and looks forward to the arrival of our new minister Bryan Jessup.

*Wendy Rowan*, Board Secretary

## Religious Education

**June 2:** We will meet in our classrooms to practice our plans for our Milestone Ceremony next week. Come get one last practice in.

**June 9:** Milestone Ceremony: Last day of Religious Education

Come by 10:15 for our Milestone Ceremony. We will all celebrate another year in RE. Bring a flower for our flower communion and dress up. We will have treats afterward.

*Jillian Mooney*

## ‘¡Hola!’ from the Stubblefields, part two

(continued from May)

Nicaragua can be a country of stark contrasts between volcano and lake, rich and poor, old and new. Wealth is often shown off in gaudy ways, while trash heaps, shoeless children and ramshackle huts of wood and black plastic compose the majority of neighborhoods. Local dairymen ride their horses into the cities with tin cans of milk tied on either side, meanwhile chatting on their cell phones. Motorcycles mounted with entire families zoom past wooden carts pulled by two oxen on the highway. In our travels we’ve had the opportunity to see this all, climb volcanoes (both active and inactive), swim in crater lakes, get stuck in cattle drives, observe toucans and tanagers, shop at artisan markets, squish onto sweaty buses, awaken to the sound of howler monkeys and witness baby turtles heading out to sea.

Last December we journeyed to Jinotega, a mid-sized mountain town famous for its coffee. There we were warmly taken in at Circulo de Amigas, a non-profit that supports girls and young women through their school years. HUUF’s Social Action Committee sponsors a seven-year old girl named Gendair. She is a small and shy girl, but over the course of our visit we found her to be fun-loving, big-hearted and opinionated (hmm, she’d make a good UU).

We’d brought a gift of stickers and coloring books; and as Gendair, Eva and Aleta sat drawing together her mom told me with tears in her eyes how much the support from HUUF and Circulo de Amigas has helped her daughter. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Americas, and their family is part of that demographic. Her mom sells bread at the bus station; her dad is not around. Without the monthly stipend it is probable that Gendair or her brother would have had to leave school.

The following day we took Gendair and 12-year-old brother Duban to a nearby old growth forest reserve. While Duban pointed out which vines could be cut for drinking water and the names of various trees, the girls pretended they were forest fairies and had fun ‘flying’ away from us up the trail. Gendair will always hold a place in our hearts and we encourage you all to buy more coffee and chocolates from the Social Action Committee to support her. There is need everywhere I look around me down here, but this is one way that our Humboldt community can make a difference.

We are grateful for our time down here but sure are looking forward to being back at Fellowship in August.



*Danielle Stubblefield*

## Ahoy mateys!

We sailed to Treasure Island on May 11 and what a grand trip it was! Our Super Service Auction netted over \$5,000 for HUUF and a wonderful evening for all who attended. Even the weather cooperated, providing a sunny, warm setting for the festivities.

Special thanks to the fantastic crew of volunteers who prepared an island feast to appease our appetites and quench our thirst; compiled the donations into a catalog; did the set-up for the auctions and dinner; tallied the bids and collected the payments; and cleaned up following the event. Thank you everyone for donations of dinners and services for the silent auction and the live auction; to Mack Owen for his jovial skills as auctioneer; and for the wonderful crafts and booty items of the Pirates Cove.

Finally, thanks to all of you who bid so generously on the auction items. May they bring you much happiness as you enjoy them in the year to come. Sailing with you to Treasure Island was a great adventure, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

*JoAnn Thomas, Nancy Cook  
and Anna Mae Botley*

## Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is Thursday, **June 20**, 5:00 p.m.

Please send your committee reports and articles to me at [joythomas3828@gmail.com](mailto:joythomas3828@gmail.com). Neither PDF files nor late submissions can be accepted. The newsletter is not published in August, so your submissions in June should cover July and August activities.

*Joy Thomas, editor*



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## Barbara retires

I am retiring after almost 20 years as editor of the *Senior News*. To celebrate my retirement, the Humboldt Senior Resource Center is displaying a show of my quilts from May 20 through the end of June. I shares the gallery with Roz Keller, who worked in fund development for 20 years and who is also retiring at the end of June.

The show is a retrospective of my quilts and Roz' collection of wildlife art by local artists. The building at 1910 California St., Eureka, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

While you're there, check out the lunch — now mostly locally grown organic ingredients from the farmers market and a chef who knows his stuff. Look for the monthly menu in the current issue of *Senior News* on page 11.

*Barbara Clark*

## FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!  
JUST DRIVE! DRIVE! DRIVE!!