

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



July-August 2012

## Boxes, road trips and a couple of processions

As I write this, my time and my attention are becoming increasingly focused on three things; boxes, road trips and processions.

The first box arrived at the Fellowship. Though I knew what it contained, it was still a kind of surprise package. It contained my brand new clerical robe. Yes, a formal black clerical robe. The whole notion that I would own such an item is still a bit of a surprise to me.

I opened the box and tried it on. It fit, not exactly like a glove; but it seemed right.

My call to wear the “mantle of ministry” came late in life. In earlier years, not so very long ago I would have thought such a fit possible.

My childhood-constructed ideas of who or what was a “minister” were not something that had any appeal to me. Over the last decades I have deconstructed that autocratic, judgmental role I witnessed and built a new concept from the pieces. This new vision of ministry as inspirational and nurturing and the formal trapping that comes with it fit just fine.

I had the robe shipped to Humboldt so I could take it with me on my next road trip. I will be heading south first to Long Beach, to see my eldest son and his wife, and then

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## Wild ride

Some of many happy memories from my childhood are summer visits to Santa Cruz and the traditional day at Boardwalk. I always loved the ocean, but Boardwalk was a special treat, and its highlight to me was the roller coaster. The up-and-down thrills, the surprising turns in the tracks and all the screaming just made it a thrill to remember.

As I now complete my term as co-president of the Board, I can identify some of the same feelings, minus the screaming, of course. There were challenges to face, most just minor hills to climb such as the day-to-day decisions that keep the wheels of fellowship turning; and then a few more challenging aspects, like what to do with the parking blocks when our members fell and injured themselves and what type of fun raisers could we have to raise the level of fun at the fellowship; and then the big hills that we had to climb — the vital Canvass and the search for a minister.

We went up and down; and thanks to an active, hard-working Board and dedicated staff and committee members, we not only mounted those challenges but we came out laughing and celebrating, instead of screaming. We were able to enjoy a wonderful year with Dennis Reynolds as our minister, inspiring us, teaching us and leading us as we moved ahead. Then, the unexpected turn...Dennis' need to end

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## People

**Sue and Archie Mossman** are in Zambia.

**Cheryl Rau** had a successful and enjoyable Open Studio.

**Thea Gast** is celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. See page five article.

**Elisabeth Harrington** and **Andrew Stubblefield** both got tenure.

**Joy Thomas** has metastatic breast cancer in her left shoulder bone and will begin radiation soon.

**Doug Metz** is starting Physician's Assistant Program in Palo Alto for six months. He will return to Humboldt afterwards.

**Steve Sottong** is a finalist in the national Writers of the Future quarterly contest, one of eight people chosen from hundreds, the biggest thing that's happened to him as a writer. For details, see [www.digitaljournal.com/pr/760469](http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/760469).

Correction: **Casey and Trevor Lynn** have one more year of high school before they graduate.

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

*Karen Knapp*

## Come to HUUF for Arts Arcata

On **August 10**, from 5 to 7 p.m., I will have an art reception for the opening of my Fellowship show. Goodies will be served, and I will be on hand to share the stories behind the various pieces. This mixed media show will spill over into the garden. Sculpture, photography, painting, drawing and jewelry - a little bit of everything. I'd really like to see my Fellowship friends.

*Berti Welty*

## Halloween festival enthusiasts

We are looking for skit participants and helpers of all kinds. All of the "big" leadership positions are filled, so don't be afraid of joining on for this fantastic festival! We need people for skits, kitchen help, making cupcakes, guiding lights, runners, set-up and, of course, making gifts. Please contact me at [sandy5527@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandy5527@sbcglobal.net) or 442-8979.

*Sandy Lynn*



## Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Monday, August 20, 5:00 p.m.** The newsletter is not published in July. Send your articles to [joythomas3828@gmail.com](mailto:joythomas3828@gmail.com). Neither PDF files nor late submissions can be accepted.

*Joy Thomas, editor*

## Mid-summer's day brunch

SAC will host a mid-summer brunch on **July 8**, the second Sunday, about 15 minutes after service ends. A relaxed picnic-type brunch is planned with dishes that are light and summery, with summertime pie and fresh fruit for dessert.

*Eve Anderson*

**Wanted: Reliable, economical used car.** Automatic transmission, functional heater. Price up to around \$2,000. Please contact Cathy Enis at 445-5491 or [clanenis@gmail.com](mailto:clanenis@gmail.com).

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### HELP AVAILABLE

Call Kai Neander 707-267-5423

[kneander1@gmail.com](mailto:kneander1@gmail.com)

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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.

## Visions

“Visions” is my title for the current art exhibit in the main hall.

HUUF has been a co-sponsor of the Peace Poetry contest held in the local schools. This year, visual Peace Art was added to the contest. In our main hall we are proud to display four winning works by local students. Their works are hung together on the north-west Fellowship Hall wall through July. Later they will go to the Morris Graves Museum of Art. Poems and artwork have been printed in a Peace Poetry booklet donated to HUUF by Veterans for Peace, Chapter 56, available in the HUUF library.

Honorees receiving awards for their original works of art:

First Honors Award:

*Peace is Everyone*

Nasiri Sarawanankoor

Arcata High School, Arcata

Second Honors Award:

*The Road of Hope*

Alice Benaia

Arcata High School, Arcata

Third Honors Award:

*Peace ‘Splosion*

Damian Conn

Zoë Barnum High School, Eureka

Honorable Mention Award:

*Peace Tree*

Collaboration of the Ferndale High School Art Class, Ferndale

Awards were based on criteria such as utilization of colorful, specific imagery; form or organization; theme or the point the artist is attempting to convey; and universality. Judging was by the Ink People Center for the Arts.

The Veterans Education and Outreach Project Committee of the Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 Veterans for Peace established the Annual Redwood Coast Peace through Poetry and Art Contest. Other co-sponsors are Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Action Committee, Buddhist Peace Fellowship of Humboldt County, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Dell’Arte and the Ink People Center for the Arts. The purpose of the contest is to encourage Humboldt County high school students to focus on peace, peace-making in our communities, or the abolition of war, hatred or violence through original works of poetry or art.

Lorraine Miller-Wolf is a local artist/photographer also exhibiting in our main hall in June & July. Drawing/painting works by three of the artists she photographed and showcased are also on exhibit. This unusual and interesting show is explained in Lorraine’s artist’s statement which follows.

*Irith Shalmony*

## Modified acuity portraits

Blind? Me? Never. That is what we all hope. Yet every year our chance of eyesight problems grows exponentially, reducing the chances of this resolution holding true. I for one was proven wrong several years ago. One day I had a clean bill of health from my eye doctor; a few weeks later I was wearing a patch over my right eye. First it was floaters, then a tear in my retina, then a detached retina. I became a statistic: a detached retina occurs annually in one in 10,000 people in the U.S. I was fortunate to undergo successful surgery and have my vision restored to basically what it was prior to this series of events. The artists featured in this exhibit have not been so fortunate; their eye issues have resulted in varying degrees of vision loss.

My desire to volunteer with LightHouse of the North Coast, a local non-profit providing solutions for living with vision loss, was the result of these experiences. Knowing that I am an artist, they asked me to curate their first show of visually impaired artists: ‘Modified Acuity.’ Through this venue I had the pleasure of meeting the remarkable women I photographed for this show.

My goal for this show is three-fold: to introduce the viewer to these five inspirational artists, who have found ways to tap into their artistic sides in a manner that accommodates vision impairment; to introduce the community to LightHouse of the North Coast; and to encourage everyone to get regular eye checkups.

A heartfelt thank you to Joan, Pat, Karen, Linda and Maria for allowing me the honor of photographing and interviewing them. The photo of each artist’s hands is purposely blurred, hinting at how the world looks to her.

*Lorraine B. Miller-Wolf*  
Photographer

## Boxes, cont. from page 1

on to Phoenix, to GA, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I am taking the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship official “banner” along with me. Ursula Osborne and I will proudly carry it in the opening session’s banner procession.

I will also participate in the Service of the Living Tradition. This is a special worship service that honors ministers who have left Unitarian Universalist ministry through retirement or death and those of us who have completed all our requirements and been Fellowshiped by the Association as new ministers. This procession will be an official affirmation of my ministry, witnessed by several thousand gathered active Unitarian Universalist laity and clergy.

After GA, I proceed back to Humboldt and reconstruct the big pile of boxes I have in storage. With help from some of you, I will change them from flat cardboard into the containers that will hold books and linens, dishes and housewares, more books, paintings, tapestries, mementos and art objects.

My northbound road trip will be in a U-haul truck. All our worldly goods will be packed within, and I will proceed to a new location and to a new shared ministry.

The most important things I carry away from our time together do not fit inside a box. They are precious memories constructed out of times together, sometimes shared sadness and a few frustration, but mostly joy-filled memories.

I will remember sipping coffee and tea with you, silly and serious conversations, shared stories, breaking bread together and singing, wonderful singing; singing carols on porches at Christmas and hymns on Sunday. I’ll remember earnest discussions about how we might work together to construct a stronger more connected religious community here at HUUF and how we might carry such effort out into the world. I’ll remember dancing and hiking and a special predawn paddle and sometimes just watching children at play. Most of all I’ll remember the love.

We were lovingly embraced with openness when we arrived and held close with deep compassion as we faced Suzanne’s sister’s imminent death and our departure. Suzanne and I can barely find words to express our deep appreciations for that love.

The poet Mary Oliver, as she often does, says it best:

*To live in the world, you must be able to do three things.  
To love what is mortal,  
To hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends upon it;  
And when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.*

Go in peace.

*Dennis Reynolds*

## Board update

The Board started its retreat the evening of June 8 with a lovely meal and conversation at the home of Judy Rishel. We assessed progress on our goals for the year. We achieved our first goal to bring on a minister, addressed our second goal to increase revenue for a called minister, but did not outreach to Fellowship members to better learn their needs and what they want to do for the Fellowship. We anticipate doing more one-on-one contact with members in coming months.

On Saturday, June 9, we started our day with committee reports.

Highlights include:

§ Reaffirmed recommendation from the Program & Worship Committee and families to keep the start time for Sunday services consistent at 10:30 am.

§ Discussed the value of dedicated collections at services. This may be an agenda item at the October Congregational meeting.

§ The Finance Committee will meet in the summer to consider more efficient fiscal practices.

We received an update from the Ministerial Task Force, and requested the Congregational Record be changed to say the minister is expected to speak twice a month. The Congregational Record was approved with this change.

A lengthy discussion was held on the need for a Volunteer Coordinator. We are considering our options, including the potential of a mentoring process. We agreed to resolve this by the Fall.

The Board approved the 2012 maintenance projects for the building and agreed to defer the foyer expansion until a future date. We want to explore how to better use our existing space. We are very grateful to those who plan for, and care for, our building.

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## Board update, cont. from page 4

We approved a fundraising plan for the new fiscal year with a fundraising goal of \$10,000. The fundraising plan includes a service auction. The Board is very appreciative of the willingness of JoAnn Thomas to oversee this fundraiser. Our budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 was finalized and will be presented at the Congregational Meeting in October.

Dennis Reynolds, our current minister, was a valuable resource for the Board throughout the Retreat. The Retreat concluded with agreement on three Board goals for the new year:

1. Hire a minister
2. Engage with the congregation towards "creating peace" locally, globally, and individually.
3. Continue to increase revenue and carefully manage fiscal resources.

*Wendy Rowan, Secretary,  
Board of Trustees*

## Sunday door greeters

Would you like to be a door greeter? This important position involves being outside the front door fifteen minutes early to welcome all who come and to offer them a copy of the Order of Service. You could commit to a specific Sunday of the month or be available as needed, your choice. Please let me know. Thanks.

*Awanna Kalal*

## Invitation

In gratitude to my Fellowship family for the support you have given me through the years, I invite you to my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on Saturday, **July 7**, anytime between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. It will be held at HUUF and Redwood Roots Farm.

Please, no cards or gifts other than the option of a donation to HUUF.

If you plan to attend, an RSVP to [thea@humboldt1.com](mailto:thea@humboldt1.com) would be appreciated. Carpool, if possible.

*Thea Gast*



## Wild ride,

### cont. from first page

his stay with us, a shock that surpassed any carnival ride and caused us all to take a deep breath. But we did more than breathe, we got back on the ride and are moving ahead to find another minister. We know what we want and we will find him or her.

I thank you all for allowing me to take this ride as one of your leaders the past two years. It has been a great experience and one I will long remember.

*In Fellowship,  
JoAnn Thomas*

## Williams Grove campout, Saturday, July 14

Come one, come all for overnight or just the day at this family-friendly beautiful campsite. Williams Grove is located in old-growth redwoods just one-half mile north of the town of Myer's Flat on the Avenue of the Giants. Our site accommodates 40 people. The sites have picnic tables, fire rings and flush toilets. The restroom building appears to have been constructed in the last 5 years. Campers are welcome to use the hot pay showers at nearby Burlington (about 4 miles away) or Hidden Springs campgrounds (about 2 miles away). The South Fork Eel is just steps away for swimming or fishing, and a summer bridge provides access to miles of trails.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 South, exit Myers Flat. Make a right onto Avenue of the Giants, and drive half a mile north on the Avenue. Williams Grove is on the left. The sign only says it is a day-use area, but the group site is adjacent. Enter the grove at the sign and go down the driveway. Towards the right there will be a sign directing you towards the group areas. The campground is at the end of the group picnic areas. Group site A will be on the left.

Bring what you need to camp or day use. Bring some wood for campfires, musical instruments and maybe something to share at the Sunday morning gathering for worship in the woods.

*Jillian Mooney*

# Sunday services

## **July 1 – 10:30 a.m. Gaia: Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything – Jim Scott**

Jim Scott intersperses original songs and readings with his personal reflections on a spiritual, ecological awareness. He has long been an activist for peace and the Earth with his music. His songs of the Earth have educated and inspired audiences internationally. Jim's "Earth and Spirit Songbook," supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism, has been widely acclaimed by Unitarian Universalist congregations.

## **July 8 – 10:30 a.m. Poetry Participation Service – Wendy Rowan**

American poets from the 20th century onward have chronicled cultural shifts, political movements and evolving theologies. Please bring a poem from an American poet to share. For those who like a challenge, find one that illuminates a Unitarian Universalist value. The poetry participation service has become a tradition of the Fellowship. Wendy Rowan, a lover of language and a sometimes poet, will facilitate.

## **July 15 – 10:30 a.m. The Future of Our Congregation – Kai Neander and Navarra Carr**

Information to come

## **July 22 – 10:30 a.m. Ezekial and the Dry Bones – Rabbi Les Scharnberg**

Rabbi Sharnberg will return for a visit with the Fellowship, bringing stories and songs that will explore the spirit and dry bones. As always, he brings his many fine gifts as a spiritual teacher, storyteller, and singer/musician to share with us as he guides us to our deeper realms of spirit and humanity.

## **July 29 – 10:30 a.m. Information to come**

## **August 5 – 10:30 a.m. Creating Peace – Barbara Madaras**

Commemorate Hiroshima with a positive and practical commitment to peace. In a world where we seem unable to avoid conflict, we in fact have the option of creating peace for ourselves and our world. But peaceful ways of dealing with each other are not automatic; we all respond at times in unskillful ways that can lead to broken relationships, broken communities, resentment, hate, retaliation and escalating conflict. We will explore ways to become mindful of our ingrained negative responses and will consider ways of coming to terms with them. As we understand our own need to develop skillful, effective "peace tools" based on love rather than anger or resentment or despair, we will prepare for our work of peacemaking.

## **August 12 – 10:30 a.m. Got Books? – Ilene Harris**

Share your favorite book with an informal, five-minute report. Bring a few selections, just in case somebody steals your thunder before it is your turn. Books can be fiction or nonfiction, whatever strikes your fancy. Too shy to share? Just come and listen. Adults and teens will help the children share with their peers as well.

## **August 19 – 10:30 a.m. Images of God – Kathryn Almy**

Earlier this year, Pam Gherke spoke to us about "Images of God." This Sunday, we will have a chance to talk about our own images of God. Katherine Almy will make a brief presentation to get us thinking about the topic and then lead a discussion on what we think of when we hear the word God. What does God look like? Feel like? What difference does God make to our lives? You are encouraged to bring ideas or pictures to share.

## Exciting possibility for Loleta school kids

Loleta Elementary School is located in a very impoverished area of our county. HUUF has adopted the town of Loleta in an effort to help them in areas of need. For three years, we have supported the little community with food bank money, clothing, social services and tutoring in the elementary school.

As a Summer Project idea, we would like to raise money for a very special opportunity. Michael Guerriero is local artist who is passionate about art, education and the environment. Last year, he worked with students at several local schools teaching about our watershed and the impact it has on our environment. He taught lessons on fish habitats and their relevance and relation to the watershed. He taught the students his techniques for seriagraphs - a silk screening process - and then assisted them in making their own flags (like prayer flags).

So we are having a weekly book sale outside the fellowship every Sunday this summer. We are asking for “a buck a book,” but really, it’s a donation of whatever domination you would like to give. You don’t need to take any books to slip a few dollars into the jar.

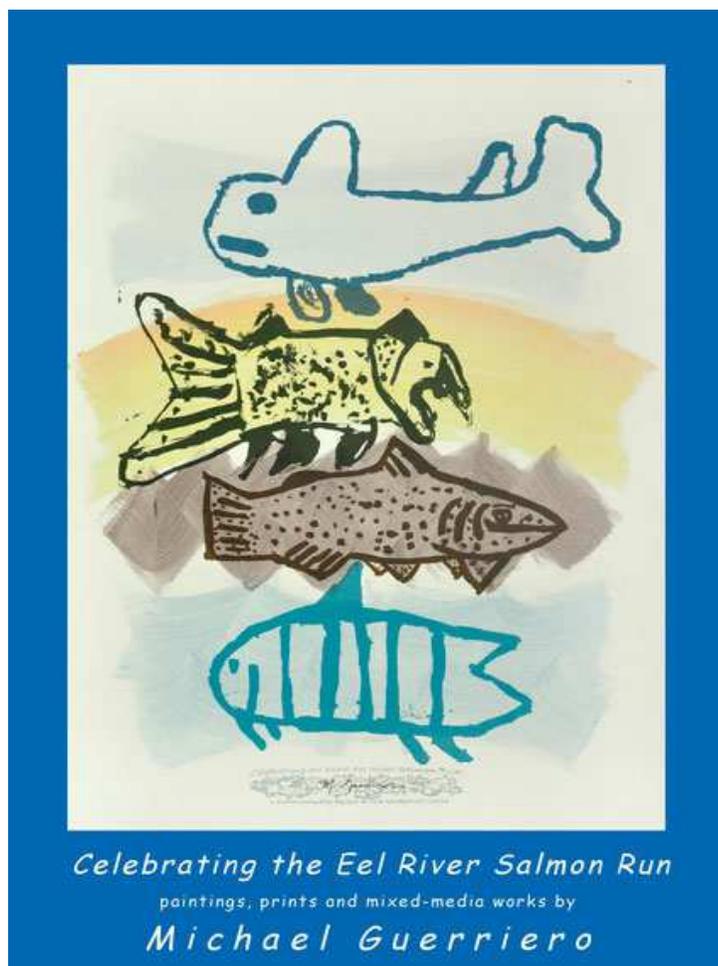
We would also like to request donated books as well. We would love more children’s books, teen favorites and current fiction, as well as whatever strikes your interests.

The Sunday Service on August 12 will be five minute book talks, so you can peruse what we have available to you and then talk about your summer favorites in August. Perhaps we can get the kids and teens involved sharing their favorites as well.

Sound like fun? I think so.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 725-9043 or [ileneharris@gmail.com](mailto:ileneharris@gmail.com).

*Ilene Harris*



## Who is a member?

We encourage all to wear nametags, but have you noticed that some nametags have a small chalice in the upper left-hand corner? This identifies those who have made the commitment to become formal members. We would love to have you join us when you are ready.

*Awanna Kalal*



# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



THIS SEEMS LIKE BAD TIMING BUT  
WEDNESDAY'S A NO-BURN DAY SO I'M  
GOING TO HAVE TO WRITE YOU A TICKET.

## Fundraising plans for 2012-13

The Board has set out a fun-filled fundraising plan for next year. Here's a quick look at the major events. First up is the Halloween Festival in October. Sandy Lynn and Trish Sanders are the team leaders for this always anticipated event. They are already working on plans, so you can give them an early call to reserve your place on the team. Next is the early spring Dream Workshop headed by Richard Kossow. Richard promises that this event will include slots for first-timers. Finally, JoAnn Thomas has volunteered to coordinate our all time favorite, the Service Auction, in May 2013.

Of course, there may be other events sprinkled throughout the calendar, so stay tuned to the Newsletters and the Green Sheet for updates.

*Dave Harris*









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