

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



July/August 2014

A Note from Bryan

Summertime! And what a great thing to relax and enjoy a bit after all the work of a regular Fellowship year. It's not as if we're not looking ahead. The Board had a great retreat this past month as did our Religious Education Committee. Fresh ideas and new energy are apparent in both of those bodies even as we say goodbye and offer tremendous thanks to people who have been carrying the load for a long, long time.

As we gather our energies this summer and prepare to launch into a new organizational year in the Fall we know new things are in the offing. That's a good omen because all our human efforts need to evolve or they will stagnate.

At the same time, much will remain the same. This Fellowship operates on "member power." The ideas and the energy to give them life come from each of us. The glue that holds us together is thoughtfulness and careful listening, trial and error, adjustment and forgiveness and a graciousness of heart that celebrates our successes and embraces our humanness.

We've evidenced plenty of those precious commodities this past year. And I know we will in this upcoming year as well. So let's enjoy this time off greatly and come back renewed for another exciting adventure in the Fall.

Bryan Jessup

Two services coming

Sunday, **September 14**, we will begin two services. A contemplative one will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude about 10:00. Coffee will be served between the two services. The second will begin at 11:00 and end about 12:15-12:30. The sermon will be the same in both services as will music by Annette, readings, silences, and joys and sorrows. The choir and story for all ages will be parts of the second service only.

Pat McCutcheon

Mid-summer's day brunch

There are generally no scheduled brunches in summer since so many members can be vacationing during these months. SAC does, however, host a mid-summer's day (or summer solstice) brunch, which will be on **July 20** (the third Sunday) this year. A leisurely picnic style spread is planned with dishes that are light, tasty and nourishing, including summertime pie, ice cream and fresh fruit for dessert. And definitely - the essential watermelon. Suggested donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child. Funds raised from this brunch will go to support the Humboldt Edge.

Eve Anderson

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People

Congratulations and welcome to new member **Margot Jillian**.

As we go to press **Kinara Erickson** is in Seaview Rehabilitation and Wellness Center close to Humboldt Hill. She finds it difficult to talk and is sleeping off and on, but visitors are encouraged to tenderly be there for support, reading and handholding.

Cathy Enis is happily out of the hospital after ten days with double pneumonia. However, being home has been miserable dealing with a severe burning skin rash as the result of a drug reaction. She thanks everyone for their concerns and well wishes. She looks forward to being back in action in early July.

Roxana Hand has been steppin' out of Eureka Rehabilitation to various social and reflective events with the help of good friends. It is good to see her! She anticipates moving into her apartment in Arcata during July.

Long-time member **Richard Stanewick** died in late May. His rich and giving life will be memorialized at the Fellowship in October.

Connor Jepsen, most recently seen moving chairs at HUUF, is now announcing for KHSU.

As the Summer Season enriches all our lives with the opportunity to literally smell the roses and be active it is important that we remember our village members who cannot be 'out there.' Take them some of those roses!

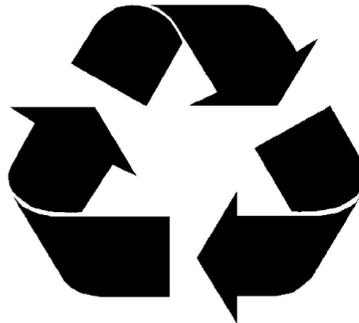
Sylvia Shaw



In the tradition of Pete Seeger

On **August 9** at 7 p.m., our fellowship will kick off the annual peace week activities with an evening of songs of peace and justice called, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" The event will be free with the proceeds from refreshments going to Vets For Peace. There will also be an open mike for sharing on how Pete Seeger's life and work inspired you. Volunteers are requested to provide baked goods or to help out on the night of the event. If you would like to volunteer or to sing a song or two, contact me at 707 840-0826 or wlhndlr@yahoo.com.

Fry Wollander



Stay tuned to art at the Fellowship

The Gallery Committee has been experimenting with the show schedule. The current show will hang for five weeks. In the future we will have some one-month shows. These varied time lines allow us to accommodate more artists and media. For example the annual children and youth show will be the month of May to better fit into the Religious Education Schedule.

The quilt show became a fiber arts show. We received work in various different fiber media from many artists, and it is glorious. We will make this an annual show. If you were missed or were not quiet ready you can get your work into the next one roughly a year from now. We welcome fiber art from men as well as women.

The next show is My Ah-ha. This will be up July 18 through August. Entry day will be Thursday, **July 17**, between 11:00 and 12:00. If this is not a good time please contact me at 707-826-7107 to make other arrangements. In September we enjoy the work of a guest artist.

Cheryl Rau

Please help Fiona raise money to go to camp

Please donate your CA redemption recycling. What does Fiona want? Any CA cash refund (CA CRV) labeled aluminum cans, plastic soda bottles, plastic or glass juice bottles, water bottles, glass beer and beverage bottles. Please donate clean items if possible.

If you are not sure if it can be recycled for cash, leave it and Fiona will be sure it is recycled properly.

Please leave items in the driveway in front of house at 1275 Old Arcata Road, Bayside. Donate anytime!

Special recycling day is **July 19**. Fiona will be in town after camp.

Please put the recycling in plastic trash bags or boxes or leave in the cans provided.

Your recycling donations will help Fiona with summer travel and camp in Connecticut.

Debi Cooper

Choir musical retreat and potluck

All interested parties are cordially invited to attend a musical event on Wednesday, **August 13**, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at HUUF. We will explore voice building and ear training exercises, practice sight-singing and sing through a few pieces together. We will share food and fellowship. New singers are especially encouraged to attend, and all ages are welcome. No previous singing experience is required.

Regular Wednesday rehearsals will resume on the following Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., and the choir will begin singing for Sunday services (twice each month) on September 7. Come sing with us.

Please contact me with questions.

Elisabeth Harrington

Yes, we have a Facebook page

Take a look for yourself at Humboldt UU Fellowship. Our page will be even more vital and interactive when more members of the congregation make posts. Jovannah Paz Martinez Hoboo does a great job of posting intriguing news from UUA and other sources. But ideally, RE, SAC, the Caring Circle and individuals will also post photos of news and events, comment, or write a review. Shay or Roxanna would be glad to help if it is needed.

Pat McCutcheon

Goodbye!

Wow! Has it really been four years since I answered an ad on Craigslist for a job at someplace called HUUF? All I can say is the Universe was looking out for me that day and thank goodness I was smart enough to listen. My time here with you has been a joy, truly. I could not have asked for a more compassionate, more entertaining, more challenging (in a good way) group of folks to hang out with. I have felt welcomed and appreciated from the moment I arrived and have been blessed by your limitless support during my journey toward ministry. Thank you. Thank you for all you have given me, for all you have taught me and for all the laughter we have shared. Until we meet again.

Shay MacKay



Submit now to anthology

The Communication Committee continues to collect poems, memoirs, short fiction (2,000 word limit), personal essays and line drawings for what promises to be a fascinating collection of work by our congregation. The deadline is **September 1**, and you can submit writing to me at mcauselhorst@gmail.com, or give me a call about drawings at 826-7107. We look forward to seeing your work.

Pat McCutcheon

Religious Education

Our Religious Education retreat was a huge success. Thanks to all the wonderful folks who brought energy to share ideas, questions, feelings, struggles, food, singing, volunteering, ritual/meditation and negotiating. We revisited our Mission statement to align it more with the Fellowship's mission statement. We broke into small groups and shared responses to questions like: What is a question you have about life or spirituality? How do you work to keep growing in Love and Justice?

The Leadership Team (Danielle Stubblefield, incoming RE Committee Chair; Therese Keslin, organizing volunteer; Bryan and me) has been looking at restructuring Religious Education for the children of our Fellowship. As we have grown in our congregation, children, classrooms and staff, there is a need to change how we do things. RE is a microcosm of our larger congregation. It, too, had become more transactional rather than transformational. Our congregation voiced the need for more spiritual structure and hired a Minister who is transforming us on personal, structural and spiritual level. We have been thirsty for years, and now we are at the well. Our children and families are thirsty. Over the 18 years I've been your Director of Religious Education, I have slowly become more focused on the tasks, the events. I am thirsty to be called back to why you hired me. I should be focused on being your spiritual leader of children and families. To connect to one another together, all of us, to better support families, to teach our children to be love and justice bearers rather than to expect a snack. We looked at how to accomplish this.

How we word things give it meaning. A program is "a planned event, item, performance or presentation," while a cooperative "involves mutual assistance in working toward a common goal." Well, we've been a cooperative all along. Our ancestors founded this congregation cooperatively to find a liberal religion for their children and we continue to carry that tradition on.

At our retreat we discussed our feelings about changing what we call our Religious Education. Rather than calling it a "Program," we have agreed to try calling it a "Cooperative." Some were concerned it would sound like participants would be required a certain amount of volunteer time or it would separate young families from the rest of the congregation.

When we think about calling it a cooperative, we are thinking in a larger sense, that the whole congregation is part, not just families with young children, but our whole village. We ask people to contribute what they feel they can; there is no set limit. At different stages in our lives we can be the nurturers, sometimes we need to be held. We want to move towards our entire congregation supporting, connecting to each other to nurture each other and our children. Because that is how we all become more able to be love and justice bearers that is our mission. It was very gratifying to see many people who were at different life stages attending the retreat to support this process.

The three big ideas we agreed to support and make happen this year are: making an OWL program happen; family support and communication (keeping us all connected and aware of happenings); and outreach.

We will continue to talk, share, and question as we transform in the coming year. Think about how you might add your passion, ideas, gifts to RE. We have materials available from the retreat for those that would like to know more or were unable to attend.

Yours in fellowship,

Jillian Mooney, Director of RE

Member bio

I grew up in New York and went to Boston University, and then Lesley University for graduate school. My work was primarily in psychiatric hospitals working with patients through the arts. After moving to Berkeley, I volunteered with Environmental Traveling Companions as a rafting and cross country skiing guide with youth-at-risk and disabled groups. At the Fellowship I see so many artistic people open to new ways of exploring spirituality, and so I see it as a place with creative possibilities for people coming together in song or dance in this marvelous physical space. I'm a big fan of the Halloween event and have been dreaming of doing something in mid-winter, a kind of Winter Revels. For now, I am content with planning an evening of songs of peace and justice in the tradition of Pete Seeger.

I have been interested in the folk traditions of people all over the world from a young age, especially international folk dancing and playing fretted instruments. I went to Hebrew school at a nearby Orthodox temple. The letters themselves fascinated me and I would later study Hebrew Calligraphy in Berkeley. Being Jewish forms the lens through which I view things, but being a Unitarian formalizes the way I have always lived my life spiritually, practicing traditions from all over the world.

Fry Wollander



Fry Wollander

Member bio

I grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, and was glad to leave at 19. I didn't have a lot of friends when I was a kid, which got me used to being on my own. I was very shy, and that got me used to being afraid. So, when I got older, I didn't hold back from doing stuff on my own and having adventures because being alone and afraid was normal for me.

I got a motorcycle, learned how to ride it and traveled a lot. I played drums in various punk rock bands. I spent a couple of months in Europe in my early 20s. I drove across country to attend Tom Brown's wilderness survival school in New Jersey and stayed on the east coast for a while. I was able to move into my grandmother's apartment and live in downtown Manhattan for a couple of years. Living in the city was a challenge, and I'm glad I did it; but it wasn't the life style for me. When I came to Humboldt County, I knew I was home.

I got my Bachelor's degree in Art History from HSU and a Master's degree in Arts Administration from the University of Oregon. Neither degree has done anything for me, but at least I enjoyed getting the first one.

I always thought bookkeeping was something I did to support myself while I was finding my true calling; but as it turned out, bookkeeping was the only calling I ever got. I became a bookkeeping consultant and have been successful at it. Being good at something is satisfying. It's also something that people find useful, and I like being needed. And since I work for small mom and pop businesses exclusively, I don't feel like I'm just working for corporate America.

I married a man 25 years my senior, which was not necessarily a practical move, but love is never practical. After debating about it for 9 years, we finally had a child – also impractical. Being a parent is an amazing journey and one I had never really pictured for myself until I was one. I still like adventures, but now they are more family and home oriented. We keep chickens and bees and go camping a lot. I still love music, but I play steel drums now instead of speed punk drums.

I've never had direction in my life, I go from one thing to the next; and life has taken some interesting turns. I just keep doing whatever sounds like the most fun.

Katherine Almy



Katherine Almy

Attention lovers of musical theater

HUUF will sponsor a night at the North Coast Repertory Theater on May 23, 2015. Yes, it is almost a year away; but I just couldn't wait to share the news with you. The play is the Tony award-winning *Spring Awakening, a Rock Opera* adapted from the Expressionistic play written by Frank Wedekind in 1891. Dave and I saw the production in Chicago a few years ago, and really liked it. Admittedly, it is rather controversial, being written at the end of the 19th Century in Germany, and it deals with some dark (family) issues as a group of teens come of age. However, it is honest, moving and redemptive. If you Google the play, you can find more information as well as summaries of the story and reviews. This is a fine way for the congregation to have a fundraiser without a lot of stress.

If anyone is interested in helping Dave and me with the facets of sponsoring the evening, e.g ticket sales, food and drinks for the reception, publicity etc., please let me know. I can promise you there will be no meetings.

Ilene Harris



Check us out

Since June 12, the Fellowship has been featured in the Spirituality section of *The North Coast Journal*. Thanks to Lisa Labolle of the Communications Committee, the ad will run for thirteen weeks. We think you'll like what you see.

Pat McCutcheon

Free to good home

Our Halloween Festival no longer needs our older canopies, the ones with sectional poles. If you would like to have one or more of these half-dozen 10' x 10' canopies, call me at 599-6009. The canopies will be freely given, as will be any donation you wish to make to HUUF.

Chip Sharpe

Women's group on summer hiatus

Due to many conflicting vacations and commitments, the third Tuesday Women's group will not meet during July and August. We will resume in September.

Berti Welty

CLASSIFIED AD

Seeking living situation

This is my dream: a 2+ bedroom house within two miles of the Arcata plaza to live in with 1-4 friends committed to intentional living and activism. I see a kitchen to cook Food Not Bombs, a living room to host organizing meetings, a backyard bonfire to play music around. We can pay \$450 max per person. We don't do hard drugs, have pets or drink excessively. I'd like an honest, com-municative, mutually respectful relationship with my landlord. If you can help, let me know. Octavia 503-828-7421 or newt.stremple@gmail.com

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

No calendar

There is no calendar for July-August because absolutely nothing is happening. No need to waste paper.

Shay MacKay



Bees and Morning Glories

by John Ciardi

Morning glories, pale as a mist drying,
fade from the heat of the day, but already
hunchback bees in pirate pants and with peg-leg
hooks have found and are boarding them.

This could do for the sack of the imaginary
fleet. The raiders loot the galleons even as they
one by one vanish and leave still real
only what has been snatched out of the spell.

I've never seen bees more purposeful except
when the hive is threatened. They know
the good of it must be grabbed and hauled
before the whole feast wisps off.

They swarm in light and, fast, dive in,
then drone out, slow, their pantaloons heavy
with gold and sunlight. The line of them,
like thin smoke, wafts over the hedge.

And back again to find the fleet gone.
Well, they got this day's good of it. Off
they cruise to what stays open longer.
Nothing green gives honey. And by now

you'd have to look twice to see more than green
where all those white sails trembled
when the world was misty and open
and the prize was there to be taken.

(submitted by Suzanne Moore)

Gather your water

Our annual Gathering of the Waters will take place Sunday, **September 7**, with a new twist. Gather water in small amounts from significant places and events during the summer. See you in September.

Berti Welty

Gathering of the Waters potluck

Sunday, **September 7**, after our Gathering of the Waters service (our last 10:30 a.m. service for the summer) we will have a potluck lunch to welcome us all back. Bring tasty salads and main dishes to share. Please label the vegan dishes so our many vegans will know with ease from which selections they can choose. And watch the News for further notice.

Bryan Jessup

Deadline info

Deadline for the September issue of the newsletter is Wednesday, **August 20**, 5:00 p.m. Please email your committee reports and articles to me at joythomas3828@gmail.com. Neither PDF files nor late submissions are accepted. Please send crisp, clear graphics as a separate file, not embedded in your article.

The newsletter is not published in August.

Joy Thomas, editor



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Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Calendar Editor Roxana Stengl

Two services resume

As was discussed earlier this year, our Fellowship will resume two services this Fall, beginning on **September 14**. The times will be, as they previously were, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The early service will be a little simpler and quieter. There will be child care, but no RE. There will be beautiful music, but no choir. There will be no Story for All Ages, but there will be time for a special element like "Wisdom Beads," or longer meditation or some special music. It will last an hour and there will be coffee after the service.

The 11 a.m. service will be a little longer. Like our current service it will last an hour and fifteen minutes or so. A complete program of Religious Education will be offered. The Story for All Ages will be part of the service. The choir will sing. There will be coffee after the 11 a.m. service as well – *if servers volunteer*. So all you coffee lovers out there, give the office a call and get your name on the list. A UU service without coffee would be like a Seder without matzah.

Bryan Jessup

Welcome our new Administrator!

It is with great joy that we welcome our new Fellowship Administrator, Roxana Stengl! Roxana will spend July hanging out with me and learning all about this crazy place. Beginning August 1, Roxana will step fully into the role of HUUF Administrator, so give her a call, drop an email or stop in to say hi and introduce yourselves. And keep an eye open for more information about Roxana in the September newsletter.

Shay MacKay