

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



September 2010

Robbery of HUUF office

Sometime during the night of July 21/22, someone broke into the HUUF office and stole our relatively new Dell laptop computer, digital camera and a ring full of keys. Damage was sustained to file cabinets, trim of the side door into the building and the inside office door.

Although we have insurance to cover the losses, a \$500 deductible limits our recovery on the laptop. While the insurance paid to fix the doors, we decided to have dead bolts installed on all of the doors which, because it's a new item, was not covered by the insurance.

Altogether, the break-in cost about \$1,675 in losses or upgrades. With our deductible of \$500 we're looking at recovering about \$1,175 to fix the doors and file cabinets, replacing the computer and camera, and paying for the upgraded dead-bolts. I must say, I'm not thinking very charitable thoughts towards the thief who broke in.

Greg Blomstrom
HUUF Vice-president



Goals for 2010-11 fiscal year

Yeah, I know, goals and objectives for our HUUF Fellowship is about as dry a topic as you can get. However, without goals for the coming year, it's easy to get distracted with side issues, many of which have to be dealt with (e.g. security, neighbors, etc.) regardless of whether they fit into our goals and objectives. In addition, without goals and corresponding criteria for measuring success, it's not easy at the end of the fiscal year (June) to celebrate our accomplishments and dig in hard to fix our not-so-great accomplishments. As Yogi Berra said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." That's what we're trying to avoid through adopting goals and objectives.

At the Board retreat in June, we reviewed the 2009-2010 goals and objectives: 1) Specific Issues, 2) Maintenance of Building and Grounds, 3) Ministry and Staff, 4) Review and Revise Board Policies, and 5) Improve Financial Situation. Last year we did pretty well at working on Specific Issues, Maintenance and our Financial Situation (although we didn't improve our financial condition). We didn't do so well on Ministry and Staffing, and we failed at Reviewing and Revising Board Policies and Administration.

With that in mind, the HUUF

What's inside

- Page 2: People
Halloween festival
SAC coffee sale
Big changes
All the news
- Page 3: Trustees update
Religion for our time
Deadline information
Goals, continued
- Page 4: Who let the dogs out?
Standing on side of love
Our new year party
- Page 5: Make a joyful noise
RE
Arcata night shelter
Fellowship fundraising
- Page 6: What is a facilitator?
Group poem
- Page 7: Social action letter
Writing group
Men's retreat
SAC recommends
- Page 8: SAC brunch
UU mini-vacation

continued on page 3

People

Roxana Hand is in Georgia for a couple of months taking care of heart problems that are related to the loss of consciousness she experienced in June. She hopes to return in September or October. Roxana thanks the Fellowship community for their thoughts and concerns.

Congratulations to June Thompson, who has authored a book entitled *Missouri Mandala: Observations of a Anti-nuclear Activist*. It is on sale at Northtown Books or at Lulu.com.

Mary Lou Jensen is now receiving hospice care. She continues to welcome and enjoy the many expressions of love and concern from Fellowship friends. She would like to have cards and visitors.

Karen Knapp



Big changes at the end of the hall

Religious Education just keeps expanding. We have already burst out of the CARE building to need the library for our Intermediate group during our second service. Now the childcare room will be switched to the larger RE room at the end of the hall. We have outgrown the smaller room with our babies and toddler age children. How will this affect you?

If you plan to get out chairs/tables or to meet in the larger RE room, plan ahead. To ensure the physical and emotional safety of our teeniest UUs, this room will be unavailable except to families when it is in use. Childcare happens during the 9 a.m. service and well after the end of the 11 a.m. service, in order to allow parents time to talk with teachers, attend meetings, or new folks to chat and get to know us. This room will be full of babies (and their caregivers) on the floor and small children toddling around. Plan to meet in other rooms and get out things you might need early, as the room next to the bathroom has changed. Any questions, talk to me.

Jillian Mooney

Halloween Festival needs your help

Planning for this year's Halloween Festival is underway, and there's still time to sign up if you are interested in volunteering. We need actors, guiding lights, kitchen crew and help setting up and taking down. You don't want to miss being a part of this magical event.

We are also trying to fill one special role for the festival. Last year, we had a gorgeous poster that was put together by graphic designer Jenn Tarlton. She got the artwork from the internet, and although it was perfect for our event, the artist lived far away and had nothing to do with HUUF. It would be great to have this year's artwork generated by one of our congregation. A rendering of Julie and Gordon as the King and Queen of Halloween, the campfire with our own willow tree in the background, Guiding Lights — just think of the possibilities. If you would like to submit a drawing for our poster art, please contact me (kathrich@arcatanet.com or 839-3406) or Jenn Tarlton (443-4100 or jennhaig@hotmail.com). We will need it by mid-September, so get those drawing materials out.

Katherine Almy

SAC coffee sale

On the second and fourth Sunday in September, in the Fellowship Lobby, before and after services, the Social Action Committee will hold its regular sale of equal exchange organic coffee, cocoa, chocolate bars and dried organic cranberries. By patronizing these sales, you will help support the small farmers who grow the raw products, the partnership of liberal congregations who merchandise them to us and others, and the SAC's own commitment to fund the education of our eight-year-old Nicaraguan student, Emyi. We will support her education-related expenses as long as she is in the program and until she graduates. This student sponsorship is facilitated and supervised by Circulo des Amigas, of which Ursula Osborne is the coordinator. Ruth Needham and I are sales coordinators. We count on your patronage of our excellent products, which also make excellent hostess gifts.

Marianne Pennekamp

All the news

The Board of Trustees is happy to recognize and thank Kathy Dillon for volunteering to serve as HUUF's Public Relations Coordinator. Kathy will work on our publicity for any major HUUF events, committee events and news we want to get into the Press. Kathy has served as our Interim Office Administrator and was previously on the staff of the *Times Standard*. If you would like to have her assist you and your committee, please contact her a month prior to your event. She will arrange to interview you, take pictures, write and submit the releases for you.

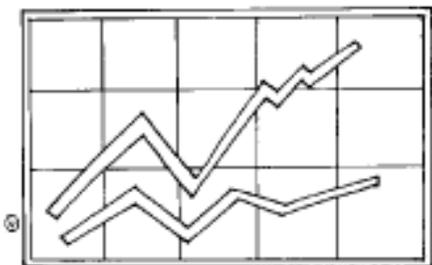
JoAnn Thomas

Goals, continued

Board came up with 13 objectives for the 2010-2011 fiscal year by building off the 2009 Future Forum work and the How To Who Too Task Force's work this past spring. Knowing that we can't simultaneously work on 13 objectives, we've prioritized them into four goals. Not surprisingly, the goals are similar to the issue areas that the Future Forum and the H2W2 task force developed over the past 18 months and which the Board has been working to achieve. At its August 10 meeting the Board adopted the following goals for the coming fiscal year:

1. Implement H2W2 recommendations to begin process to hire consulting minister by September 2011 and establish a subcommittee on volunteerism.
2. Instill a feeling of volunteerism and building our HUUF community.
3. Improve financial picture by 40% to do all things HUUF wants to do.
4. Begin intentional strategic

Greg Blomstrom
HUUF Vice-president



Board of Trustees update

At the Board meeting on August 10 we thanked Shay for her good problem-solving in response to our recent robbery. Her engagement with the Board and Fellowship members to make decisions about replacing equipment and ensuring our future security was appreciated.

There is a new building steward policy in effect. From now on we will always have a steward on site for events on Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays.

After extensive deliberations about contracting with the Pacific Central District for the "Transforming Congregations Program," the Board decided it was not a good fit for our needs. We are contacting the Golden, Colorado, UU Church with the hope that they will do some consulting for us, as they overcame similar challenges we currently want to address. We are also contacting the UUA to secure some expertise on finances and pledging. The Board will also seek input on organizational development, leadership training and supporting volunteerism.

Committee Report highlights include renaming the Volunteer Committee the Volunteer Engagement Team (VET) and review of committees for which Board members are liaisons. Greg is drafting a business plan for the Building Use Committee to consider.

We revised Board Goals for 2010-2011, narrowing them down to four key goals to help keep us focused in the new year. To celebrate coming together and resuming two services on Sundays, a New Year Party is planned between services on September 19. Board members are working hard to embrace our challenges and pursue our opportunities.

Wendy Rowan, Secretary

Religion for our time

The Unitarian Universalist Association has just released the seventh short video in the series, "A Religion for Our Time."

Episode Seven, "Multicultural Worship," illustrates how worship at All Souls Unitarian in Washington, DC, is designed to serve a diverse community. Worship planners at All Souls ask themselves every week, "How will we reflect in worship the experience and traditions of many different cultures?" Honoring the multiculturalism of the congregation and the neighborhood is an intentional process at the heart of All Souls. And it's a process that can be used in any UU congregation.

View the four-and-a-half-minute video at <http://www.uua.org/multimedia/religion7>

"A Religion for Our Time" highlights inspiring work in UU congregations, including innovative projects relating to worship, social justice, membership and fellowship. New episodes are added every few weeks to this multimedia page: <http://www.uua.org/multimedia/religion/index.shtml>

Congregational leaders may also wish to bookmark the new and expanded resources page. Visit often to view new videos and search for materials covering all areas of congregational life and governance: <http://www.uua.org/resources/index.shtml>

Deadline Monday, September 20

E-mail articles to the editor at jthomas3@csulb.edu.

Joy Thomas

Who let the dogs out?

That's the refrain heard around the Fellowship this summer when dogs were seen frolicking at the foot of the children's play structure and on the front lawn west of the main entrance after Sunday service. A visiting dog owner who had been informed of our dog policy and asked to remove his dog earlier in the day was seen sitting with his dog on the bottom step of the play structure.

Attending a board meeting after services, I found my kids in the nursery on a beautiful summer day at the end of the meeting. When I asked my eight-year-old daughter Zoe why she wasn't out playing, she said there were dogs in the back and the front. I saw a group of men on the front lawn playing a game with a happy dog leaping around them and the aforementioned *dog* enjoying the play structure rather than the children.

On November 23, 2008, a member's dog nipped four people at the Fellowship and seriously bit a fifth, causing a trip by ambulance to the hospital. Zoe had witnessed this incident and was therefore unwilling to go onto the grounds while dogs were present.

Shortly after the 2008 incident the Board enacted a policy barring dogs from Fellowship grounds based on input from Fellowship members:

- ◆ Numerous congregants stated that children were at particular risk from dogs and recited specific instances where children had been terrorized by dogs.

- ◆ Some adults are afraid of dogs

- ◆ Previous dog-to-dog incidents had occurred

- ◆ Numerous congregants were concerned about dog owners not cleaning up after dogs

- ◆ Several congregants said the Fellowship is a place of worship, people are the primary users of the facility, and therefore should be our first priority.

The experience of a member having to go to the hospital after being bitten by a dog on the grounds was traumatic. Please keep your dogs at home and ask your friends to keep their dogs at home at all times. Many meetings occur at Fellowship at various times, renters use the facilities, and we hope to increase building usage. Please don't try to predict when it might be possible to circumvent the policy due to an absence of others from the Fellowship. Thank you for your support.

Kim Moor, Board Trustee

Standing on the side of love

All over the country, UUs wearing bright yellow T-shirts with "Standing on the Side of Love" written on them, are being witnesses to our values by appearing at LGBT, immigration and Tea Party events. Awanna Kalal, Richard Kossow and I wore ours at the Twin Cities Pride celebration. UUA President Peter Morales wore his when arrested in Phoenix at the demonstration against Arizona's immigration law SB 1070. See www.standingonthesideoflove.org.

Sixteen T-shirts have been ordered and received. Ordered in bulk, the cost to us is \$15 each. The Social Action Committee encourages you to order yours now and pay what you can when you receive it.

Orders will be taken by me at thea@humboldt1.com or at the Fellowship.

Thea Gast



Our (it's a) new year party

It is a new year! We will soon be all back together after a summer of travels and vacations. We will be starting up our regular two service Sundays. So bring on the celebration! Let us rejoice in each other, in a new year and in our community of fellowship.

On Sunday, **September 19**, our Fellowship returns to the two service format at 9 and 11 a.m. As we usher in our new year in fellowship please join in a "Building Community - One Appetizer at a Time" celebration and mixer in between services on our patio.

We are encouraging the various committees and groups to bring one type of appetizer. It would be great if each group could come up with a way to serve finger food that is quick and easy. This shared event will be accompanied by coffee, tea, mimosas and grand company - let's start our year off with a fun filled event that celebrates the unique assets we all bring to our fellowship. Most importantly let us start our new year off with each other.

If you have any questions, ideas or would like to be a party planner please contact me at maureenlawlor55@yahoo.com or 668-1633.

Maureen Lawlor

Make a joyful noise News about the HUUF choir and other musical happenings

Choir rehearsals resumed on Wednesday, August 25 from 7:00-8:15 at the Fellowship and will continue at the same time each week through May. New members are welcome at any time, and do not need to have prior vocal training. The choir sings at two services monthly, and also participates in other events such as holiday caroling. In September you can hear the choir on the 12th and the 19th. We learn diverse music and offer all interested parties the opportunity to participate.

In July I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN) conference in Madison, Wisconsin, and am newly enrolled in a three-year national credentialing program for UU Music Leaders. I met many wonderful new musical colleagues and look forward to sharing some of their ideas with HUUF. Also, as part of my research about our congregation, I will soon solicit feedback from all of you about your musical wishes and needs in the form of a brief survey. Please do let me know your thoughts and opinions about the music we share during services.

In the meantime, I am excited about the upcoming musical year and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

mUUsically yours,

Elisabeth Harrington

Religious Education



Family Fiesta Night

Saturday, **September 11**, 5:30- 8 p.m.

It's our traditional way to start up the year with Religious Education. Come have tacos or burritos and find out what opportunities your family will have this year in RE. Meet your child's teachers, find out our new social action projects and of course, our traditional margarita if you sign up to volunteer. Register your children; find out how to navigate our Religious Ed calendar to keep your family updated on all the enjoyable activities we have planned for this year. Bring someone who might be interested in our program, it's a fun night to get acquainted and catch up with folks you haven't seen all summer.

Welcome back to Religious Education

September 12: Gathering of the Waters is an all-age event in the main hall. Childcare will be available for younger children if needed.

September 19: First day of RE. Come meet your teachers, catch up with your UU friends, share your summer stories.

September 26: Social Action Sunday

One of our favorite traditions. We will glean at Redwood Roots Farm down the lane. Wear clothes to get dirty and yard shoes. We will glean for the Food Bank.

Jillian Mooney

Arcata night shelter

For the last nine years members and friends of HUUF have been providing meals for the overnight residents of the Arcata Night Shelter. We can all be proud of the job we've done. We have delivered delicious, nutritious meals consistently to the homeless who stay overnight at the shelter, demonstrating our commitment to our principles of affirming and promoting the dignity and worth of every person and showing justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. The list of people available to provide the food has dwindled in recent years. We really need all who are interested in this project to get involved now. Please contact me at munsee@humboldt1.com or 668-4095 to get more information about the project and/or to volunteer.

Jean Munsee

Fellowship Fundraising Committee

The Board invites those with a passion for fun to help plan and coordinate a three-year fundraising schedule. We already have a few events in the works; but we need to revive and reinvent our very successful past activities, as well as to create new opportunities which build community while we raise money and have fun.

To get involved, please contact me at harris2761@sbcglobal.net or 725-9043.

Dave Harris, Treasurer

What exactly is a facilitator?

The word “facilitate” comes from the French word “facile,” which means “easy.” A facilitator then is an “ease-ator.” Someone who guides us through the procedures each Sunday, keeping us on track and filling in all the spaces, making sure we start and end on time. A facilitator makes everything a little more polished.

Our facilitators are not professional actors. We don't hire public speakers each Sunday, we get volunteers - people like you - and it's different every week. Each lends a personal style to the job. True to our values of embracing diversity, our facilitator guidelines allow for variations and ad-libbing is encouraged. We try to maintain a balance between tradition and flexibility.

Being a facilitator is not difficult, but it does take a bit of practice. If you've been coming for a while, you're probably familiar with the usual line-up; but there are some tasks that the facilitator performs that you may never have thought about. For example, getting to know the presenter in order to make a brief introduction, or getting out the chalice and making sure it has oil in it. And if the facilitator ever forgets anything, there are lots of people in the crowd who know the order of service intimately; we all like to pitch in and help each other out.

If you don't like speaking in front of crowds, it may not be the job for you or it might be a way to push your boundaries a bit – it's a pretty friendly crowd. If you *do* like to speak in front of people, it's a great gig; and people will start to recognize you. If you're new to the Fellowship and would like to get more involved, you should know that it's a scientifically proven fact

that volunteering makes you feel a part of a group faster than any other activity.

The Program and Worship Committee will host a Facilitators Workshop on **September 19**. It's been cleverly scheduled for the same Sunday as the Social Action Brunch, so you can enjoy a meal and come to the one-hour workshop at 1:00. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please join us for the workshop. We'll show you the ropes and, if you're ready, get you scheduled for your first gig.

Katherine Almy and Steve Sottong
co-chairs, Program & Worship



Group poem: member's imaginings from our summer poetry program

- I imagine creating a happy song.
- I imagine learning to pray and be one with the wind.
- I imagine the inner calm and depth of a delicious, deep mountain stream.
- I imagine “war no more.”
- I imagine learning to be as at-home in the world as the great eagle is in the sky.
- I imagine learning to reach through clouds to find the light of my soul.
- I imagine giving and getting “compassion” without expectations.
- I imagine creating a world in which animals are loved, not tortured and killed for food.
- I imagine creating together, allowing the many pieces of people and goodness to grow.
- I imagine learning to become the joyous, shimmering laughter of a child.
- I imagine creating a perfect and beautiful blue glass sphere.
- I imagine abundant love in villages, communities, states, countries, and the universe.
- I imagine learning how to teach as I learn to see spirit in the eyes of each child divine.
- I imagine creating friendships that are fast and natural like the birds on the wind merge.
- I imagine creating a safe haven, even if just our home, for all our grandchildren.
- I imagine creating a world where everyone starts the day with a song.
- I imagine creating, learning, creating, learning—a piece of the world in peace.

Wendy Rowan

Social Action letter

The letter below was sent to the *Times-Standard*. SAC is asking the Board of HUUF to place this matter on the agenda for the October Congregational meeting, to give approval to a position of the entire congregation.

Dear Editor,

This comes from the Social Action Committee of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, which took a position, on June 6, 2010, regarding Arizona's Anti-immigrant Law S.B. 1070. The law expresses anti-immigrant hostility. It creates opportunities for abuses, such as profiling based on language and appearance. There is no reason to believe that the law can be implemented without serious human rights violations. Bridges between the Latino community and law enforcement officers existed. They have been destroyed and need to be reestablished.

The law's goal of "attrition through enforcement" is especially troubling. The intent is to encourage undocumented immigrants to leave Arizona through sustained harassment sufficient to compel them to give up their hard-earned lives in the United States. Unfortunately, this strategy is more likely to sow fear and confusion in immigrant communities, even while Arizona residents rely on members of those immigrant communities to build their homes, process and serve their food, and care for their children.

There is need for our country to develop a just and humane immigration policy. The current economic crisis makes us realize that across borders we are all part of a global system whose fluctuations create serious consequences for everyone. These same global economic forces push people to migrate. Instead of seeing neighbors as competitors, we need to see them as participants in our shared struggle.

Ursula Osborne

Writing group

The HUUF writing group "Free at Last" will commence meeting again on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, starting in September. We meet at the Fellowship at 1:30pm on these days. A sign-up sheet will be provided for new folks wishing to join the writing group. When signing up, please be sure to put a phone number &/or email address so you can be contacted. All writers and would-be-writers interested in sharing with the group are welcome. This is also a good way to get started, to get inspired and to enjoy friendly feedback.

Eve Anderson

Men's retreat

How long has it been since you last got together with a group of men and talked about what's really important to you? Not the latest baseball game, not the cool summer weather we've been having, not the price of gas. I mean instead what's really close to your heart.

For many years, UU men of the Pacific Central District have gathered on the third weekend in October and have played, explored, meditated, sung, made new friends and learned from one another. This year's retreat, **October 15-17**, will focus on three issues:

- Making friendships, deepening friendships
- Coping with retirement and semi-retirement
- Men's perspective on taking charge of our personal health

Come join UU men for a weekend of fun, kinship, workshops and more.

Location: Westminster Retreat Center, Alamo (near Walnut Creek)

Cost: \$225 (accommodation, meals, materials). Limited scholarships are available.

How to register: www.pcd-uua.org/2010mensretreat.pdf

For more information, contact me at pcdmensretreat@gmail.com or 408-393-6182.

SAC recommends

One can access live streaming videos from Pasadena at <http://www.allsaints-pas.org/streaming-all-saints/>. "The Role of Medical Professionals in US-Sponsored Torture" by John Bradshaw, J.D., Director of Policy, Physicians for Human Rights, was particularly informative program. I recommend the series.

Ursula Osborne





Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Thursday, Friday

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Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents Jeff Knapp

JoAnn Thomas

Trustees Greg Blomstrom

Wendy Rowan

Beverly Morgan Lewis

Kim Moor

Treasurer David Harris

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas



SAC brunch

There will be an SAC brunch on the third Sunday of September, which is the 19th, and this will immediately follow the second service. Proceeds will go where they are most needed in the community. Please stay and enjoy wonderful dishes prepared by the Social Action Committee and other members of the fellowship.

Eve Anderson

UU mini-vacation

This annual getaway, which takes place **September 16-19**, is organized by UUCPA in conjunction with Northern California UU Camps and Conferences.

There are 33 cabins available at Bass Lake and as of July 1, 19 had been reserved.

You'll stay in a rustic screened cabin that sleeps up to eight people – each cabin has four bunk beds. A single bed and mattress is provided for each camper. You provide sleeping bag or linens. Bathhouses have sinks, showers, toilets, electricity and lights, but cabins do not. You can hike, swim, canoe, water ski, kayak, do arts and crafts, archery, read, snooze, play volleyball, basketball, tennis, ping pong, or tether ball. One horseback ride is included with your registration (ages 5 and up). Water skiing and boat rides are available for an extra fee. The south end of Yosemite Park is approximately 45 minutes away.

Three delicious hot meals a day are prepared for you beginning with breakfast on Friday morning.

More information is available at http://www.uucpa.org/bass_lake/about_bass_lake.html. Send questions to basslake-info@uucpa.org.

Diane P. Meier-Phelps