

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



September 2012

October congregational meeting topics

In the next few weeks, the Board will finalize the agenda for the **October 14** Congregational meeting. At this time there are three important items scheduled:

1. Approve new Nominating Committee members
2. Approve 2012-13 budget
3. Discuss Ministerial Search Committee Progress Report

With careful consideration of the time constraints posed by after-service meetings, there are several additional topics under consideration:

- a. Discuss congregational endorsement of the Death Penalty Initiative
- b. Discuss dedicated plates proposal
- c. Share plans for Creating Peace study

As always, our Congregational meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for open communication. We look forward to your participation.

Dave Harris, Co-president

Spirituality of place

The **August 26** Sunday service was inadvertently omitted from the last newsletter. The editor regrets this error.

The Spirituality of Place by Berti Welty and other HUUF members

Throughout the ages humans have used art, music, landscaping and architecture to lift the spirit, evoke wonder and effect perceptions and moods in many different ways. During the service we will explore how the building design, our various gardens, plus art and music combine to enhance our worship experience and our sense of community. After the service, there will be a chance to learn more about specific gardens and interact with art. Music will be an integral part of this service.



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People

Dennis and Suzanne

Reynolds's new address is 2234 Rainier Ave, Port Townsend WA 98368.

Maureen Lawlor is moving to Alaska. We will miss her dearly.

Barbara Barrett is taking it easy this week as she heals from a leg injury.

Sue and Archie Mossman are back from Africa.

Barbara Madaras is glad to be finished with a difficult jury case.

Nancy Engels bought new home in Arcata.

Thea Gast is recovering from a fall.

Anna Mae Botley had a wonderful time visiting friends from 1947 and family in Colorado at the old family farm.

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

Karen Knapp

All-Fellowship potluck picnic

Begin the Fellowship year by breaking bread with your spiritual family. On Sunday, **September 9**, following the Gathering of the Waters Service, there will be an all-Fellowship potluck picnic on our lovely patio (and inside if it's chilly). Bring your potluck items to the kitchen prior to the service. Since space is limited in the kitchen, please bring your items fully prepared. Items needing to be kept warm will be placed in the oven, so don't plan on using the oven to cook your dish.

As always, assistance with set-up, serving and clean-up would be appreciated. Call me at 476-0654 if you can help set up or organize in the kitchen. Pitching-in as needed will also be greatly appreciated.

Come. Enjoy. Get to know other people in a relaxed nourishing setting.

Berti Welty



Ice cream social

The Caring Circle will sponsor an ice cream social for adults on Thursday, **September 13**, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. The social will be much more informal than the tea which the Circle held in June. The purpose is to provide a relaxed atmosphere for HUUF members to visit with each other for longer than is possible during Sunday coffee time. Please RSVP to Shay in the office at 822-3793 so we know how much ice cream to provide. Let Shay know, too, if you will need a ride, as we hope to be able to provide transportation for those who do not drive.

The Caring Circle hopes to sponsor similar events quarterly.

Joy Thomas, for the Caring Circle

Be in the loop

The Loop was installed in our meeting room last year as an audio assist for hearing aid users. By setting your instrument to "T" all sounds coming through the microphone will beam directly to your hearing aid. I would like to talk to all hearing aid wearers about this system. Please contact me at 826-1227 or richardk@humboldt1.com.

Richard Kossow

Classified ads

Babysitter available! Flexible schedule! See Debi's sign by the "UU in the news" BBoard.

Debi Cooper

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HUUF's choir accompanist, Levi Walls, is seeking piano students of any age. Levi is a piano performance major at HSU and holds several Associate degrees, including music and elementary education. Several years experience teaching piano and extremely patient and knowledgeable. Lessons are \$15 for a half-hour with flexible evening lesson times. 209-915-3820 or chopinlevi@yahoo.com.

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

Let the magic begin - We need actors and actresses

On Saturday, **October 27**, our Fellowship will be transformed into a magical kingdom. During the Halloween Festival, little children - and big ones too - will follow their guiding light through this fairyland, watching short skits in wonder and awe. They will receive tokens from each skit. The community brings their little ones to our Fellowship where it is safe, not scary, and filled with magic.

You can be a part of this magic. Even if you have never acted before, you can do it here. Each skit only lasts three minutes, yet you do the skit over and over for each group of joyous youngsters. As it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the whole Fellowship to put on this enormous undertaking. Want to be a troll, a witch, a pirate, a fairy - or maybe the big bad wolf? All skits are fun. No lines are too hard. If you want to write your own skit, see me immediately.

If you don't want to act, but are willing to help, we are making the craft tokens now. We are creating props and costumes. Set-up crews and clean-up persons are needed. Being a guiding light is always fun. Working and playing with your Fellowship family to create this magical evening is a great way to get to know others and join in the fun. What are your talents? Let us know how you would like to be involved.

See or call me at 476-0654 about skits. Sign-up sheets for other aspects are circulated each Sunday.

Berti Welty

Tribute to Maureen Lawlor

We were saddened to learn that Maureen Lawlor has resigned her membership and is moving away from Humboldt County. She is going to Alaska to help with the care of her mother and to be with her family there.

Maureen has been an important and pivotal member of our Fellowship since she joined in 1997. She served on the Board of Trustees as Co-president and played important roles in several major fund raising projects. For several summers she planned and executed all of the Sunday morning programs. She was the designer and facilitator for the Membership Committee's Visitor's Inquirer Program. Through her job with the St. Joseph Hospital System, she steered the Fellowship into several needed community service projects, the latest being the Loleta Project.

We will miss your beautiful smile and cheery demeanor, Maureen. You have blessed us with your presence. We wish you happiness and success in your new endeavors. Please keep in touch and let us hear from you in your glorious Kenai Peninsula.

Board of Trustees

High notes from the HUUF Choir

Welcome back, everyone!
Wanna' sing?

Choir rehearsals have resumed for the new year and take place Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at HUUF. New choir members are welcome any time, and no prior musical or performance is required. We typically perform twice each month from September-May, but we will be singing at three services a row this September, on the 9th, 16th and 23rd — bonus! Our repertoire is an eclectic mix of classical, folk/traditional, musical theater, pop and world music chosen to enhance worship and help create community through group artistic expression. We would love to have you join us! Also, if you play an instrument and might want to accompany, please come.

For those of you who love to sing but cannot commit to a significant portion of the weekly rehearsals (everyone misses occasionally), be on the lookout for details regarding the next "drop-in" choir opportunity, scheduled for a Sunday in October. And, as always, please feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions.

mUUsically yours,
Elisabeth Harrington
Choir Director



The meaning of peacemaking in our lives

“Peacemaking” was chosen as the congregational Study/Action Issue by the delegates at General Assembly 2006. Unitarian Universalists were enjoined to study, reflect and converse on the topic of “Peacemaking,” with the goal of drafting a statement that reflects Unitarian Universalist values and thoughts on this complex issue.

The draft statement, “Creating Peace,” was brought to a vote by the delegates of General Assembly 2010, where it was approved to be an official Statement of Conscience of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Over the past few years, UUA has also been developing the UU Peacemaking Study Action Program to help congregations thoroughly explore the meaning of peacemaking in our lives. They have created a series of discussions and workshops as a part of this program. Our Administrator, Shay MacKay, will facilitate some of these workshops over the next few months in an effort to explore and expand our perceptions and experiences of creating peace – individually, locally and globally.

Beginning in October, Shay will host several small-group discussions to engage the congregation in an initial sharing of personal experiences and views relating to peace and violence. Continuing from there, we will move into sessions exploring topics such as the Peace of Forgiveness, Building a Culture of Peace, the Many Faces of Violence, and many other relevant and meaningful themes.

Stay tuned for more information and come to the October 14 Congregational Meeting to hear more from Shay about these exciting activities.

Shay MacKay



Memorial Garden path

Have you taken the time to walk the length of it? Comments received thus far have been decidedly favorable.

With much appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the family of Jean and Leon Wagner and their generous gift to the Memorial Garden, the path was brought into existence. Three bids were submitted by local contractors before it was decided to have Miller Farms perform the work for us. They were very cooperative and did a most professional job of constructing the path and rehabilitating the surrounding area. We informed them that this was Phase I of what we hope will eventually be a path throughout the entire Garden, pending an accumulation of future gifts and bequests.

In that regard, we encourage all those who are able to frequent the Garden from the end of the current path so your footsteps will tell us where you would like further extensions to go.

Special thanks are due to Karen Underwood and Barbara Madaras for their time and energy spent in bringing this project to completion.

Barbara Barratt

Board update

The Board is prepared for fall activity at HUUF. The budget to be presented at the October Congregational meeting was finalized, and committee chairs have been informed of their working budgets for the year. The Board continues to appreciate the diligence of Chip Sharp in his preparation of fiscal reports. Debbie Coggins provided our end-of-the-year fiscal report at the August meeting. This will be Debbie’s final year as our bookkeeper, and we encourage HUUF members to thank Debbie when you have the opportunity.

An important focus for the Board during the summer has been the ministerial search process. We are very grateful for the efforts of Richard Kossow, Pat McCutcheon and Berti Welty. They provided an update for the Board at the August meeting. As a result of the information they provided, the Board will present the Congregation with options to consider at the October Congregational meeting.

The Board is committed to nurturing the theme of ‘Creating Peace’ throughout the year. The Sunday service on September 9 will include a facilitated discussion on the theme to encourage engagement with the practice of peacemaking within HUUF, our local community and the world.

In regard to more practical matters: the Board approved purchase of a new dish sanitizer for the kitchen, and we have a new coffee pot thanks to the generosity of Dave and Ilene Harris.

Finally, appreciation to Anna Mae Botley for her smooth transition as our newest Board member. She has leaped into our work with thoughtfulness and care.

*Wendy Rowan,
Board Secretary*

Welcome to our new Childcare Coordinator

Jennifer Mager is not a new face to our Fellowship but will be the new Childcare Coordinator. Jesika Mitchell will still be around for childcare too, but is starting a new full time job and would like to focus on her first year teaching. Jennifer has been the substitute coordinator/childcare provider this last year, so she is familiar with our children and philosophy. Congratulations to both! Jennifer's number is 668-1848 if you need to arrange childcare for Fellowship sponsored events.

Jillian Mooney

2012-13 Pledge Drive a huge success

Thank you, thank you, thank you, HUUF members. Our pledge drive which ended June 30 for our 2012-2013 fiscal year was a huge success. With the excitement generated by having Dennis as our minister and with Berti and Jo's wonderful gift to match 50% of increased or new pledges, HUUF members upped the amount pledged this year by \$26,000. In 2011-12, HUUF members pledged \$110,000; but this year we upped our pledges to \$133,000, a huge accomplishment. We had six new pledges of about \$3000. As of August, we had 136 members in 109 pledging units with 103 pledging units making a pledge. Again, thank you one and all for making this years pledge drive a huge success.

Greg Blomstrom, vice president

Religious Education

September 2: Childcare available for all ages

September 9: Childcare available for all ages

September 16: Gathering of the Waters

This is an all Congregation event to signify our return to our Fellowship community from our travels. Bring some water (real, pretend, or symbolic) from the place you spent time this summer. Childcare will be available for children who may only want to stay for a portion of this ritual.

September 23: Welcome back to Religious Education!

Preschool: Welcome to the Discovery Year. Come discover: Who is in your class, our new song for the year (hint-it's by Raffi) and Creating Peace

K-2nd: Welcome to our new teacher Debi. Come meet her and play some games to get to know each other. We'll do art and have fun.

3rd and 4th: Welcome to our new teacher Therese. We will create inner peace and mindfulness this year as we explore Thich Nhat Hahn's book *Planting Seeds*. Come explore these ideas and activities with your friends old and new.

Intermediate: We will share our summer experiences with our friends, play a getting reacquainted game and talk about our new year together.

September 30: Social Action Sunday. We will glean at Redwood Roots Farms down the road. We will give the produce to other in need. Thank you to Janet for helping us to continue this favorite tradition at HUUF. Dress to get muddy

Family Fiesta Night, Saturday, **September 15**, 5-7 p.m.

It time again to reconnect with your fellowship family. Teachers will share the curriculum your children will use this year. Update your child's registration form, learn about our new UU passport program and share a meal together. We are looking for families to host a family night, bring snacks, assist in a classroom, assist with our holiday play and many other ways that keep our RE program vital. Plus, you get a free margarita when you sign up. RE will provide tortillas, beans, meat and drinks. You will be called and asked to bring tomatos, lettuce, etc. Come to this fun event on Saturday, **September 15**, 5-7 p.m.

Jillian Mooney



Ministerial search update

At the August Board meeting the Ministerial Search Committee provided an update on our effort to hire a half-time minister. Two candidates have taken three-quarter-time positions; one of these told us that he felt that he could not make it here on a half-time salary. Another possibility declined to apply; the Ministerial Search Committee will talk with her to gain feedback. A fourth person has taken an interim spot and could likely be a candidate next year.

From this experience and after consultation with PCD and UUA the committee shared the following:

- The Ministerial Search Committee is finding the half-time pool very limited and believes it highly unlikely to again be so lucky as to find someone like Dennis Reynolds, whose needs and gifts fit so well with HUUF. UUA and PCD are mostly engaged in helping congregations find three-quarter-time ministers, providing limited assistance in securing a half-time minister. This raises the question of whether we should/must offer more. If we were to pursue a three-quarter-time ministry and needed to find extra funding, the membership and Fellowship could probably be counted on for additional support, as they have always come through with personal loans to the Fellowship for projects-at-hand.
- We may need to provide housing support. It would seem that a loan guarantee would be a good offer. Most ministers now are not in favor of furnished housing or parsonages and prefer buying to renting.
- Our effort to find a stable, longer-term minister, who will grow with us, may require more time. September 2013 may be a more realistic goal.
- The Committee is developing a flyer that PCD will help us distribute to the candidate pool and recently retired ministers. Their intent is to include testimonials from Jeanalyse at PCD and Dennis Reynolds.

The Board is very appreciative of the Committee's continuing efforts, recognizing that each week they devote many hours to this important task. We are confident that, together, we will be successful in hiring a minister to compliment our unique Fellowship. To ensure that we all have a voice in this part of the journey, the Board will devote a considerable portion of the October Congregational meeting to a discussion on our progress.

Board of Trustees

September SAC brunch

Our first Social Action brunch of the season, welcoming everyone back from summer adventures, will be on **September 16** (3rd Sunday) following service. We will have a wonderful selection of delectable foods. Please allow 10 or 15 minutes for dishes to get to the table, so everyone can be easily served.

Suggested donations: \$5 per adult and \$1 per child.

Proceeds from this brunch will go to support the Hope Center.

Eve Anderson

Opinion piece

Proposition 34 on the November California ballot is an historic initiative to replace a dysfunctional and costly law. Passage of Prop 34 will save California taxpayers \$1 billion over the next five years and eliminate the risk of executing an innocent person.

By consensus, the Social Action Committee of HUUF has expressed its support of Prop 34. They have asked the HUUF Board to bring the issue to the congregational meeting in October, so that the entire congregation can discuss it and choose, or not choose, to endorse it. The Board chose to not place the issue on the agenda. [Ed. note: But see agenda on page one.]

To me, the death penalty is a moral issue. I want to see it removed from California. I am disappointed in the Board's decision to not place the proposition on the October agenda. I do not care if congregational meetings take a long time. There are very few of them in a year. They are our opportunity to be engaged in creative decision-making together.

Please join me in urging the Board to place the death penalty issue on the October agenda, also, join me in voting "yes" on 34 in November.

Ursula Osborne

Life's lessons and impressions

Since retiring and moving to Humboldt, my life has been transformed. The wonderful people in this Fellowship have nourished and encouraged me as I gave myself permission to find my artistic voice. The many people, from all walks of my life, but especially from the Fellowship, who came to my August 10 Arts Arcata reception just blew me away. I have never felt so validated in my entire life. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

As you may be able to tell from my art that is adorning both the meeting house and the gardens during August and September, I have dabbled in many media. However, three-dimensional art, especially sculpture and small metals, pulls strongly on my artistic yearnings. I especially like working with bronze. I strive to release or manifest the object which I sense needs to be created and set free. Some of my art is loaded with my personal truisms which I have learned throughout my life. Others are whimsical, or just my impressions of the natural world. All come from the heart.

If you'd like to take some of my art home, the price list is posted along with my artist statement. The prices are on the low side, as I am not yet an established artist. Thanks for letting me share my passion with you.

Berti Welty



sculpture by Berti Welty

Back issues of *UU World*

Eddie Watson has requested that we save our *UU World* magazines after we have finished reading them, then take them to the HUUF Library, for those who do not get *UU World* in the mail.

Ursula Osborne

Shay has new office hours

Monday thru Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Beginning on Monday, September 10, Shay MacKay, our Administrator, will have new office hours. We hope this doesn't cause any inconvenience to our HUUF family. Remember, you can always contact Shay at office@huuf.org or (707) 822-3793.

This is getting confusing

Crafts Studio attendees decided recently to test-drive a second monthly meeting, which will be on the third Wednesday of each month, at a more southerly location. The first monthly meeting is on the first Wednesday, the second meeting is on the *third* Wednesday. Got that? Additionally, the venue will bounce around a little bit. Contact the hostess if you need directions. Here's what we have lined up for the near future:

September 5: Suzanne Moore's in Eureka

September 19: Beverly Allen's in McKinleyville

October 3: Joy Thomas's in Eureka

There is no need to RSVP; but if the second meeting isn't popular, it won't be continued. All meetings run from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. Bring your craft and chat. If you don't come, we might talk about *you*.

Joy Thomas



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Calendar Editor Shay MacKay

Pride Festival participation

The Pride Festival will be held Saturday, **September 8** this year in Halvorsen Park in Eureka. There is a need for HUUF participants who will carry our banner in the parade. HUUF, as a Welcoming Congregation, should be represented.

Eve Anderson

Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Thursday, September 20, 5:00 p.m.** Send your committee reports and articles to joythomas3828@gmail.com. Neither PDF files nor late submissions can be accepted.

Joy Thomas, editor

