

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



October 2009

Building rental changes

The Board is considering revising the Fellowship's building use policy for members. Currently members use the building for free for personal events (other than paying for stewards and cleaning). Non-members pay a variety of rates which vary from \$100 to \$750 depending on the type of event and the building being used. Rates are posted on the fellowship web page.

The board solicits member comments on two new rate structures for member use of the Fellowship as well as comments on the current policy of allowing members to use the building for free.

Proposal one is to charge members half the current rates charged to non-members for non-memorial events. Members could still use the building free for memorials. For all events, members would have to pay for stewards and cleaning.

Proposal two would charge members a sliding scale based on the member's ability to pay. Obviously, ability to pay is a difficult criterion to establish, but it could be based on pledge amount or some other criteria. Members would still have to pay for stewards and cleaning.

If you have comments please send them to the board via email office@huuf.org, via mail to the fellowship or phone a board member.

Greg Blomstrom, Vice-President,
HUUF Board of Trustees

Environmental health

Sponsored by HUUF's Green Sanctuary Committee, Six Rivers Planned Parenthood and the Humboldt Community Breast Health Project, award-winning author Dr. Sandra Steingraber will speak on "Environmental Health: A New Civil Rights Movement" on **October 10**, 7:00 p.m. in the Kate Buchanan Room at HSU.

Dr. Steingraber is a distinguished author, ecologist and cancer survivor. She was a *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year, has keynoted many environmental health conferences, testified at Congressional briefings and appeared frequently on national media. Currently a scholar-in-residence at Ithaca College in New York, she is author of the classic, highly influential books, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and Environment* and *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*. In these books, Steingraber addresses cancer and reproductive health as issues of environmental justice that particularly affect certain populations. Hailed by the Sierra Club as "the new Rachel Carson," Steingraber is now at work on a book about how food, air and water supplies affect the health of children, and calls for public policies that reflect these scientific realities.

Sue Y. Lee Mossman
for Green Sanctuary Committee

Halloween festival needs you

October 24 is approaching, and we are well on our way to an amazing Halloween Festival. We need additional hands during the afternoon and evening of the event. We are specifically looking for Guiding Lights (silent tour guides who carry a lantern). If interested, contact me or Katherine Almy. We can plug you in based on your interests and availability. It will be fun.

Jenn Tarlton



Charlynn's memorial

A memorial celebration of the life of Charlynn Johnson, who died August 23, will be held **October 31**, 1 p.m., at HUUF. Charlynn loved Halloween so license is granted to wear a mask or costume.

Suzanne Moore

People

Ursula Osborne visited the state of Washington to attend a Re-evaluation Counseling workshop and to visit relatives on her mother's side, on her father's side and on her late husband Clyde's side.

Mary Lou Jensen is currently in Redwood Memorial Hospital and will be going to St. Luke's for rehabilitation. She welcomes cards and calls.

Dave Goggin is recovering at Eureka Health Care and welcomes visitors. He is looking for new housing after October 1.

Ginger Gardner was at Mad River Hospital for a few days but is now doing well.

Mary Freedland appreciates the phone calls and cards that she has received from our supportive community.

Pat McCutchen will have her long-awaited surgery in December.

Bob West went to Switzerland.

Ann King and **Carol McFarland** went to Paris.

Pat McCutcheon and **Cheryl Rau** went to Turkey.

Anna Mae Botley and **Steve Sottong** went to New Zealand.

Awana Kalel went to London.

June Davis' mother, Nobu Kubo Schildhauer died peacefully at the age of 93 in her home in Waikiki with her loving family beside her. She was born in a small town on the northern-most island of Hokkaido, Japan, graduated in English literature from a university in Tokyo, lived through the Second World War years in Shanghai, and eventually emigrated to the U.S. with her husband of 60 years, Hugo Paul Schildhauer, who was her devoted, loving caregiver during the last years of her life. Her family honors her long, gracious and well-lived rich life.

Karen Knapp

Tuna Sunday - a HUUF tradition

Here's a big thanks to John Sloane who for several years has collected cans of tuna and money on the first Sunday of each month. He bought tuna with the money collected and took the cans to the Arcata Endeavor (now the North Coast Service Center). Before John, Leon and Jean Wagner performed this labor of love and concern.

Who will now carry on this tradition which has provided a tasty protein for many people in need? If you would like to serve our greater community by becoming our next Tuna Coordinator, please contact me. Thank you.

Thea Gast,
for the Social Action Committee

Evening with Greg Mortenson

On Tuesday, **October 20**, College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University's Book of the Year Committees will host a free talk and slide show by Greg Mortenson at Eureka High School auditorium, 1915 J St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. No tickets are needed, and seating is on a first come, first serve basis. The event is free; however, \$5-\$10 donations to Central Asia Institute are encouraged, in order to help build schools in Pakistan. For further information go to CR's homepage, www.redwoods.edu, then under departments, English, and then Book of the Year. Mortenson's Book, *Three Cups of Tea*, is in the HUUF library.

Pat McCutcheon

Got interest?

Interested in joining an *ad hoc* team to review, update, research and advise our HUUF Board of Directors on what we should consider in terms of long term investments? This team will set their agenda and schedule, such as when, where and how often to meet. If you are willing to be a part of this team, please contact me. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Debbie Coggins



Newsletter reminders

After this issue, we no longer have anyone to assemble the calendar or the list of Sunday services for insertion into the newsletter. This function is probably more important than the newsletter itself. If you would like to be a vital part of HUUF communications, please contact Bert Taylor in the office.

Please remember that members' phone numbers and email addresses are not included in the newsletter except in advertisements. This is to protect you from Internet robots that collect such information for spamming purposes. Members can find one another via the HUUF directory.

Joy Thomas, editor

Quotes from *PCD Currents*

October 4, 1:00 p.m., the San Francisco congregation will host noted linguist, author, and political analyst Noam Chomsky, who will speak on the US economy and foreign policy. UUs may purchase tickets to a catered lunch and the presentation for just \$20; student and senior tickets are \$15. The event is expected to sell out.

In 1638, John Harvard died at the age of 31. Harvard was a congregational minister in Charlestown, MA, who left his library and some money to a college recently mandated by the General Court to be founded in Newtowne. In honor of his gift the college was renamed in his honor. Newtowne changed its name to Cambridge, and Harvard College became a center of Unitarian intellectual thought and a leading training ground for Unitarian ministers.

Join our Women and Religion group for their **October 17** meeting and potluck, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at our UU Fellowship of Stanislaus County. In addition to group planning for the Spring Retreat, Mary Heath will present Suffragist Confronts California Supreme Court: the story of Ellen Van Valkenbert 1871-1872. All are welcome. For more information, contact Geri Kennedy.

According to a recent article in the *Washington Post*, "Soul-Searching on Facebook," the most common descriptions of faith are pretty much what you might expect, with Christian denominations on the top of the frequency list, followed by Islam, and Atheist. Jedi lands at number ten.

Ed Uyeki

Responding to flu season

During the flu season, some UU ministers are talking about replacing handshakes after services with a small bow of respect, as in a traditional Hindu greeting. Others are considering a temporary suspension of such practices as Closing Circles at the end of our worship services.

Health officials estimate that 80% of disease transmission could be avoided if we all were better at washing our hands more frequently. Now would be a great time to pay more attention to that. Here are other things our congregations can do this year:

1. Place bottles of hand sanitizer in classrooms, offices and even the sanctuary or lobby. Encourage those who handle the offertory donations to wash their hands afterwards.
2. Have the nursery and children's toys sanitized each week - this is a good all-year-round idea anyway.
3. Instruct greeters to welcome visitors without shaking hands; many visitors may feel uncomfortable with such physical contact this season anyway.
4. Develop a simple Nursery and RE Classroom policy, and be sure all the parents know about it. This can be as basic as saying, "As part of our efforts to keep our church/fellowship a healthy and safe place, we ask that you keep children at home if they've had a cough or runny nose within the last 24 hours, or have had a fever within the last 48 hours."
5. Encourage everyone to stay home when they aren't feeling well. This should include staff, the Music Director, DRE and ministers. But, they're going to be mighty reluctant to stay home if there's not a back up plan in place for their absences. Let's make it comfortable for all staff to call on a Sunday morning to say, "You know, just to be on the safe side, I think I'd better stay home today."

Ed Uyeki

PCD men's retreat

Come join men from all around the Pacific Central District for a weekend of fun, community-building, kinship, singing, workshops and more! We will gather once again at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo (ten miles south of Walnut Creek), a beautiful location for reflection and enjoyment of natural surroundings Friday-Sunday, October 16-18. This year's theme is "What will it take for you to be happy?"

Cost for the weekend is \$225, with a deposit of \$100 at time of registration. Please register immediately, since the cost rises to \$235 on October 1. To register or to get more information, go to <http://pcd-uaa.org/men/frames.htm>

We'd love to see you at this event! Questions? Contact us:

Gordon Smith at 408-393-6182 or gordonsmith100@gmail.com or Harry J. Mersmann at 209-955-0291 or pcdmensretreat@gmail.com

Deadline: Tuesday, October 20

E-mail articles to Joy Thomas at jthomas3@csulb.edu. We no longer have an editor for the calendar or Sunday services. If you would like to perform this important function, please contact Bert Taylor in the HUUF office. Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Please e-mail your ad to Joy Thomas and send your check, made out to HUUF, to the fellowship.

Future Forum report completed: Be there **October 4**

By now or very soon, you'll receive a report on members' responses to the Future Forum survey. Those with e-mail will get the report by e-mail; if you get it e-mailed and can print a few color copies and bring them to the office ASAP, it will help those who don't have e-mail, or have problems printing it out. We also hope to have the report posted on the Fellowship's web site. Those who get the newsletter by regular mail will be mailed a copy. If you have a problem printing or getting a copy, call the HUUF office at 822-3793.

The report reveals preferences and ideas for the future but several things stand out that most members want:

— A part time or full time minister.

— A volunteer program with strong organization and management, along with more information on how members can contribute.

— A strategy and program for financing the Fellowship's work, including hiring a minister, that matches members' abilities to pledge.

— To grow, but there's uncertainty about what this growth would look like.

But exactly how do we make these things happen? We need your and others' ideas on making it happen at the Sunday, **October 4**, 12:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting, so please attend this very important meeting and contribute ideas and experience to the "how."

The meeting will also be the first step in discussing and clarifying these and other issues:

— What's the best way to raise the money required for a minister and other needs?

— How much are members willing to raise their annual pledges to support what they want?

— If we grow our numbers, how should we go about growing?

— What brings new people to the Fellowship? What does the community know or think about us?

— What should we do to motivate, train and appreciate members to volunteer in running the Fellowship?

— How do we acquire the leadership we need within the Fellowship? Do we attract more existing members who have leadership experience? Or do we offer training to create leaders from our ranks?

— Does our committee structure work for the tasks we assign to committees? Are there other, better options to using committees for some tasks or projects?

— How do we integrate new and newer members with an older generation of members, to create better service and fellowship to all members?

Before the **October 4** meeting, review your copy of the Future Forum report, and bring your notes on ideas for meeting our most important needs.

After the **October 4** meeting, we'll conduct a series of small group meetings for members to discuss the report, what happened October 4, and bring back to the Board and Congregation the opinions, needs and ideas that come out of the meetings. There will be a congregational meeting in November to pull together the results of our efforts, and start benefiting from this rewarding process.

At the 9:00 and 11:00 services before the Congregational Meeting, a panel of members will share why the Fellowship is important to them, as a warm up to making things happen at the Meeting.

Questions? Call Jeff Knapp or Maureen Lawlor. We'll see you **October 4**.

Jeff Knapp, for the HUUF Board of Trustees

The great 2009 rummage sale



Sue Mossman, one of several cashiers



Shirley Osgood, Inge Leonardos, Irith Shalmony, Phyllis Helligas, Awanna Kalal and Madeline Myers show off their awards for rummage sale service.



Eager shoppers seek bargains

Organization changes at the UUA

In the coming months and years we must focus our efforts in several areas, principally:

- * Growing our movement — working in partnership with our congregations as never before.

- * Creating a new ministry for a new America — Half our ministers will retire in the next decade. We must develop a strategy to adapt, from ministerial recruitment to training to certification to continuing.

- * Public Witness and Social Action — expanding our movement's capacity to be a force for compassion, justice and stewardship of the earth.

- * We must become far more effective at using new technology to facilitate communication and collaboration. Initial challenges include a redesign of our web site and expansion of video capability.

Organizational change will help us focus and coordinate our initiatives. These changes will allow staff to focus more on developmental work and to facilitate coordination and collaboration. The essence of the change is to create two major areas.

The first area, under the leadership of the executive vice president and the treasurer, will oversee the following staff groups:

- * Communications
- * Beacon Press
- * Stewardship and Development
- * UU Funding Panels
- * Internal Services (Finance, Conference Planning, Operations)
- * Information Technology

Kay Montgomery will continue as executive vice president. Tim Brennan will continue as treasurer and chief financial officer.

The second area, under the leadership of the new vice president of ministries and congregational support, will oversee the following staff groups:

- * Congregational Life
- * Ministry and Professional Leadership
- * Lifespan Faith Development
- * Identity Based Ministries
- * Advocacy and Witness

Harlan Limpert will serve as vice president for ministries and congregational support.

These changes are effective immediately.

No organizational change can ensure success. This change is intended to help us work together more effectively. Only when we all work to unleash the passion and skill of our people can we achieve our goals. Let us all commit ourselves to working hand in hand to grow our faith and help heal our world.

Peter Morales
President, UUA

Writers and would-be writers wanted

Free At Last is a writing group that meets at the Fellowship on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month. We are a small group currently. This has advantages and disadvantages. Being a small group allows all participants ample time to share what they have written and spend some time in constructive critiquing and useful suggestions. The disadvantage is that when two or more members are out of town, the remaining members must decide whether to meet that week or not. Enlarging the writing group would solve the dilemma generated when some members cannot attend and would also bring welcome new perspectives and exchanges of ideas.

Do you enjoy writing poetry, short stories, biographical stories, essays or some form of non-fiction? Do you have a reservoir of more-or-less true stories you would like to pass on to your children or grandchildren? Do you have that novel in the back of your mind that you'd either like to start or finish someday? Are you a closet writer and think you might be ready to come out and share your aspirations with others? You do not need to have written professionally to join our writing group. Though of course, if you have, we would certainly welcome you to come share your expertise with us.

Unlike a classroom, there is no teacher, no lecture, no exam and no right way to the exclusion of all other possible ways. Our writing group offers a relaxed atmosphere, amongst friends, in which to air your literary creations and where you can receive responsive feedback.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you would enjoy being a member of Free At Last, please call me.

Eve Anderson

Religious Education



Our Religious Education program continues the structure of breaking into classes on the first and third Sunday of each month. We call these Curriculum Sundays. Children learn UU values, history or other religions in age-appropriate curriculum taught by our fabulous teachers.

The third Sunday of the month will be All Worship Sundays. All ages gather in the CARE building together to sing songs, light candles for joys/concerns, hear an inspirational story or do an activity around a certain celebration or value. They will make a craft to bring home that will foster discussion with parents. This is a good time to share your beliefs and values with them. This month we will talk about the changing of the seasons, being grateful for our Earth's bounty and what we would like to bless in our life.

The fourth Sunday of each month is Social Action Sunday. We will either go into the community to do for others or work together (all ages) such as cooking our meals for the Night Shelter.

Some months may be effected by special services (as in December) so our schedule will be a little different.

Other Sundays, due to school holidays or special programs, we will have Friendship Sundays. These are times when children will have free play, art and time to spend with friends, while supervised by our childcare providers. This month it will be the Sunday after the Halloween Festival.

We will specify these days on the calendar on the RE website and in the postcards your children will get. If you have questions or feedback, please talk with me. Please update your registration forms to reflect phone email or address changes so we can keep you informed of upcoming events.

Welcome to Claire Arndt, our new Childcare Coordinator. She and her husband, Max, began attending HUUF over the summer. They bring their son, Quinn, who will help supervise the room with Claire. Claire, she will supervise our veteran staff of childcare providers; Mariam, Navarra, Ben and Brianna. We are glad to have these well-trained, reliable providers back.

Preschool

October 4: Celebrating Each of Us. Join us in celebrating the uniqueness of each one of us and all we share in common. We will make unique UU dolls and face pillows. We will start our growth chart.

October 11: All Worship Sunday. We will gather all ages together in the CARE building to celebrate Fall/Mabon and hear the story of Demeter and Persephone. We will make door blessings for our homes and eat harvest foods

October 18: Discovering. We will journal what we like about each one of us, measure ourselves on the classroom growth chart and discover our breath, our feet and our arms.

October 25: Friendship Sunday. We will read, create art, spend time with friends.

K-2nd

October 4: Christianity and UU. We will look at Christian beliefs and Jesus and how these teachings are similar to UU principles.

October 11: All Worship Sunday. We will gather all ages together in the CARE building to celebrate Fall/Mabon and hear the story of Demeter and Persephone. We will make door blessings for our homes and eat harvest foods.

October 18: Jesus and UU. We will continue our exploration into Christian beliefs and the teachings of Jesus and how they are incorporated into our UU principles.

October 25: Friendship Sunday. We will read, create art, spend time with friends.

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Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Board of Directors:

Co-President Maureen Lawlor
Co-President Jeff Knapp
Vice President Greg Blomstrom
Treasurer David Harris
Secretary Roxana Hand
Trustees Beverly Morgan Lewis
vacant

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas
Calendar vacant

RE, continued from previous page

3rd – 5th

October 4: St. Francis Day. Learn about St. Francis of Assisi and Jesus, watch a video and make a nature craft. Bring your small caged or leashed pets to show the class.

October 11: All Worship Sunday. We will gather all ages together in the CARE building to celebrate Fall/Mabon and hear the story of Demeter and Persephone. We will make door blessings for our homes and eat harvest foods.

October 18: Divali. Learn about Divali, a Hindu celebration, watch a video about India, make clay lamps and decorate cookies.

October 25: Friendship Sunday. We will read, create art, spend time with friends.

Intermediate

October 4: Social Activism. We will look at and learn about Social Activists in history from around the world.

October 11: All Worship Sunday. We will gather all ages together in the CARE building to celebrate Fall/Mabon and hear the story of Demeter and Persephone. We will make door blessings for our homes and eat harvest foods.

October 18: Social Activism. We will learn about Social Activists who live in this area. Maybe you know one.

October 25: Friendship Sunday

We will read, create art, spend time with friends after our busy night at the Halloween Festival.

Jillian Mooney