

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



October 2010

HUUF Board report

At our September 14 meeting, the Board continued to appreciate how our new Office Administrator, Shay Mackay, helps organize us and shows good judgment in managing the daily activity of the Fellowship. An important responsibility for Shay is oversight of the congregational calendar. All Fellowship events and programs must be scheduled through Shay. This is necessary to avoid conflicts in scheduling for use of the building.

Jamila Tharp spoke with the Board about congregational sponsorship in her journey to become a minister. She will know in mid-October if she is accepted as a candidate, and then the Board will decide on our approval process for sponsoring her. Jamila also proposed leading an Adult RE class once a week for eight to ten weeks entitled, "What Moves US: UU Theology." We anticipate the class will be offered this spring.

Debbie Coggins provided a concise end-of-the-year financial report. The good news is that we had a fiscally positive year with more income than expenses. Also, our audit for 2009-2010 was good. The concern is the return on our investments and our capacity for fundraising, which will be a challenge for goals of the Fellowship.

The Board regularly receives a report from Jillian Mooney, our Religious Education Director, who keeps us well informed about how the Fellowship is responding to the interests of families and their children. A new Teen Director was hired, Jennifer Williams; we look forward to the work she will do with the teens this year.

We had a lengthy discussion about the challenge of securing people to serve on HUUF subcommittees. The Program and Worship Committee particularly needs members. UUA resources that we are consulting with advise that we consolidate some of our many subcommittees and focus on furthering community life within the Fellowship. Board members will connect with each subcommittee to provide support.

Our Congregational Record must be completed. We will solicit responses to questions and draft the document for members to consider in November, with the goal of submitting it in December. This is an essential step in efforts to secure a minister.

The Board is actively preparing for the Congregational Meeting on **October 17**, and we will lead the Sunday morning service on October 24 (single service at 11:00 only). We encourage members to participate in both of these opportunities for the Fellowship to pursue securing a minister, consider our financial capacity and nurture our community life.

Wendy Rowan, Secretary

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Inquirers' class

Maureen Lawlor will again teach a class for newcomers who want to learn more about being a Unitarian Universalist. She will tell about the history of the denomination and about our congregation. As well as providing childcare, we will also serve lunch. Please come on **October 24** at 12:30.

Awanna Kalal

People

Mary Lou Jensen died peacefully at home on September 14 surrounded by her family. A celebration of her life took place at the Fellowship September 24. We will miss her activism, her role as a team leader and organizer, her adventurousness and her very sweet disposition. Memorial donations may be made to Northcoast Children's Services/Rio Dell Head Start.

Inge Leonardos is having adventures by herself and with her family since her move to Downingtown, PA. She misses her house and friends in Humboldt but is doing well.

Ruth Needleham went on a tour to China. She found it to be a most unique traveling experience.

JoAnn and Carl Thomas loved their travels in Italy. They adventured independently to Rome, Florence, Assisi, the Blue Grotto and more.

Joy Thomas addressed the September meeting of the Mensa Forum. Her topic was – what else? – “Backyard Beekeeping in an Urban Environment.”

Annette Gurné Hull went to France; *elle adore Paris et Loire Valley!*

Anna Mae Botley is once again driving on the wrong side of the road in New Zealand while visiting her family.

Karen Knapp

UUs in the news

We have a new bulletin board displaying newspaper clippings about HUUF members doing great things in our communities.

Awanna Kalal

Congregational record

One of the first steps to hiring a minister is completion of the Congregational Record, a form provided by UUA. To see the entire form, go to www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transitions/resourceguide/cong_record.pdf. The Board wants to complete this form before the first of the year. Much of the form is routine, but here are the most challenging questions we must answer.

Provide here your profile of the minister you seek (500 words recommended):

Provide your profile of your congregation (500 words recommended):

Does the congregation have a mission—not a mission statement, but a glowing coal at its center—and if so, what is it?

Congregational Strengths: Congregational Challenges

What congregational issues are likely to be most pressing within the next couple of years?

What congregational issues are likely to be most pressing over the next ten years?

What congregational issues may never be resolved?

To what degree does the congregation possess a dominant theology?

In practice, are responsibilities for governance widely shared or confined among relatively few members? Give some examples.

Name the committees that have recently had the greatest success.

Name the committees that have recently been most challenged.

Assess the capacity of the congregation to exercise forbearance and nurture in assisting a minister's development:

What expectations, however silent, may there be about the minister's family and personal life?

Describe the worst mistake your new minister could make:

The board invites you to respond to any of these questions. Please direct your responses to JoAnn Thomas either in writing or by email. An example of a completed Congregational Record is available through the HUUF office.

Dave Harris

Show us the world through your eyes

I appreciate the artwork on the walls of our sanctuary and have moved into Katherine Almy's curator position as she has taken on other tasks. Having never done such duty before, I will grow into this position and ask that you grow with me by coming forth now and contacting me to show your work - you inspired artists, beginning artists, shy artists, wanna be artists, establishing-yourself artists and artist friends, therefore, making my job easier and more enjoyable. We would love to see what you are creating. A big thank you goes to Katherine.

Irith Shalmony

Deadline Wednesday, October 20

Please e-mail articles to jthomas3@csulb.edu. Print and .pdf articles cannot be accepted.

Sometimes I do not change euphemisms to more direct language, such as using the phrase “passed away” instead of “died.” I strive to let each writer's personality come through. If I need the space, I will change a euphemism to a shorter phrase. If eliminating a few words or letters will not make a difference in spacing, your euphemism will remain.

Joy Thomas, editor

Exciting HUUF benefit concert

We are very pleased to announce that Felicia Oldfather, Virginia Ryder and David Davis are planning a concert to benefit HUUF on Sunday, **November 7**, at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate the wonderful new piano we now have. The first half of the program will feature the gorgeous clarinet, cello and piano trio of Johannes Brahms. The second half will include a jazzy trio by contemporary American composer Robert Muczynski and a passionate duo for cello and piano called "Pampeana," by the Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera. Don't miss this chance to get together for some terrific music by popular local performers and help support HUUF in the process. Admission at the door is \$10 for adults, under 18 free.

David Davis

Daylighters

At the Daylighters meeting held September 14, Marianne Pennekamp introduced the group to the concept of creative aging which states that aging is a normal condition of life and that the journey need not be made alone. We can both give help to and receive help from each other and discover the best ways to enlist our families, our communities and others in "aging in place."

Together, we will be better able to access available resources and, if needed, participate in creating new ones. Ten of us were in attendance. The Daylighters decided to continue the discussion of this topic on Tuesday, **October 12**, 1:30-3:30 at the Fellowship. Please come and participate. Expect tea and cookies.

Thea Gast and Marianne Pennekamp

Coffee service volunteers needed

I have recently taken over scheduling the coffee service between Sunday services and after service during the summer months. Cathy Ennis coordinated this last year; thank you to her for great service.

Doing the coffee service is a time commitment of about one to two hours and includes: making coffee and hot water so that they are ready after service, washing dishes that are used, putting things away and cleaning up afterwards. I take the dish towels home to launder them, so you can leave towels in the laundry bag hanging in the pantry.

Clear instructions are posted in the kitchen. HUUF will reimburse you for half-and-half and 2% milk, which should be brought in the morning of service. It is the individual's choice to bring treats to serve and seems to always be appreciated.

I will be happy to walk through coffee service with you during your first time. Steve Sottong and I cover the first and fourth Sundays of each month; I'm looking for someone who can commit for the second, third and occasional fifth Sundays. I also would like to have volunteers sign up as alternates if the regulars are unavailable.

A chart for sign-up will be in the foyer on Sundays.

Please call me with questions at 822-8599.

Jan Rowen



We need more lung power

Choir rehearsals have begun again for the new year. We meet every Wednesday evening at HUUF from 7:00-8:15, and sing at two services monthly. The more the merrier! You do not need to have had prior musical training to join, and new members are welcome any time. Please contact Elisabeth Harrington with questions or just show up to rehearsal. Come enjoy spending time with your fellow UUs improving your vocal skills and musicianship, and making merry and meaningful music together! (*That's a lot of "m" sounds. Those are good for establishing resonance and placement.*)

Back to school, and a different way to make your voice heard! I have begun my first of three years of credentialing training in the Unitarian Universalist Music Leader Program. I will participate in classes on Leadership, the History of Unitarian Universalism and other useful and enriching topics to help do my job at HUUF. Stay tuned for more updates about the program later in the fall. As part of the work for the program, we are looking for two members from the congregation to serve on the newly forming Music Committee. Meetings will take place three times during the year (August, January and May) and will be brainstorming sessions for our musical offerings at HUUF. For more details, please contact me.

Until next time, keep singing!

mUUsically yours,
Elisabeth Harrington

Resolution on immigrant issues for agenda of October congregational meeting

Submitted by the HUUF Social Action Committee

Whereas Arizona's Anti-Immigrant Law SB 1070 was passed in July;
Whereas this law is controversial because it leads to unfair, unwise and unconstitutional racial profiling of undocumented immigrants;
Whereas the U.S. Constitution assigns responsibility for immigration to the federal government;
Whereas the Unitarian Universalist Association at its June 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed, as an Action of Immediate Witness, "Oppose Anti-Immigrant Measures at the State Level (Arizona Law SB 1070 and the Like) and Hasten Federal Immigration Reform;"

Therefore be it resolved:
That the members of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, at the October, 2010, Congregational Meeting, express their concerns for the rights of undocumented immigrants and other residents who appear foreign.
That no U.S. resident be treated as a criminal suspect based on physical appearance.

That relationships between Latino communities and law enforcement officers not be damaged.
That none of our neighbors be looked at as competitors, but as participants in our shared global economic struggle.
That undocumented residents be allowed to work and be appreciated for their contributions in building homes, preparing and serving food, caring for children and the elderly, etc.
That economic pressure be applied by joining in boycotts of tourism and products of Arizona (except in towns, such as Tucson, Flagstaff, Bisbee and Douglas that have or will oppose SB 1070).
That participation in voter registration and civic engagement campaigns, as a prerequisite to better laws in the future, be urged.
That federal legislative proposals benefiting citizens and immigrants alike be supported.
And that U.S. enforcement of equitable, humane immigrant policies be encouraged.

*Ursula Osborne, for the
Social Action Committee
September 5, 2010*

Social justice initiatives from the UUA

The UUA is engaged in several strategic initiatives to strengthen the movement for social change that emerged in the last election season. Here are activities and resources to help your congregation take part this fall and in the coming year.

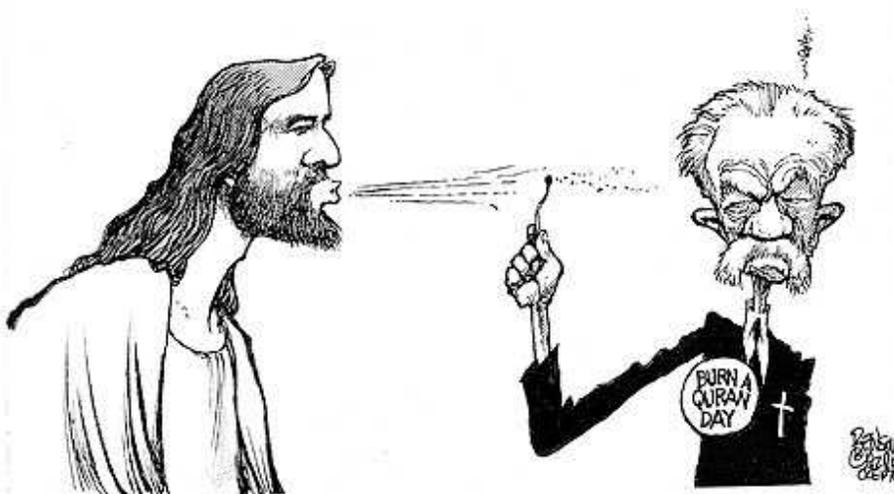
1. The October 2 march on Washington is bringing faith, labor, civil rights, environmental justice, immigrant rights and peace groups together to raise a collective voice and vision for the world we want. Bus tickets are available for \$25 and local events are also listed.
2. Faithful Democracy 2010 has resources and tips for congregations to engage in voter registration and Get Out the Vote drives. You can work on issues that will be critical in the mid-term elections, bring civility to debates and mobilize voters at the same time. We suggest you partner with community organizations.
3. October 10 climate work parties build on the 2009 International Day of Climate Action. Plan events in your congregation and communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution and to make real improvements in the quality of people's lives.

4. The UUA common read is Margaret Regan's *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands*. (Beacon Press, 2010). Purchase the hardcover now from the UUA Bookstore or preorder the paperback due in October.

5. Connect your social justice efforts to collective national advocacy with the UUA, UU social justice organizations and other UU

continued on next page

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?



congregations. Sign up your issue-specific task force chairs on Justice Action News Lists. Please make sure to include your congregation.

6. Standing on the Side of Love continues to mobilize. Across the country, UUs organized worship services, solidarity actions and public witness events in order to stand on the side of love with Muslim Americans and against religious oppression. Read the stories at the Standing on the Side of Love blog. Your help is needed to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell and to pass the DREAM Act (path to citizenship for young immigrants). See the SSL blog.

For those who desire internet interaction (html files), go to the following URL:
www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/167147.shtml

Ed Uyeki

Taste the Pacific Rim

The SAC brunch will take place on **October 24**, not on the third Sunday this month so as not to interfere with the Congregational meeting on October 17. The theme for this brunch is the Pacific Rim, which includes Oceania, the North and South American continent, Asia south through the border of Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. Not all these regions will be represented, but expect some to be. We'll try to surprise you pleasantly. Brunch starts right after the second service. Bring a guest(s) to service & brunch too, if you like. If you would like to participate and bring some special dish to share with others at this brunch, please email me at evezawadi7@yahoo.com or connect with me after the 11 o'clock service before October 24.

Eve Anderson

Religious Education



October 3: Curriculum Sunday- Children meet with their individual classes

Preschool - We will explore our first UU Principle- Each Person is Important. Come share what you do well. We will have art, movement and snacks.

K - 2nd - We will learn about how we can value ourselves and others, both as individuals and as a group.

3rd - 5th - We will explore our UU Principle- Each Person is Important, what does this mean to you?

Intermediate -- We will visit another congregation to learn about our neighbors of another faith.

October 10: All Worship Sunday. All ages will gather together in the Care building to learn about an important king in our UU History. Come make your own crown and learn about how our religion began.

October 17: Curriculum Sunday

Preschool - We will talk about "Why am I important?" We will decorate puppets and talk about what we like about ourselves.

K - 2nd - We will talk about how we are affirmed by others and how we can be self-affirming. What does that mean to you?

3rd - 5th - Guest Teacher! Come find out who it will be and what they will do. Surprise!

Intermediate - We will discuss our trip to another church and what that was like for us.

October 24: Social Action Sunday. We will all work together to make UU bookmarks to hand out at the Halloween Festival next weekend.

October 31: Friendship Sunday. We will read, play games and relax with friends after a busy night at the Halloween Festival.

The Religious Education Committee would like to welcome Jenny Williams as our new Teen Director. Jenny is a graduate of HSU in Child Development and currently works at a local preschool as a teacher. She comes with many years working with incoming freshman in the Humboldt Orientation program as well as service with the Youth Education Services. She was honored with the Outstanding Student Award her senior year. She and our teens are off to a great start to an exciting year of traveling to conferences and our own home-grown Coming of Age Program. Welcome, Jenny!

The RE Committee is looking for a family to host our **November 5** Family Ministry Night. This has been a potluck soup and game night that is always popular. We will invite families that attended our Halloween Festival this year that may be interested in our Congregation. If you would like to host or share the job, see me. We all pitch in for set up and clean up and; of course, we all share in the fun.

Jillian Mooney

Social Action Committee retreat

The annual SAC retreat was held in late August to decide on programs that the SAC wished to continue, drop or start anew.

We agreed to continue work on the following items this year:

- Resolution on Immigration for consideration of the congregation at the next congregational meeting
- Weekly meals at the Arcata Night Shelter
- Coffee sales to support a student's education in Central America
- Monthly brunches after the Sunday service to support local charities
- Collection of clothing for the Hope center
- Loleta Connection
- Supply food to the Loleta Food Pantry.
- Help with tutoring at the Loleta school.
- Meet other needs as recommended by the Loleta Community Center to spend money donated to the SAC for the Loleta project. \$300 was spent to provide shoes and pants for children at the beginning of summer. The remaining \$800 in this fund will be spent as needed during holiday time.
- Provision of programs for the public at the Fellowship, some of which will be co-sponsored with other organizations. We will pursue broadcasting these programs over Access Humboldt.
- Discussion and implementation of ways to engage the congregation in determining recommendations for our delegates' votes at the UUA general Assembly.
- Tuna Sunday. We need someone to run the Tuna Sunday Program.

Books for the jail. We need someone to run the book program for the Humboldt County jail. Neither of the above two programs would require more than three or four hours a month. If you are willing to volunteer to do either of these jobs, please contact me at munsee@csulb.edu or 668-4095.

We agreed to send \$100 to the UUSC/UUA fund for Pakistan Relief and \$100 to Healthcare for All to help with the expenses for the Mad as Hell Doctors to present a program on the current state of healthcare in our country. The program consisted of a panel discussion including local doctors at the Bayside Grange September 23. The group was also at the HSU quad the same day. The SAC agreed to co-sponsor the program. Healthcare for All is the group that held an engaging, informative puppet show at the Fellowship some months ago.

The following officers were elected for the 2010 – 11 year: Jack Munsee and Ursula Osborne, co-chairs; Jean Munsee, secretary; Eve Anderson, treasurer; and Marianne Pennekamp, member of the executive committee.

The SAC has lost a number of members in the last few years due to disability, death, and burnout. Most members are in their 70s and 80s now, and there is a need for some of the younger members of the Fellowship to join us to help carry out our aspirations and those of the Fellowship as a whole. If interested, please contact me.

*Jack Munsee, Co-chair
Social Action Committee*

Thank you

As a HUUF member who has been and is engaged in various aspects of our fellowship, I appreciate the little and big things so many of you have done and/or continue to do at our fellowship. At attending the September 19 Sunday service, I was reminded of those wise individuals who are no longer physically with us and yet, their presence and commitments are with us, at least in spirit.

After this service, I decided to begin my process of re-examining how I can assist our fellowship to meet our goals today and our dreams of tomorrow. There is something new calling me to assist our fellowship. I have noticed some of the ways others have helped out by stepping in as a Sunday service greeter, organizing a Saturday work party, assisting with the Sunday coffee, donating a book to the library, etc. Let's also remember the importance of the friendly smile from a fellow member, or the warm greeting from the Sunday greeter, or the encouraging words of support being shared with each other. I have seen these and many other ways in which individuals have and do make this fellowship "ours."

What will the next generations remember about each of us?

May each of you enjoy and engage in our fellowship in a meaningful way.

Debbie Coggins



Are you always thrilled with Sunday programs?

“We are a lay led congregation with diverse programs and points of view.”

This line, which begins the paragraph headed “Note for Newcomers,” is printed on every Sunday Order of Service. Have you ever thought of what that really means?

Lay-led means that it is volunteer members of the congregation who research and produce each Sunday service. We have lists of ministers from outlying areas who can talk to us. We get pitches from local organizations to speak. We talk to HSU professors, and some of our members present services. One task of the Program and Worship committee is to go through these resources and find things to fill the services for each Sunday.

Annually, we have an open meeting to invite members of the congregation to come and voice their opinions about what kinds of topics they’d like to see here at the Fellowship. We do our best to follow up on those ideas, but it’s not always easy to find someone to speak to each topic idea presented (we get more ideas than we do leads on ministers or experts to cover the ideas).

There is no formal procedure for vetting the presenters. To do so could inhibit the diversity and open-minded approach we favor. We do try to assure that the people presenting have had experience speaking in public and some credentials to match their topic; but we don’t check their presentation beforehand to match it up with our creed – we couldn’t if we wanted to; Unitarian Universalists don’t have a creed.

Thus it is that our Sunday services vary widely in their opinions and philosophies. Thus it is that one Sunday you’ll come to the Fellowship and be blown away by a powerfully moving presentation that seems to speak directly to you, and the next week you’ll wonder what you’re doing here. And thus it is that we all have an opportunity to think about things that we might not have otherwise or to see a philosophy that we thought we completely disagreed with from another point of view.

We can’t make many guarantees, but one that we can make is that there will be occasional services that you don’t like. Keep in mind, that it may be just the thing another member needs to hear that day. And if you want to have more of a say in the content of the programs, we urge you to join the Program and Worship committee meetings. The committee needs the widest possible spectrum of ideas to create the best programming. The greater the member participation, the better the programs will be. We meet on the second Sunday of every month, right after the second service. We’d love to hear from you.

Katherine Almy

Welcome Shay MacKay

If you haven’t already met her, please welcome Ms. Shay MacKay, our Fellowship’s part-time Office Administrator, who started work June 29, and is in the office from 9:00 to 1:00, Monday through Friday. Shay’s prior experience includes serving as Assistant Director of a Tacoma WA daytime center for the homeless, Conference Manager/Facilities Coordinator with Tacoma’s Pacific Lutheran University, and seven years of administrative/management work in gourmet coffee businesses in several states. Shay’s work for us includes administration, organization and management of our office, such as fielding and making phone calls, organizing the office and files, keeping various calendars, administering our building use rental program, supporting the Board and our committees in their work, and preparing written and e-mail correspondence on Fellowship matters. Shay reports to co-supervisors Jeff Knapp and JoAnn Thomas, either of whom will be glad to answer questions about the responsibilities and priorities we’ve given her.

Jeff Knapp, for the HUUF Board of Trustees

The Loleta Connection

We filled out the surveys, we were interested, we asked around and now we are wondering “what ever happened with our *Loleta Connection*?”

Well, plenty! Many members of our Fellowship and the Social Action Committee worked with the food pantry to supply much needed beans, rice, staples and fresh produce. Social Action has funded special needs. Many members have donated clothing and some cash. Several of us are interested in tutoring children in Loleta to not only assist the child but also to support parents for whom English is not the primary language. This is ongoing.

There are many opportunities to get involved and that information will be provided on the second Sunday each month through the Green Sheet. Then on the third Sunday we will have *Loleta Connection Day* in the lobby where folks can bring supplies to be delivered to Loleta. Look for the marked receptacle in the lobby. Look at your Green Sheet on the second Sunday of the month for food needs, clothing needs and mostly for ways you can become involved in the *Loleta Connection*.

To those of you who have been so generous and thoughtful in the past - heartfelt thanks from folks whose voices are often unheard.

Maureen Lawlor



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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(707) 822-3793
www.huuf.org
e-mail: office@huuf.org
Administrator Shay McKay
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Social Action Committee coffee sale

On the second and fourth Sundays in October, in the Fellowship lobby between services and after the second service, SAC holds its regular sale of Equal Exchange coffees, cocoa, chocolate bars and organic dried cranberries. Help us support the small farmers who grow the raw products; the partnership of liberal congregations who market them to us and others; and SAC's own commitment to support financially the education of our eight-year-old Nicaraguan student, Emyi. We are committed to do so as long as she is in the program until she graduates. This student sponsorship program is facilitated and supervised by Circulo de Amigas. Ursula Osborne is the SAC liaison to Circulo. Marianne Pennekamp and Ruth Needham are the Sales Coordinators. We need your patronage of our excellent products, which also make great hostess gifts.

Marianne Pennekamp

Criticism

Last month a member sent a message highly critical of several items in the newsletter and calendar, mostly items that had been omitted because – wait for it! – no one had sent them to me or the office. I want to stress, not for the first time, that I am not a reporter. I do not *gather* information for the newsletter; my job is to massage what is sent to me into an organized, grammatically correct and aesthetically pleasing newsletter. If you want a date included in the calendar, give the information to the office. If you want information in the newsletter, send it to me.

If this is not acceptable to the congregation or if I am not performing to your satisfaction, this might be the time either (1) to find another editor or (2) to eliminate the newsletter and substitute a series of emails from the office. Please let the Board know if this is your preference.

Joy Thomas, editor