

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



October 2012

## Rev. Joy Atkinson: A self-introduction

I am thrilled that I will be working with you on a one-third time basis this year, which means that I will come up to HUUF from the SF Bay Area once a month, on a Saturday, preach the next day, work full-time for the Fellowship during the following week, preach again on the following Sunday, and then return to my home in Berkeley early the next week. I will be available when in town to meet with the Board, committees, groups and individuals, conduct workshops, teach adult classes, make home and hospital visits—in short, to carry on a ministry to the congregation during this time of transition.

Some of you with long memories will remember that I served HUUF as an intern minister on a part-time basis 37-38 years ago from September to June, 1973-74. That June, I was ordained by HUUF in a joyful ceremony that still stands out in my memory as one of the highlights of my life. HUUF received me as a young intern from Starr King School for the Ministry, and then sent me forth as an ordained UU minister.

Since I left HUUF in 1974, I have served congregations in Duluth, Minnesota; Davis, California and San Mateo, California, as a settled minister, and then as an interim minister in six UU congrega-

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## Congregational meeting with pizza

Every October, HUUF holds a congregational meeting to approve our annual budget and to appoint a new nominating committee. Ever since I've been a member, we've had these congregational meetings immediately following our Sunday service, which makes for a long time sitting on your butt if you also attended that Sunday's service. So we're trying something radically new - a Friday night pizza congregational meeting on **October 12**.

We're hoping to increase attendance, particularly from members of the Fellowship with children, because we want your input as the Board struggles with some tough questions around searching for a minister.

We'll provide dinner (pizza and refreshments) and child care, you supply your voting self so that we can have our Congregational meeting. Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. with the Congregational meeting (and childcare) starting at 7 p.m. Our proposed timed agenda is:

1. 7:00 - 7:05: Opening words and hymn
2. 7:05- 7:15: Approve Nominating Committee
3. 7:15- 7:30: Adopt the budget
4. 7:30- 8:05: Ministerial Search update
5. 8:05- 8:15: Quarterly "dedicated offerings" coordinated by

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## People

**Elisabeth Harrington and Doug Metz** got married. Mazel tov!

**Ginger Gardner** has been unwell.

Please welcome our newest members, **Cathie and John Shermer**. They have three sons, Thomas, Ian and Sean.

Other recent new members are **Joe Breznau** and **Brad Meiners**.

**Ginger Kossow** stepped on an uneven place and fell, fracturing her fifth metatarsal.

**Suzanne Moore** was hospitalized with a pulmonary embolism for a few days, but is back home and improving. At the county fair, her poetry took two firsts, four seconds, a special first award and a cash prize from Times Remembered. See page seven for one of Suzanne's poems.

If you have news to share through the People column, please email me at [jessica@reninet.com](mailto:jessica@reninet.com).

*Karen Knapp*



*Sandy Lynn*

## Loleta Elementary school

For the past two years, a few people associated with HUUF have volunteered one or more hours each week assisting in classrooms at Loleta Elementary school. The first year five people participated, but we are now down to three. There are more students at the school this year than in any in the recent past. The assisting was in first, second and third grade classes. It mostly consisted of listening to individual students reading and helping them with words that they didn't know or working with a group of up to five students on math exercises in their math workbooks. The school would like more people to help. If you are interested in helping for a couple of hours a week or more during school hours, call Ms. Sally Hadden at 733-5705 to schedule an interview and to pick up a form to get clearance from a police department (you will be reimbursed by the school for this). In addition, you will need to get a TB test which you can get at the Humboldt County Health Department (you will not be reimbursed for this). If you need more information or have questions about volunteering, please call us at 668-4095.

*Jack and Jean Munsee*

## Halloween festival

Please join us for an evening of magical fairyland and lights at the HUUF Halloween festival. There is fun for all, whether you come to participate or help put on the show. We still need people for all sorts of fun ways to help: Carve pumpkins, be a Guiding Light, help in the kitchen, bake cupcakes, help set up or clean up, act in a skit, bring juice, help in front or be a kitchen runner.

If you want to help, there will be sign-ups in the lobby; or you can contact me at 499-1131 or [sandy5527@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandy5527@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer.

The festival will take place Saturday, **October 27**, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$5. Tickets will be on sale in early October at the Garden Gate in Arcata and at Sunday services.

## Make a joyful noise

The HUUF Choir is in full "sing" and meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at HUUF. We perform twice each month from September through May. This month, we will sing on **October 7** and **October 21**. New choir members are welcome at any time, and no prior musical or performance experience is required. 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.

For those who love to sing but cannot commit to a weekly rehearsal, please join us for drop-in choir on Sunday, **November 4**. All interested persons are cordially invited to attend a rehearsal that morning from 9:00-10:15 a.m., and then to sing two songs at the service.

Please contact me with your questions, comments and suggestions. And, make sure to say "Hi" to our new choir accompanist **Levi Walls** when you have the chance. He attends HSU as a piano major, recently transferred from Stockton.

mUUsically yours,  
*Elisabeth Harrington*  
Choir Director

### Classified ad

Wanted: A used car that is reliable and economical with a functioning heater and automatic transmission. Can pay up to \$2,000. Cathy Enis (707) 445-5491

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Classified ads are 10¢ a word. Send text of your ad to [joythomas3828@gmail.com](mailto:joythomas3828@gmail.com) and your check to the HUUF office.

## Painting party for Halloween

Saturday **September 29** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This painting party should be fun. We will construct skit props and paint both the props and any needed backdrops. Anyone wishing to help is invited.

Donations needed include: large pieces of cardboard, wooden slats ¼" x 1½", old bed sheets, paints - tempura or acrylic probably the best - no oils.

Wear old clothes as you are likely to get dirty. Come have some fun. Childcare provided. Call me at 476-0654 if you have questions.

*Berti Welty*



## Goodbye from Maureen

My dear Humboldt Unitarian Universalist family -

Thanks for the lovely thoughts and words from many of you this past month. I wanted to leave you with some contact information should anyone want a place to land when they visit Alaska.

Maureen Lawlor

153 S. Sterling

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

My cell number is 907-252-1370, and I will be have the same email address: maureenlawlor55@yahoo.com

Thanks for all your years of friendship and fellowship.

*Maureen Lawlor*

## Realities of peace vs. myths of war

Here are five essential realities about peace. The myths about war may be obvious.

1) Species evolved by adapting to their environment and finding a niche: "Survival of the fittest." Whatever technological and political achievements we enjoy were brought by co-operation within and between species, even between flora and fauna. Collaboration is even more significant in our biology than is competition.

2) A "just war" has long been an impossibility, certainly since the advent of aerial bombardment. It is impossible to justify the slaughter and suffering that modern war brings upon civilians. In wars of yore, 90% of casualties were soldiers; today, 90% of casualties are civilians. Jeanette Rankin wisely noted, "You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake."

3) Conflict is not the same as war. War is a series of armed attacks organized with the intent of inflicting sufficient pain and terror that a nation or party can take control of land, markets, and people. Conflict is a healthy necessity of life. All but a small fraction of conflicts are managed and resolved peaceably.

4) There is always a non-violent alternative to war. Thank William Blake for the two-century-old observation, "War is a failure of the imagination." In the past century, we have many examples of bravery and creativity succeeding in the face of horrible brutality. Four of the better-known ones: Danes protecting Jewish citizens from Nazi occupiers; Gandhi and other satyagrahis achieving independence from Britain; civil-rights actions in the US; citizens bringing about the collapse of the USSR. These examples leave us no excuse for falling into the trap of war.

5) Inner peace will not be gained without due focus on right relationships with our neighbors, locally and internationally. Actions of co-operation and peace-making must come hand-in-hand, and heart-in-heart, with our efforts to develop inner peace.

It is possible to abolish war. Compare it to the campaign to abolish slavery. It took a few generations, but was successful in a relatively short time. Slavery was abolished when people of the world rejected the idea that slavery was part of human nature and demanded that government declare slavery illegal. Slavery is perpetrated today by outliers and criminals, but without the consent and support of nations. Similarly, war will be abolished when we reject the notion that war is a part of human nature and demand that governments absolutely forswear war and rely upon civilian, nonviolent defense. If not within my lifetime, certainly within the lifespans of our children, we can make a world without war.

*Chip Sharpe*

## Rev. Joy, continued from first page

tions in California and one in Tucson, Arizona. Between the Davis and San Mateo congregations, I took time off from ministry to study counseling, receiving an M.S. in Counseling from California State University in 1988. Since 2003, I have been an Accredited Interim Minister with the Unitarian Universalist Association and have made intentional interim ministries my professional specialty.

After finishing an interim ministry in Tucson in July, I had planned to take this year off, expecting to return to full-time interim ministry next year. I let the District staff know that I may be available to serve a District congregation on a part-time basis, and the Rev. Jeanalyse Adams put your Search Committee and me in touch. With the Board, we worked out this one-third-time ministry plan.

Although my home base is Berkeley, in terms of my life-long profession of Unitarian Universalist ministry, coming to the Humboldt Fellowship will be like “coming home” to the congregation in which it all started for me so many years ago. I look forward to serving you fruitfully during this transitional period, as you prepare to welcome a new permanent minister to HUUF in September of 2013. See you all very soon!

Fondly,

*Joy Atkinson*

## Board update

A focus for the October HUUF Board of Trustees meeting was the report from the Ministerial Search Committee. The Board appreciates the diligence of the committee. Committee members include Barbara Madaras, Pat McCutcheon, Josh Hoboo, Richard Kossow, Marianne Pennekamp and Berti Welty. Given the committee’s recommendations, the Board will review the status of the ministerial search with the congregation at the October congregational meeting. The committee was following up with two interested applicants within the week, and Board members would be involved as needed.

In consideration of the very full agenda for the October congregational meeting, the importance of the topics to be addressed, and the desire to engage the congregation, the October Congregational meeting will be held on **Friday, October 12**, beginning at 5:30 pm with dinner. Pizza, beer and beverages will be provided. Child care will be available. The Board encourages all members to gather for a meal and an evening of considering topics of importance for the Fellowship. [See first page for more details.]

Sandy Lynn provided an update on preparations underway for the Halloween festival. This popular event has a high level of engagement this year and promises to be a delightful experience for all ages. Contact Sandy if you want to help and be part of the fun.

Chip reported that the new dishwasher/sanitizer was installed in the kitchen. The Board agreed to delay painting the inside of the building for one year, but recommended the pedestals be painted now.

Wendy said that the Program & Worship Committee is engaged with the theme for the year of ‘Creating Peace.’ Per the recommendation of Dennis Reynolds: a ‘Worship Associates’ program should be nurtured within this committee.

Greg reported that the Personnel Committee expects to complete a personnel manual for Fellowship in October.

Finally the Board was pleased to hear that we have four new members. We encourage everyone to get to know new members and welcome them into the HUUF family.

*Wendy Rowan,  
Board Secretary*

## Congregational meeting, continued from first page

SAC and P&W with no-charge brunch on those Sundays

6. 8:15- 8:30: Should the Congregation Support Prop 34, the Death Penalty Initiative Statute?

7. 8:30 - 9:00: Creating Peace Study Topic + other announcements

Thank you in advance for trying something new and revolutionary (at least for UUs).

*Greg Blomstrom, vice president*



# Religious Education



## October 7

Preschool: We will discover what makes us special in our classroom and in our homes.

We will make special UU puppets of ourselves to help.

Kdg-2<sup>nd</sup>: We will talk about how we are different. How are we the same? We will play games and make a project together.

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: We will begin our exploration of this year's congregational theme of creating peace. What does it mean to be peaceful? What does it look like? Bring a camera if you can, if not we will have one to share.

Intermediate: This month we will explore the history of Unitarian Universalism and what it means to be a UU.

**October 14:** All-Worship Sunday: All ages gather together in the CARE building. We will begin some new traditions and practice some old. Bring some change for our new collection baskets donated by Dennis. We will decide together (and learn about consensus) where we should donate the money we raise this year. We will sing together and try a new litany. What is a litany? Come find out.

## October 21

Preschool: We will continue our exploration of what makes us special with song, movement and art.

Kdg-2<sup>nd</sup>: Bring something to share that makes you who you are. Is it different from everyone else's? Is there some one who shares your interest? We will play games and do a special experiment.

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: We will discuss our sixth principle, build a peaceful world. Together we will use photographs and poetry to create a more peaceful environment in our classroom. If you'd like, bring a photo that invokes a sense of peace.

Intermediate: We will continue our discussion of the history of Unitarian Universalism. Did you know that a Unitarian invented soda pop? Come find out more about our rich and exciting history.

## October 28

Friendship Sunday: We will relax and play with our friends and rest up after the exciting Halloween Festival. Bring a book or game to share if you like.

Family Fiesta Night was a huge success! Thanks to all who participated, shared food, ran the blender and most importantly volunteered to make our program the vital and interesting one our children deserve.

Remember to fill out a new registration form for your children or check the old one to update any changes. We suggest a \$25 donation per family to help support our program. Welcome to the new members of our Religious Education Committee, Cathie Shermer and Raquel Lee! This year we will transform the committee, and we are glad to have you join at this momentous time.

Teachers for this year's Religious Education Program are:

Preschool: for their last year, Jovanah and Josh Hoboo;

Kdg-2<sup>nd</sup>: Debi Cooper and Judy Rishel (when she's not off traveling);

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: Therese Keslin;

Intermediate: Sandy Lynn

Some of the teachers and I were able to travel to the Santa Rosa UU church and spend a wonderful day meeting other RE teachers, attending inspiring workshops and networking. It was a fabulous weekend and you will see the results in the coming months ahead as we share new ideas and implement what we learned.

Jennifer Mager will continue as our Childcare Coordinator for Fellowship-sponsored events. She brings a wealth of experience as a teacher in Child Development at HSU, running a home childcare program and parenting two boys. We are lucky to have her organization and professionalism.

*Jillian Mooney*, Director of RE

## Halloween skit important dates

Many wonderful people are helping to make our Halloween Festival a huge success. We are still looking for a few actors and actresses. This is a great chance to make your acting debut. Call a.s.a.p. to volunteer.

For those of you already scheduled to be in a skit, these are deadlines and rehearsal dates:

Saturday, **September 29**: 10 a.m. Prop and backdrop requests. If you want assistance constructing your props or painting your backdrop, you must tell us by the beginning of the work party, preferably earlier.

Saturday, **September 29**: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Painting party to prepare props and backdrops. We will construct props, then paint them. We need old bed-sheets and large pieces of cardboard. Any skit participants who need props or backdrops must let Berti know immediately. Anyone wishing to help is invited. Childcare will be provided.

Sunday, **September 30**: Script approval. If you are writing your own script, you need it approved by Berti Welty or Sandy Lynn. This means the actual words, not just the concept. Time must be three minutes.

Friday, **October 5** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Skit rehearsal. Each group will run through its skit. You will be timed and get valuable feedback. If you have your costumes, bring them. Status of props, backdrops and costumes will be checked. Please practice with your group prior to this rehearsal. If you are unable to make this rehearsal, contact Berti prior to this date and make arrangements for another rehearsal date. Childcare provided.

**October 20**: All should be in readiness, including players, rehearsed skit, costumes and sets. If you need anything, let Berti know by this date.

Saturday, **October 27**: the big day

3 p.m. Dress rehearsal. Arrive prior to that time and get ready.

4:30 p.m. Pizza served to players

5 to 8:30 p.m. Halloween Festival

Call Berti at 476-0654 with any questions. Thanks to everyone for making this the best Festival ever!

*Berti Welty*

## Service auction

Pirates, cowboys and swaying palm trees -- what do they all have in common? Come join the fun as we brainstorm possible themes for next spring's Super Service Auction. We will meet on Sunday, **October 14**, at 12:30 following the service to select a theme for this always-popular fundraiser, to choose tasks, and to think of ways to make this event fun and exciting.

The tasks are many; but the rewards are, too. As we move into our new year we need successful fundraising; and the Super Service Auction has always proven successful in not only raising funds, but also in providing fun for everyone. If you never have been on the SSA planning committee, or are experienced and want to share your ideas, plan on attending. If you would like to be part of the fun, but can't attend on October 14, call me at 442-5962 to share your ideas and to volunteer.

*JoAnn Thomas*

## Personal equipment available

HUUF owns several pieces of equipment for temporary use by members who are ill, recently home from the hospital, etc. These are kept at my home. You can arrange loan of the following by contacting me at [jangrowen@gmail.com](mailto:jangrowen@gmail.com) or 822-8599.

Transfer pole – one  
Wheelchairs – two  
Walkers with seats – two  
Walker without seat – one  
Transfer chair – one  
Tub bar – one  
Toilet risers – three  
Crutches – two pair  
Bedside commode – one  
Shower benches – two

*Jan Rowen*

## Mediator training

HUUF and Humboldt Mediation Services present the Community Mediator Training, **October 1 - 13**, at the Fellowship. This 34-hour course will prepare you to serve as a volunteer mediator on a community-board-style panel. This intense two weeks offers hands-on role-plays, personal exploration and feedback, and a lot of fun in a small group of wonderful people. Must commit to attend each session: Five evenings, October 1, 2, 4, 9 and 11, and both Saturdays, October 6 and 13. Call 445-2505 immediately to enroll, arrange the training fee, and obtain your training manual and other materials. HMS website: <http://humboldtmediationservices.org/>.

*Chip Sharpe*

## Animal ministry

UU Animal Ministry Outreach is concerned about animals and their well-being. UUAM celebrates the goal of a more compassionate world. With loving kindness, we advocate greater moral consideration of animals. With humility, we are rethinking our treatment of other species. With gratitude, we cherish our multispecies planet. With joy, we practice compassion. At times this task challenges the spirit; and when we walk together, the way becomes easier and more joyful.

To be in touch with UUAM, join the listserv community: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/ufeta> or find more information at the website: <http://www.uuam.org/>

The Reverence for Life Program was created in 2010 to provide steps for greater UU engagement about how we relate to other animals. Several UU congregations piloted the program beginning in 2011, and now the RFL program is available for everyone. Learn more at <http://www.uuam.org/reverence.php>.

*Jennifer Greene*  
UUAM Outreach Coordinator

## Autumn equinox brunch

Our next SAC brunch will be on **October 21**, closely following morning service. This will be a harvest brunch in celebration of the new season and will emphasize local organically grown produce as much as possible.

Please allow 10 or 15 minutes for dishes to get to the table, so everyone can be served easily.

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

*Eve Anderson*

## The Ladies' Craft Group

They meet the First Wednesday of every Month. Religiously! Mostly the women knit and talk, some draw or string beads, and when there is a pause in speaking the small sound of the collective needles may be heard, rather like the soft Snap, Crackle and Pop of a popular breakfast cereal.

By and large what is said there stays there but an occasional slip of the tongue, like a dropped stitch, happens. It, however, is not as easily remedied. A few moments to put the stitch to right, but how to unsay a confidence? Hard to unring a bell! Still, there is this element of trust engendering a comfort level, a circle of safety.

Yes, confidence is sometimes breached and feelings hurt. Still the majority is here to support, to heal, correcting false impressions and misunderstandings. And best of all they laugh a lot, some days playing seamlessly off each others' comments and quips. Getting to know each other better, deeper.

This is a facile, quick-witted, well-read gathering of women of a certain age, and more; a gathering of Crones. Wisdom is shared, becoming part of their collective knowing. But best of all they feel safe enough to reveal past foibles and *faux pas* and laugh at themselves along with the others. Without fail they meet the First Wednesday of the Month!

... religiously!

*F. Suzanne Moore*



## Men's retreat

Join fellow UU men for a week-end of personal growth, camaraderie and fun. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual UU PCD Men's Retreat will take place **October 26 - 28** at the Westminster Retreat Center in Danville/Alamo. For further information and registration, go to [www.pcd-uua.org/men/frames.htm](http://www.pcd-uua.org/men/frames.htm) or contact Rob Strong at [strong00@pacbell.net](mailto:strong00@pacbell.net).

## Changes, changes

The HUUF Crafts Studio will revert to meeting at Beverly Allen's McKinleyville home on the first Wednesday of each month. For at least one more month (October), we will also meet on the third Wednesday at Joy Thomas's Eureka home. Both gatherings run from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. If attendance at the middle-of-the-month meeting does not pick up, it will be suspended as an unfruitful experiment.

*Beverly and Joy*



# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

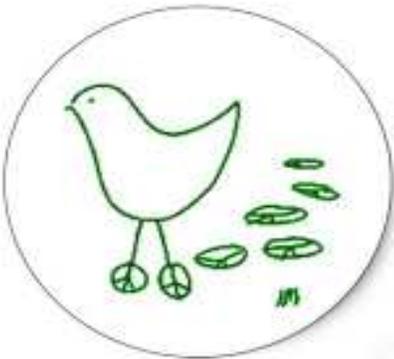
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(707) 822-3793  
www.huuf.org  
e-mail: office@huuf.org.  
Administrator Shay MacKay  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents Dave Harris  
Kim Moor  
Vice-President Greg Blomstrom  
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Trustees Judy Rishel  
Anna Mae Botley  
Treasurer Chip Sharpe

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas  
Calendar Editor Shay MacKay



## Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Saturday, October 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

## What is peace?

Shalom, Salam, K'é, La Paix, Der Frieden, Ashtee, Hoa Binh, Iri'ni, Kapayapaan, Friður, Saanti, Wo'okeyeh.

Miriam-Webster defines "peace" as this: A state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from civil disturbance; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts and emotions; harmony in personal relations; a state of mutual concord between governments.

But no matter what language you say it in or what you are using it to describe, peace is a powerful word and it can inspire us to do great things, both intellectually and spiritually.

Please join me in the coming months as we explore this deep and vital concept. I look forward to hearing what peace means for each of you and how it has manifested in, and transformed, your lives.

*Shay MacKay*