

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



November 2009

Congregational meeting

On Sunday, November 8, at 12:30 after the second service there will be a congregational meeting to consider three items. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

1. After much work and communication with those involved in the UU Green Sanctuary program, the Fellowship's Green Sanctuary Committee believes it is impractical for the Fellowship to seek official Green Sanctuary status, as defined in the material and communications regarding this program. The Fellowship and Committee would continue to act to improve the environment, but not pursue qualifying for Green Sanctuary status. Therefore, the Committee requests the Congregation approve, by consensus, the Committee no longer seeking Green Sanctuary certification, and to accordingly remove the second bullet point of the Committee Charge for the Committee, which refers to the Green Sanctuary Program.

2. As a non-consensus informational item, the Board will report on steps taken to date, and propose further steps, to implement the needs and goals expressed by the Congregation in the Future Forum survey.

3. As another non-consensus informational item, the Board will report on the status of the Arcata area's emergency cold weather shelter program which is participated in by several Arcata churches, your Board's decision to have a one-visit tryout of participating in that program, and concerns nearby neighbors have expressed about the one-visit tryout of the program.

If you have questions, contact me.

Jeff Knapp, Co-President, Board of Directors

Council of chairs meeting

A Council of Chairs meeting is tentatively scheduled for **December 6**, in conjunction with the Social Action Committee brunch. The upcoming meeting will replace the meeting in September which had to be canceled due to lack of advance notice. An agenda and more concrete information along with personal invitations via e-mail and/or via snail mail will be sent to committee chairs (or those responsible for a committee) prior to Thanksgiving.

Greg Blomstrom, Vice President and Chair of the Council

The Sound of Moolah

Who says health reform isn't funny? *The Sound of Moolah* is a puppet musical about the current state of our health care system and the politics of health reform. With a creative plot and a cast of singing puppets, the show is an entertaining way to learn what every citizen should know about health reform. This musical theater production, sponsored by the Social Action Committee, has lyrics and plot based very loosely on *The Sound of Music*. This is a show for adults. Show time is Friday **November 6**, 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. Admission is \$3 - \$10 on a sliding scale. For more information call Susan at 822-3986.

Thea Gast for the SAC

Help wanted

Do you have grant-writing experience? Do you have a couple hours a month to review potential grants? Do you have the time to proofread written grants?

We could use your help. If you are willing to help us out as we look for and write grants to enhance what we do at the Fellowship, please contact me.

Maureen Lawlor

People

Mary Lou Jensen continues to do well at St. Luke's Rehab Center in Fortuna. Her surgery is scheduled for November 13 at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka. She welcomes phone calls, visitors and cards. We send healing thoughts to her.

Dave Goggin is at Eureka Health Care and welcomes visitors. Dave appreciates all the help from Fellowship members and members of Veterans for Peace.

Carol McFarland's photograph, "The Waiter," was selected for the Humboldt Arts Council's juried exhibition and hung in the Morris Graves Museum last month. The photograph was won at auction by The Piante Gallery during the Celebration of Arts 2009.

Ginger Gardener reports that her MRI and EEG reports were normal. She eagerly awaits her appointment with her neurologist, and we hope she gets good news.

George Allen has moved to Timber Ridge in McKinleyville and is doing well. He welcomes short visits from friends 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

Long time Fellowship member **Rudy Becking** died in October. He was admired and loved by many of us at HUUF.

New member **Christina Hutton** is pleased to return to HUUF while recovering from an injury. Welcome back.

JoAnn Thomas had surgery at the end of September and is doing well. We are all hopeful for a good outcome.

Ilene and Dave Harris are vacationing in the Bahamas.

Karen Knapp



Mid-autumn harvest brunch

A nice cornucopia of dishes will be featured in this brunch.

We'll make it colorful, like the rest of nature at this time of year – with bright pumpkin oranges, deep cabbage purples, rosy apple reds, rich nut browns, etc.

Come enjoy the ripe warm mélange of spicy color and flavor and celebrate this prelude to thanksgiving with us. \$5 for adults, \$1 for children.

All proceeds will go to Betty Chin for her shower project.

Make a note of the Social Action Committee brunch – **November 15** after the second service.

Eve Anderson

Delta eco-tour

Explore the rich history and ecology of the California Delta with other UUs onboard the Tule Queen II on **November 6**, 1- 4 p.m. This eco-tour is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry and is a special excursion prior to our Leadership Summit in Sacramento. Required registration forms for the boat trip and information about the Leadership Summit can be found at <http://uulmca.org/programs/events.html>.

Cost for the boat trip is \$35. Registration deadline is **November 3** and is on a first-come first-served basis.

Shopping guide

The Social Action Committee (SAC) has ordered 50 copies of *The Better World Shopping Guide*. The book has a retail price of \$9.95 and we can get it for about \$5.00. SAC asks for donations for copies of the book; any money we receive in excess of our costs will go to the SAC budget. SAC will make up any deficit from our budget. Thus, lack of funds should not preclude anyone from buying the book.

Ratings of various products and companies are based on five issues; i.e., human rights, the environment, animal protection, community involvement and social justice. *The Better World Shopping Guide* was written by Dr. Ellis Jones, based on research for his PhD thesis at UC Davis in 2002. This is the second edition, and he has a web site with the latest information which is cited in the book. It is a small book that you can take shopping. It lists its references so that you can check on its ratings. I found it extremely useful and easy to read. Jean and I have switched our cell phone provider from one that is rated F to one that is rated A+. We have also changed cat food from a brand rated F to a brand rated A-. We take the book with us when we go shopping and have already identified products that we usually buy but will not continue to buy as long as their ratings are low.

Please consider buying a copy for yourself as well as for your relatives, friends, enemies and your favorite talk-show radio host. Be the first in your neighborhood to own and use this important book. To order, contact me phone or email or see me at the Fellowship and indicate how many copies and the price per copy that you will donate.

Jack Munsee, SAC Chair

Green sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary Committee has decided that there is not enough interest in the congregation to submit an application for Green Sanctuary Certification which requires 12 people, one each to lead the 12 areas in the application process. A large percentage of the congregation must participate in the certification process for it to be successful. The committee does not think that the congregation as a whole is willing to put in the effort to lead to Green Sanctuary Certification. Thus, we have requested that the congregation reconsider its earlier decision to obtain Green Sanctuary certification.

This will be an item on the **November 8** congregational meeting.

Jack Munsee, Acting Chair

Monthly summer work parties a success

Our third Saturday of the month work parties have been a great way to maintain our buildings and grounds as well as a delightful way to get to know other members of our community. You have probably noticed that I am kinda' shy, so work parties are a good thing for me. It's easy to get to know someone else working side by side. Thanks to all who answered the call.

We don't do work parties in November and December because of those pesky holidays. But if you have a hankering to put in an hour or two, just give me a call. Our next work party will be on **January 16**. See you there.

Scott Allen

Guest at Your Table — 34th year

For more than 30 years, the Guest at Your Table tradition has helped UUs build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for universal human rights.

When human-rights supporters share their blessings with our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee during Guest at Your Table, they ensure that UUSC's vital work to advance social justice continues, year after year. Ongoing projects of UUSC include:

- Small-business loans in Uganda, Kenya, Georgia (U.S.)
- Empowerment in Africa, South America and the U.S. to secure people's rights to safe water
- Repair homes in Gaza
- Travel for U.S.-based torture survivors to Washington, D.C., to share stories and lobby Congress to end state-sponsored torture.

During Guest at Your Table, a colorful Guest at Your Table box — with photographs of special guests from around the world — is kept in a prominent place in your home, such as the dining room table. Boxes will be presented to you during the services on Sunday, **November 8**, and remain available in the foyer. You collect daily contributions and bring them to the Fellowship on the first two Sundays of 2010.

You and your family members can also earn UUSC membership by giving at the membership level during Guest at Your Table. Contributions of \$100 or more are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY. Contributions of \$40 or more qualify for UUSC membership (\$75 for dual memberships, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth).

Chip Sharpe

Good things to know

Our UUA's Stewardship and Development staff group is accepting submissions for the annual Stewardship Sermon Award. \$1,000 will be awarded in recognition of the sermon that best explores and promotes the financial support of our UU movement. All religious professionals and seminarians are encouraged to apply on or before **February 16** to apf@uaa.org.

Our UUA's Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee is sponsoring a hymn competition with a \$500 prize. All the details are online and entries are due by **January 10**.

Parade Magazine recently ran an article on spirituality, observing that the U.S. is among the most religious countries in the world. . . sort of. Among the results of their national poll were these findings: 69% believe in God; 77% pray outside of religious services; 45% label themselves as being religious; and 50% said they rarely, if ever, attend worship services. The survey included some interesting questions to identify our spiritual preferences, including favorite movies: 25% *The Ten Commandments*; 15% *Ghost*; 12% *It's a Wonderful Life*; 11% *The DaVinci Code*; 11% *The Sixth Sense*; 4% *The Exorcist*; 2% *The Omen*.

For more information, contact cilla@pcd-uaa.org.

Ed Uyeki

Religious Education



Soup and Game Night, Saturday, **November 14**, 5-8 p.m. All are invited to an evening of hearty soups and hearty fun. Dinner 5:30-6:30, games 6:30-8. Bring your favorite game to play and soup or bread to share.

Parents, please check with your children when we have brunches, potlucks and meetings after Sunday service. Our volunteer teachers work with your children from 11-12:30. We encourage you to visit the class at the end of service to hear what your children have discussed in Sunday school. To ensure their safety, teachers supervise children until a family member has picked them up. When there is childcare offered for a meeting, please check in with our caregivers before attending your meeting.

Preschool

November 1: Dios de los Muertos

We will honor life, death and those we love. Our meditation today is about those we love.

November 8: All Worship

We will gather in the CARE building with Elisabeth, our Choir Director, to sing using our instruments and new songbooks.

November 15: Our Family

We will talk about who brought us today and who is in your family. Our meditation today is about being part of a family.

November 22: Social Action Sunday

We will cook meals for the Emergency Night Shelter. We need lots of adult volunteers. Parents, sign up for a day to deliver. This is a simple way for your family to put our UU principles into action.

K-2nd

November 1: Our Seven Principles

We will look at the sources of our seven UU principles and how Judaism played a part in them. We will sing Shalom Havayreem together.

November 8: All Worship

We will gather in the CARE building with Elisabeth, our Choir Director, to sing using our instruments and new songbooks.

November 15: Our Seven Principles

We will continue to explore the sources of our seven UU principles and how Judaism played a part in them. We will sing Shalom Havayreem together.

November 22: Social Action Sunday

We will cook our meals for the Emergency Night Shelter. We need lots of adult volunteers. Parents, sign up for a day to deliver. This is a simple way for your family to put our UU principles into action.

3rd – 5th

November 1 Dios de los Muertos

We will learn about the celebration called Day of the Dead, eat special bread and make food art rice crispy skulls. Who do you honor who has died?

November 8: All Worship

We will gather in the CARE building with Elisabeth, our Choir Director, to sing using our instruments and new songbooks.

November 15 Wampanoag Thanksgiving

We will learn about the Wampanoag Native American tribe and make refrigerator magnets.

November 22: Social Action Sunday

We will cook meals for the Emergency Night Shelter. We need lots of adult volunteers. Parents, sign up for a day to de-

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liver. This is a simple way for your family to put our UU principles into action.

Intermediate

November 1 & 15: This month we will learn about and discuss Social Activists from around the World. What do you know about this?

November 8: All Worship

We will gather in the CARE building with Elisabeth, our Choir Director, to sing using our instruments and new songbooks.

November 22: Social Action Sunday

We will cook meals for the Emergency Night Shelter. We need lots of adult volunteers. Parents, sign up for a day to deliver. This is a simple way for your family to put our UU principles into action.

All ages:

November 29: Friendship Day

Games and art with childcare providers and friends.

Jillian Mooney

Teen group

On social action Sundays and all-worship, the teen troupe meets 11 - 12:30. On the other two or three Sundays of the month, the group meets 5:30 - 7:00.

Deadline: Friday, November 20

E-mail articles to Joy Thomas at jthomas3@csulb.edu.

From *PCD Currents*

A poll released by Public Religion Research, a national consulting firm specializing in understanding the ways “religion and values shape American politics and public life” looks at the activism of religious conservatives and progressives.

These groups differ in their focus and strategy but share a common commitment to their faiths and their causes. Religious conservatives are the more homogeneous group, almost exclusively Christian, with a majority representing evangelicals (54%), and the rest mostly Catholic (35%). Less “standard” Christians were rare: 1% were Mormons, Orthodox or Jehovah’s Witnesses, and less than 1% were non-Christians. The progressive group was far more diverse, with 44% mainline Protestants, 17% Catholics, 12% UUs or mixed faith. Only 10% of the progressive group identified as evangelicals. 48% of the conservatives believed the bible to be the literal word of God, compared to only 3% of the progressives.

The two groups target very different social issues, with progressives focused on matters of poverty, health care, the environment, jobs/the economy, and the Iraq war, while conservatives are concerned with abortion and homosexuality. Yet both groups believe that faith has a role to play in the public square, though progressives are more concerned about the separation of church and state than are conservatives.

There was at least one surprise in this data. It seems progressives are the more optimistic group in regard to their social activism: Progressive activists most frequently mentioned being visible and publicly influential (33%), including speaking out, organizing, reclaiming the faith from the right or serving as an example. One thing that stood out among responses in this category was the widespread use of active verbs like “continue,” “keep on,” “maintain,” and “remain” which indicate that progressive activists have a strong sense that they are already have some success. One typical comment in this area was “continue to network and fundraise and get the word out about progressive religious values.” Another activist called on activists to “advocate a progressive agenda while standing as people of faith; we can’t surrender the label of ‘religious values’ to fundamentalists.”

Ed Uyeki

CLASSIFIED ADS

Arcata rental: 3br, 2b, one garage, no pets, no smoking, shared yard, \$1,700/month. Owner pays utilities. Available 15th of January 2010. Call 825-8995.

Female, 60, seeking temporary shared housing situation. Friendly, responsible, healthy, employed, willing to share household chores, meals, etc. I have a well-behaved older dog. Local references. Please call 822-7747.

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.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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(707) 822-3793

www.huuf.org

e-mail: office@huuf.org.

Administrator Bert Taylor

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Rummage roundup

On August 24, we held a roundup potluck supper for all the workers in the sale. A merry time was had. I must praise all the hard work done by our members and the committee. I have never seen a group of people work harder, cooperate better and be in better spirits. The sale was a congenial gathering of people. A wonderful spirit pervaded.

Among the positive elements of the sale were: cash registers in each room, using all the rooms, organization, contact people in specific areas, job division, badges identifying helpers, and valued items returned to owners if they did not sell.

Suggestions for next sale: Prices were too low, do not have shoes or puzzles, contact used book stores to extend an invitation, have only one day (not that many came Friday), weed out tee shirts with designs (unless local), book section should be better organized, stick to cut-off-date for donations, bigger posters located in more places, and then collect when sale done, make large banner for building and put up a week before sale, closer to time when students come to HSU.

The Rummage Sale brought in at least \$2750. Thanks to all who made the sale such a success.

Inge Leonardos



NOW EXPLAIN TO ME WHY YOU CAN'T
AFFORD TO PAY YOUR PICKERS
MINIMUM WAGE.