

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



November 2012

Words of Joy

..to make an end is to make a beginning..

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And to know the place for the first time.

T.S. Eliot *The Four Quartets*

When I left the Humboldt Fellowship 38 years ago, after being ordained here, to pursue ministries elsewhere, someone I had come to know in the Arcata community said to me “I have a feeling that you are not yet done with Humboldt County.” Little did I know that I would come back almost four decades later, not just to Humboldt County, but to the Fellowship that helped train and then ordained me.

I have been at the Fellowship for just a few hours now, and am in the minister’s office as I write these words, waiting for the next Fellowship event. I very much appreciate the wonderful, warm welcome I received this morning after the service, and the lovely welcome cake—a good beginning to what I hope will be a productive year among us as we work together in a variety of ways during this transitional time in the life of the congregation.

An interim time between settled ministers is a potentially fertile time for a congregation and its interim

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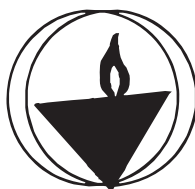
Statement of conscience

At the October 12 Congregational Meeting, Chip Sharpe presented information on the “Death Penalty Initiative Statute” (Proposition 34). After much discussion, a four-person *ad hoc* committee was formed (Berti Welty, Debbie Harrison, Barbara Maderas and Brad Meiners) to draft a document expressing “the sense of the congregation” in supporting the initiative. The text of the “statement of conscience” follows:

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - Statement of Conscience

The Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship supports Proposition 34 that abolishes the death penalty in California. Capital punishment is contrary to our core values, which include “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” and “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.” We feel that this is a moral position independent of the many practical reasons for the abolition of the death penalty.

Shay Mackay



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Ahoy mateys!

Treasure Island was chosen as the theme for our Super Service Auction to be held on Saturday, **May 4**, 2013. We will begin our search for treasures (AKA services) after January 1, when we meet to develop more specific plans. This is our major fundraiser for the year and we hope to make \$8,000-\$10,000.

The way this works is that members and friends agree to donate various services, anything from gourmet dinner parties, providing the use of a RV or cabin for that perfect get-away, to sharpening knives and shining shoes. The treasures are many, usually something for everyone. We have a silent auction as well as a live one, a special “country store” with handcrafted items to purchase and a dinner. It is an enjoyable event as well as a fundraiser, and always looked forward to and well-attended.

As we prepare to set sail, we are looking for a First Mate, who is knowledgeable in data input and would like to work with Steve Sottong to learn the ins and outs of his vital job. He kept track of the booty, getting it into a catalog and then logging purchases and payments after the event. Steve has done a masterful job for several auctions and is willing to train someone to take his place this year, as he will be in Hollywood for two weeks in April, claiming his literary prize.

We are also looking for one or two people to take charge of the “Pirates Cove,” (the country store). Their charge includes gathering items to sell in the Cove, such as handicrafts, jewelry, art items or homemade goodies; setting up and displaying the cove in an attractive manner and recruiting staff to sell merchandise on the evening of the auction.

If you are interesting in helping with these tasks or in planning and assisting at the auction, please contact me at 442-5962.

JoAnn Thomas

Searchlight Serenade

Amy Uyeki and KEET TV will present two videos, “Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Camps” on Tuesday, **October 30**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Founders Hall Room 118 on the HSU campus. The 15-minute animation and one hour documentary which includes interviews with former musicians and singers from the camps, historic footage, and interwoven animation will be followed by a discussion, as part of the HSU Campus Dialogue on Race.

On the same night, KEET TV Channel 13 will broadcast the one hour documentary, “Searchlight Serenade” from 8 to 9 pm.

Aiko Uyeki



People

The Uyekis are away on a fall cruise to Nova Scotia.

Jo Anderson, former Board President, stayed in Trinidad for a couple of weeks recently, painting and visiting old friends.

Darsty McAlin celebrated her 80th birthday in October.

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

Karen Knapp

Thanksgiving dinner at the Fellowship

Would you like to celebrate Thanksgiving with your Fellowship family? Last year about 30 of us gathered for a lovely time. We at the Fellowship have a lot for which to be thankful. Berti and Jo are again coordinating an intergenerational potluck at the Fellowship, Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, **November 22**, at 2 p.m. Bring your families and friends. Berti and Jo will bring a turkey and probably dressing and gravy. Since this event is for the whole family, we will not have separate childcare unless someone specifically requests it. There will be a sign-up in the foyer prior to Thanksgiving so we get some idea how many people to expect and what type of dish you are thinking of bringing. However, you do not have to sign up to come. Just arrive. As always, help with setting up or clean-up is greatly appreciated. Questions or RSVP? Call me at 476-0654.

Berti Welty

Sharing blessings with our “guest”

As has been our tradition since the previous millennium (since 1998), we join together with other congregations in this season of gratitude and giving to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. By making the work of UUSC possible, we affirm our commitment to peace, liberty, dignity, justice, compassion and respect for the inter-dependent web of all existence.



UUSC works around the world, helping people recover from disasters; strengthen their communities; and secure employment, health care, shelter, clean water and good food. UUSC is a membership-based organization, receives no funding from the Unitarian Universalist Association, and could not continue without our support. Each fall, during the Guest-at-Your-Table campaign, our fellowship has increased support for UUSC; in past years, our individual gifts have averaged \$50-75.

We hope each of you will take a Guest-at-Your-Table box or otherwise create a daily reminder in your home. These “guests” at our tables represent brothers and sisters whom we do not know but who share this planet with us. The empty box reminds us to give from our fullness to those who are in need, so that everyone can live in justice and peace. We all need help sometimes, we all give help sometimes.

Boxes will be presented during the service on Sunday, **November 11**, and will remain available in the foyer. You may collect daily contributions and bring them to the Fellowship on the first two Sundays of 2013. Contributions of \$100 or more are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY.

You and your family members can also earn UUSC membership by giving at the membership level during Guest at Your Table. Contributions of \$40 or more qualify for membership (\$75 for dual memberships, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth). Let’s try for 100% membership.

Chip Sharpe

Night shelter meals

For over ten years, people from HUUF have been providing meals to residents of the Arcata Night Shelter on Tuesday evenings. We have been the most consistent providers in the program. I have served as the coordinator for the program but am giving up that responsibility at the end of 2012. Someone is needed to take over the job of scheduling meal providers. It is not a difficult or time-consuming activity once a list of contributors is compiled. My list has slowly declined but is still adequate to meet our responsibility and will be passed on. The new coordinator will need to do some outreach to make her/his scheduling job easier. I am extremely grateful to those who have given so generously of their time and treasure to make this meaningful program a success. If you are willing to take over the role of scheduling meals, please let me know at 668-4095 or email me at munsee@humboldt1.com. It would be a shame for HUUF to drop out of the group of faith-based organizations in our community that provides this necessary and compassionate service.

Jean Munsee

Make a joyful noise in November

The HUUF Choir meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship and performs twice each month from September through May. This month, we will sing on **November 4** and **11**. New choir members are welcome at any time, and no prior musical or performance 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.

Please note: There will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, October 31. However, “drop-in” choir will take place 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. The music will reflect the theme of the day: the election.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments and suggestions at any time.

mUUsically yours,
Elisabeth Harrington
Choir Director



Words of Joy, continued from first page

minister—a time to explore congregational identity, delve into areas that need attention and strengthen those that are functioning well, and a time to dream about and make concrete plans for a bright future. I look forward to meeting with many of you in a variety of settings—one-to-one, in groups and meetings, and at various Fellowship events,

I will be present for about a week and a half each month from now until June, covering two Sunday services and available for meetings during the week between. I hope to fill up the week with many meetings and appointments, so don't hesitate to contact me to set up a time to meet while I'm here. If you have issues to discuss or are part of a committee or group that would like ministerial guidance, I am available. I am also here to respond to pastoral needs, so again, don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached on my cell phone (520) 262-8480 or via email at revjoy@aol.com.

Here's to a busy and fruitful year at HUUF.

Joy Atkinson



Board update

At the October HUUF Board meeting, we received a presentation from Bob Bronkall on the installation of a changing table to increase our capacity for parents to change their infant's diapers. The Board approved installing the changing table in the gender-inclusive, ADA-accessible restroom in the CARE building. The Board very much appreciates Bob's research and recommendations for installing the changing table, as well as his willingness to do the installation.

The Board approved the purchase of a laptop computer for the minister's office for the Reverend Joy Atkinson to give her computer access while she is here and working in Humboldt.

Debbie Coggins will transition from her role as our bookkeeper. Debbie has volunteered her time and expertise to the Fellowship for a number of years, and all members should express their gratitude when they have the opportunity. The quality of our fiscal reports and the support she has provided to the Finance Committee has been very valuable to the Board. The Board also wants to thank Katherine Almy for her increasing work with the Finance Committee.

A significant portion of the October meeting was devoted to details associated with hiring interim minister Joy Atkinson. Since our last Board update in the newsletter, we hired an interim minister. We know that the decision to hire Rev. Joy came quickly, but the Board recognized a good opportunity for the Fellowship that should be seized. We hope the congregation will become engaged with the work we will do with Rev. Joy.

The Board is also thankful for the generous contribution of Shay Mackay. As our office administrator she attends to an array of tasks to

keep our organization running smoothly, but Shay has other interests as well. She will donate her time to facilitate an adult RE opportunity focused on our theme of 'Creating Peace.' Look for Shay's notices and consider participating. This offering is another example of the rich options available to members within the HUUF community.

Wendy Rowan,
Board Secretary

Congregational meeting overview

On October 12, the congregation gathered for a beer and pizza dinner, followed by our fall congregational meeting. Several important items were addressed.

Speaking for the current Nominating Committee, Marianne Pennekamp and Ann King presented the slate of nominees for the new committee. Beverly Allen, Ilene Harris and Trish Sanders were approved by consensus to serve as the new Nominating Committee.

David Harris, Chip Sharpe and Nancy Cook presented the 2012-13 budget for adoption. Several questions regarding the budget process and particular income and expense items were answered before the congregation approved the budget by consensus. Several members offered suggestions about the need to include past budget figures for comparison purposes.

Kim Moor offered some details concerning our new Interim Minister Joy Atkinson, who will be introduced on October 21.

Greg Blomstrom led a discussion on a proposal to designate the offering plate proceeds to a specific

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cause/group once a quarter. The discussion ended with no action taken. Several members expressed concern that we already have a very active and successful social action brunch ten times a year that does serve the community in this way. Further, there was wide support for the suggestion that we concentrate our finances toward hiring a minister.

Chip Sharpe presented information on the "Death Penalty Initiative Statute" (Proposition 34). After much discussion, a four-person *ad hoc* committee was formed (Berti Welty, Debbie Harrison, Barbara Maderas and Brad Meiners) to draft a document expressing "the sense of the congregation" in supporting the initiative. The text of the "statement of conscience" appears on page one.

Shay Mackay spoke about the process of implementing a year-long congregational study of a UUA curriculum on "Creating Peace." Congregants were invited to sign up for small group discussion sessions the first week of November. The curriculum is scheduled to start after the first of the year.

Dave Harris,
Board Co-president



Religious Education



November 4

Remember to set your clock back an hour.

Preschool: Community and Neighbors. We will explore who is my community, neighbor and friend. At HUUF we will greet someone new with a pop-up card we make. Come have fun.

K-2nd: How are we the same? We will take pictures of ourselves and learn more about each other through crafts and games. Bring a picture of yourself when you were a baby.

3-5th: We will be introduced to a pebble meditation. We will make a special bag to keep our pebbles in.

Intermediate: We will learn about another religion by visiting the Mormon church. Let's dress up to be respectful. We will meet for snacks afterward to share our impressions.

November 11

All Worship Sunday. All ages will gather in the CARE building. We will learn about Veteran's day, originally called Armistice Day, which celebrated the day the fighting stopped after WWI. What does it mean to you to be peaceful? People have different ideas about war and peace. We will talk about the Quaker religion and what we can do to support veterans. Bring some change for our collection basket.

November 18

Preschool: We will share a mini-feast of thanksgiving. Bring a snack to share. We will talk about what we are thankful for at home, school and HUUF. We will make leaves of thankfulness.

K-2nd: We will continue to explore how we are the same or different. We will share what we are good at doing. We might go outside to appreciate our surroundings and find things we like together, weather permitting.

3-5th: We will talk about what affirmations are and how are they important. We'll create personal affirmations and create art. Bring four pebbles if you would like to find some that have special meaning to you or you just like how they look.

Intermediate: We will learn and talk about famous Unitarian Universalists in history. How many do you already know?

November 25: Friendship Sunday

We will gather all ages together for games, art and share our vacation stories with friends.

Jillian Mooney

Peace groups

The following reading is an excerpt from the Introduction to the UU Peacemaking Study Action:

I believe that “Peacemaking” is an issue that demands urgent actions and begs for long-term engagement. It’s equally relevant to our most intimate relationships and to international relations. It calls us to look inward and to speak out.

I anticipate that many congregations will wrestle with the question of when to look inward and when to speak out. I believe that it is critical to view both of these activities as vitally important; not as mutually exclusive, but an ongoing cycle of education, action and reflection. I believe that our religious movement is long overdue for a thoughtful and challenging discussion of our history and theology related to issues of war and peace. To be successful, this discussion has to be personal. We must hear each other’s stories and honestly reflect on our experiences and beliefs and why we have them. We must be willing to disagree with each other in ways that are healthy and respectful. We should pay special attention to those who have suffered and continue to suffer the effects of violence, hearing their stories and providing support when possible.

Our world is also overdue for a path that leads us away from the suffering and violence in the Middle East, in Darfur, and in our own communities and homes. Action is needed. The world we seek and the word we live in are not the same, but it is only through our human actions, and for some of us the grace of God, that we make our vision closer to a reality.

Enjoy, and good luck.

Rob Keithan

Director, UUA Washington Office for Advocacy

Please join Shay at one of the discussion groups to kick off our Creating Peace curriculum. All are welcome; child care will be provided.

Thursday, **November 1**, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, **November 3**, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, **November 7**, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, **November 9**, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Shay Mackay



My seasons *en plein air*

It is always wonderful to hang a show at the Fellowship because I get real feedback about the work and because my art is central to my spiritual path. Often in galleries one does not know if anyone has noticed. In the context of the Fellowship I get to hear which paintings people are drawn to and why, and this informs how I approach my future paintings. I am honored to share what I did this summer with my Fellowship family. Thank you all for sharing the space and your comments with me.

I am a landscape painter, mostly. This summer my focus became the process of painting *en plein air*. This is a French phrase which literally means “in the open”. These days landscape painting is synonymous with going outside. But in the late 1800s, when a few painters chose to investigate and capture the effects of sunlight and different times of day on a subject, this was a revolutionary idea; and the painters were jeeringly called impressionists. But armed with new inventions, paint in a tube and portable easels, these painters began modern art.

The inspirations for my summer explorations were two week-long workshops that explored techniques of achieving atmosphere and natural light. Another French term for painting outside is *sur le motif* or painting “on the ground.” Both workshops required that we be on the ground painting by 9:30 a.m. in all kinds of weather. We certainly got to experience all types of North Coast atmosphere. And to my excitement I learned the best colors for each of these environments.

At the end of summer I got my first ever easel and am now enjoying painting weekly with a *plein air* group.

Cheryl Peterson Rau

Error?

There was an understandable but significant erratum in my essay in the October HUUF Newsletter.

I wrote: Species evolved by adapting to their environment and finding a niche: “Survival of the fit.” The phrase in quotes was changed to ... “Survival of the fittest.”

My point was that our evolutionary success results from fitting with our environment, including co-operating with the two-leggeds and four-leggeds that share our interdependent web. Charles Darwin wrote of the survival of the fit, that is, those who fit a useful niche. Unfortunately, Herbert Spencer distorted Darwin’s theory, popularizing the phrase and the dogma that only the “fittest” survive. As a sad result, “Survival of the fittest” has become the phrase that rolls easily off our tongues and endorses the all-too-common world-view that we must expect and accept bloody competition.

Chip Sharpe



Unity crafts fair

Saturday, **December 1**, is a big day for crafts in Eureka. The Artisans’ Fair will be continuing at Redwood Acres; the Adorni Center will have a crafts fair; and Unity Church of the Redwoods is putting on a crafts fair that day as well from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1619 California Street, Eureka. The Unity Crafts Fair will feature unique affordable handmade crafts by local artisans as well as a raffle for prizes. Admission is free. Lunch and baked goods will be available for purchase from the kitchen. Be sure to come by 1619 California Street while making your rounds of the crafts fairs on Saturday, December 1. For more information, please call Unity at 444-8725.

Thom Alwell

Poetry reading

You are cordially invited to a poetry reading of original works by Pat McCutcheon, Ruth Mountaingrove, Vinnie Peloso and Sandy Starets at the Fellowship on Saturday, **November 17** at 7:00 p.m. The reading will be preceded at 6:30 by a reception and viewing of watercolors by Cheryl Rau currently on display at the Fellowship. [See article on previous page.] The reading is in part a celebration of Sandy’s and Pat’s birthdays and will feature a combination of new and older poems by all of the poets. Vinnie, Ruth and Pat have been critiquing each other’s works for more than eighteen years. Sandy is the newest member of this group of writers that meets biweekly. The event is free and open to the public.

Pat McCutcheon

We all....

An opinion piece

“We all believe that our children should be vaccinated.”

“We all agree that Mitt Romney would be a good president.”

“We all know the ten commandments.”

By now some of you are fuming and/or thinking that I have lost my mind for making these overarching statements on behalf of all of us. But quite often at the Fellowship I hear people make less outrageous statements that begin, “We all....” To which my response is, “No, we don’t.”

Whatever it is, if you are giving an opinion, a belief, or a statement of socio-cultural background, most assuredly we do not all agree. Every Sunday our facilitator says, “We are intentionally diverse,” and then on many Sundays someone else says, “We all believe in....” So which is it? Are we diverse in beliefs and background? Or do we all believe the same thing? Even if the statement is, “We all believe in peace” – fairly uncontroversial, you would think – it would not surprise me if some of us do not believe in peace in all circumstances and places.

So, people, I am asking you to think about your overarching statements. Because, no, we don’t all believe, think or know the same things. And that’s good.

Joy Thomas



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Tuesday, November 20, 5:00 p.m.**, so while you guys are stuffing turkey and making pies, I'll be working on the newsletter.

Send your committee reports and articles to me at joythomas3828@gmail.com. Neither PDF files nor late submissions can be accepted.

Joy Thomas, editor



Jeff Knapp, Elva Banducci, Mayer Segal and Peggy Stockbridge enjoy conversation and sundaes at the ice cream social recently held by the Caring Circle.