

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



November 2014

A Note from the minister

In my morning meditations I often read Buddhist stories. One such story is about a sage who wandered the mountain and gathered a particularly sweet herb that he shared with his followers. He dried some of that herb so they could have access to it when he died; but, alas the dried herb lost its flavor. And his followers only tasted its full flavor again when they learned to walk the mountains and gather it for themselves.

This story reminded me of an insight from Ralph Waldo Emerson. In his essay *Nature*, he wrote: "Our age is retrospective. It builds the sepulchers of the fathers. It writes biographies, histories, and criticism. Foregoing generations beheld God and nature face to face; we, too often, only through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe? Why should not we also have a poetry and philosophy of insight and not of tradition, and a religion by revelation to us, and not the history of theirs?"

A big part of our work here as a Fellowship is to equip ourselves to walk the mountains of life and gather our own sweet experience and wisdom as we go. In November, we have an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the experience and insight we gain as we live life in each fresh moment. And I am glad to be with you in this dynamic process.

Yours on the journey,

Bryan Jessup



Work party

On November 1, from 9:30-4:00, there will be a work party to prepare the buildings and grounds for winter rains. Please donate your time; any amount is gladly accepted. Bring gloves, energy, work clothes, gardening tools, window tools, etc.

Questions? Kathy Kelcey (839-1716 or kathleenkelcey@att.net) or Virginia Chatfield (810-845-9686 or wchatfield@gmail.com).

Coffee, tea, cocoa?

Two services equal confusion.

The current coffee-making volunteers are committed to providing hot beverages between services, from 10 - 11, and then cleaning up during the 11 a.m. service. If you would like coffee *after* the second service, please call me at 599-1250 to volunteer.

Jan Rowen

Inside

Page 2:

People
Affordable homeless housing
Thanksgiving potluck
Booklist correction

Page 3:

Guest at your table
Child naming and welcoming
First cyber café

Page 4:

Religious education

Page 5:

Member bios

Page 6:

Board report
R. E., continued
Social action brunch

Page 7:

Program/worship committee
Classified ad
Deadline info
New directories
Learning to listen deeply
HUUF on You Tube??

Page 8:

Celebration of Elva's life
Choir high notes

People

We welcome **Ruth Broderick** as a new member.

We join **Ilene and David Harris** in welcoming their new grandchild Milo. After 18 hours of labor the doc chose a C Section. Ilene sent Dave home and will stay on to help the new family and is excited to explore parts of Chicago in between duties.

Bonnie MacGregor's shoulder joint replacement surgery was successful. However, the nerve block anesthesia caused an unusual temporary impairment of her arm muscle movement. It could take several months for this to heal. Expect to see her out and about soon. Healing wishes and prayers welcomed.

We wish **Joy Thomas** easy times as she cycles through another series of chemotherapy.

Elva Banducci died in her sleep the morning of October 4, a fortnight before her 100th birthday. See page 8 for info about a celebration of her life. We will miss her.

A memorial service for **Richard Stanewick** will be held November 8 at 3 p.m.

Congratulations to **Andrew Stubblefield**, who has become the Director of CAMBIO: Climate-change Adaptation and Management for Biodiversity to Promote Inclusion and Opportunities for Hispanic Students at Humboldt State University's Forestry and Wildland Resources Department. The Project received a four-year, \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation of Hispanic and other underrepresented students in forestry, range and soils at HSU.

Sylvia Shaw

Affordable homeless housing alternatives: "Safe, warm and dry first!"

A public forum, "From Self-Organized Camps to Tiny-House Villages," will be held on Saturday, **November 15**, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Eureka Women's Club, 1531 J Street, Eureka. This Forum and organizing event for safe and legal homes will consider Homeless Housing Alternatives that prioritize 'safe, warm and dry first.' Solutions for immediate housing of the homeless in Humboldt County with dignity will be explored and actions planned. Speaking will be Andrew Heben, who has successfully pioneered shelters in Oregon that cities can build based on positive dynamics rather than continuing to seek evictions and pay the high costs of policing homelessness.

The Forum is coordinated by AH-HA (Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives). The event is supported by the Unitarian Universalist Social Action Committee, Veterans for Peace, Food Not Bombs-Arcata, The Jefferson Project, Project Humboldt, Humboldt Edge, Ink People, and the Humboldt Area Foundation.

For further information contact me at 616-1596.

Edie Jessup



Thanksgiving potluck at HUUF

On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, **November 27**, at 12:30 p.m., we will gather to share in community to share food and laughter. Berti and Jo will provide a cooked turkey. Bring a pot-luck item to share. All are invited. Bring your family and friends. While you do not have to RSVP, please email me at bertijo@humboldt1.com if you know you are coming and let me know what you plan to bring. That way I'll be able to respond to people who ask what is left to bring. I would especially like to know if you plan to bring a vegetarian or vegan main dish.

As always, help with set-up starting at noon and clean-up afterwards would be greatly appreciated.

Berti Welty

Correction to booklist

The title of the book *Comfortable With Uncertainty*, was erroneously transcribed as "Uncomfortable with Uncertainty" in last month's newsletter. It would not be a big deal except that the erroneous title gives one an impression that is exactly opposite of Pema Chodron's intent. Thank you.

Ed Uyeki

Guest at your table

In this season of gratitude and giving, we join other congregations to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. By making possible the work of UUSC, we affirm our commitment to peace; liberty and dignity; justice and compassion; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

For two decades, our Fellowship has supported UUSC by embracing the Guest-at-Your-Table campaign in which our welcomed “guest” in our home reminds us of need and of abundance, and of the privilege of being able to share our bounty with distant brothers and sisters. We all need help sometimes; we all give help sometimes; and we all deserve a welcoming table, with plenty of good food, love and beauty.

UUSC works in a variety of ways around the world, always respecting the particular needs and the particular power of our partners in change. Some current examples:

- \$40 will contribute to a day of training for the Urban Alliance leaders of the Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders, to organize seminars for people with disabilities.
- \$75 enables one youth at risk for labor exploitation and trafficking near the Uganda-Kenya border to take part in a project of Muungano, a cooperative that trains them in healthy and profitable employment.
- \$250 supplies materials for container gardens, including platform construction, compost, organic seeds, and maintenance. This is part of a highly successful sustainability project in Haiti.
- \$500 enables the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare (APROSIFA) in Haiti



to purchase medicine to serve the community, particularly malnourished children.

- \$1,500 enables staff at the Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Services in Texas to provide case management services to women in detention who often experience isolation and dehumanizing conditions.

Two significant changes are occurring this fall for the Guest-at-Your-Table program.

First, we are asked to reuse our boxes from past years, substitute some other vessel, or make our own from a pattern that will be provided. HUUF was out front on this; we'd typically reused boxes from a previous year.

Second, contributions of \$125 or more (increased from \$100) are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, New York.

In past Guest-at-Your-Table collections at HUUF, our individual gifts have averaged \$50-75, ranged from \$20 to \$250, and totaled \$2,000-3,000.

Your contributions will be collected at the Fellowship on the first two Sundays of 2015. As always, our goal is 100% membership in UUSC. Our program begins **November 2**.

Chip Sharpe

Child Naming and Welcoming

What: A UU Child Naming and Welcoming Ceremony (often called a Child Dedication,) like many ancient child naming ceremonies and Christian christenings, is a ritual to celebrate a young life that has come into being and an opportunity for parents, grandparents and godparents to dedicate themselves to the care and nurturing of that young life – body, mind and spirit.

When: **December 14** at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Sign up for the service you will attend.

Where: the Humboldt UU Fellowship.

Who: This ceremony is for all infants and children who have never officially been named and welcomed. Grandparents and godparents are welcome but optional. Single parents, same gender parents, relatives raising children are welcome.

Sign up: To take part in this ceremony email the Rev. Bryan Jessup at minister@huuf.org.

For more information: Call the Rev. Bryan Jessup at 707 822 3793.

First cyber café

The Communications Committee has received significant interest in having a Cyber Café for technological assistance to be held after the second service. Primary interest has been in how to access Google Docs, so our first Cyber Café will be held **November 16** at 12:30, led by Stephen Sottong. Please bring your laptop if possible.

Pat McCutcheon

Religious Education

November 2

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

Preschool: Who is in my family? We will discuss what a family is and share examples of families we see. We will create our own family tree.

K-2: Our story will be *Be Careful and Stay Safe*, which involves being aware of safe practices and dangers. The children will bring home a paper that spells out the word SAFE with hints on how to be safe and we will play a safety card game. The sign we will learn is "Safe."

3-5: Dia de los Muertos. [Day of the Dead] Samhain. All Saints Day. All souls Day. Halloween. All of these holidays celebrate and honor those who came before us. We will discover a little bit about each of these but focus on the Mexican Holiday of Dia de los Muertos. We will build an *ofrenda*, an altar to honor the dead. Each child is encouraged to bring pictures of deceased relative or pets or other small items to place on our altar. We will discuss how Unitarian Universalists commonly honor our dead and take a walk through our Memorial Garden

Intermediate: Connection to Other Faiths: What do UUs have in common with other religions? We will talk about what we know about other religions, how they are different, and how they are the same as UUism. In particular, we will learn about the Four-Square Church in preparation for our church visit on November 16.

November 9

All Worship: We will learn about heroes in everyday life. What makes a hero? A cape? A kind word? Both? We will look at stories

through history where one simple act changed everything. What can we do to make our world a better place? It's what we say every time we light our chalice in RE. We will sing and play a game to a favorite UU hymn.



November 16

Preschool: Who is in my community? We will discuss parts of our personal communities including neighbors and friends. We will introduce ourselves to a member of our Fellowship and give them a card.

K-2: Our story will be *Share and Take Turns*. After our story we will act out sharing and taking turn plays using paper dolls on a stick the children will make. The sign we will learn is "Share."

3-5: Dussehra. We will hear and act out the ancient Hindu story of Ranayana, where good conquers evil. We will color and make stick puppets which we will then use for our play.

Intermediate: We will visit the Faith Center Church in Eureka. After church we will have a discussion luncheon to talk about our experience. Permission slips and info sheets with details will be available in advance, and Sandy will look for another adult to help with driving. Let Sandy know if you can be a parent helper/driver.

November 23

Social Action Sunday. All ages together. We will act out the story of *Stone Soup* and make some together, both to eat together and to give to others. Together we are richer in ideas, strength and in this case, variety. Please bring something to add to our soup pot.

November 30

Friendship Sunday: All ages together. We will read and play together and share holiday stories.

Fiesta Night was fun with lots of ideas and connections shared. A huge shout-out to Raquel Lee and those who stayed late and made sure the dishes were finished. UUs may not believe that there is a heaven or hell, but I do believe that angels roam the earth in various forms. Thank you to those who made Fiesta Night happen and confirming my belief. Last month, for All Worship Sunday, we celebrated the holiday Day of the Dead. The 3-5 grade class will continue this month. What struck me was that each child was able to talk about a pet or person that had died. Some were family members whom they had never met, but their memories were shared lovingly as part of their family history. Some they knew and remembered what they liked about them. Many children drew a picture of a loved pet.

As we head into Winter Solstice, leaves are falling, plants are dying in our yards, I think about how I was raised and how I changed my ideas about death and dying. We never discussed death in my family, I never attended a funeral or memorial. In fact, pets that died just disappeared. Our religion does not have one set dogma to answer all of life's hardest questions. It makes it that much harder to explain to your child. I think my parents just didn't know what to say. When I became a parent, it made me examine what I truly believe.

As an adult, I had the profound experience of my best friend dying after a two-year battle with cancer. Virginia and I had known each other over twenty years and would

continued on page 6

Member bios

Born in Seattle in 1927 to immigrant parents, I moved with them and my brother to Los Angeles during the 30s depression. This was between my first and second grades at the Catholic Maryknoll School. Maryknoll nuns also ran a K-9 school in L.A. that my brother and I attended although we were not Catholic. My mother believed that the sisters were good teachers.

During ninth grade, the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred; and a few months later FDR issued an Executive Order to remove all Japanese Americans from the West Coast. Our family was moved to Turlock Assembly Center, hastily built from race track stables, then to Gila Relocation Center in the Arizona desert. Had I been older and wiser than my adolescent years at the time, I may have welcomed this whole experience as a lesson in the impermanence of all things.

In my junior year my parents and I moved to Illinois where my dad had found employment. The Government, in all its wisdom, had decided that we evacuees were harmless after all and could move inland. I completed high school in Evanston, IL, and went on to work and study at the University of Chicago. Met Ed there and we recently celebrated our 63rd anniversary. We are the proud parents of Terry, Bill and Amy, and grandparents of Brooke, Robin, Chisa and Mei Lan.

We signed the UU membership book in Kennewick, WA, in 1965 after our first visit, were founding members of the Shawnee Mission UU Fellowship in Overland Park, KS, and have been HUUF members since we retired here in 1994.

Aiko Uyeki



Aiko Uyeki

I grew-up in middle America in a middle class family (second generation off the farm) as the middle child between two boys.

We were members of an inner city Presbyterian Church that had a close relationship to Coe College and to our downtown neighbors. I gained much from the intellectual opportunities of the college as well as from our neighbors whose life situations were more difficult than mine. This landscape may be the foundation of my spiritual quest: living in the middle of the beauty and the pain of life's complexities.

Fast forward: Teenage years with Young Life, fundamental Christianity, to college studies in philosophy, human and natural history, anthropology. Civil rights and Anti-Vietnam movements. Spiritual exploration of indigenous, pagan, agnostic and traditional world religions. A variety of living habitats from inner city Detroit, and NYC Harlem to Maine boat building commune and wilderness camps. Traveled many countries, lead wilderness trips, taught personal growth, humanistic and environmental experiential education. These immersions have contributed to my sense of joy and wonder as well as humility and urgency to participate in the healing of our human and planetary suffering.

Joining HUUF feels like finding my tribe. We're about loving kindness, shared happiness as well as shared sadness. We are a hopeful people who act for earth and human justice. And at HUUF it's ok for me to be from and in the middle of life's complexities.

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." E. B. White

Kate McClain



Kate McClain

Governing board report

Your Governing Board practiced their role as policy makers responsible for enabling the congregation to grow by reviewing Team reports of newly adopted procedures and items sent on for potential policy formation.

The first two pieces of an event procedure list were reviewed, and Roxana will post them along with an illustration for event leaders.

Reviews of personnel classifications prompted the Board to contract Katherine Almy to research if appropriate classifications were being used.

To assure that sound and professional practices are followed when HUUF receives donations for specific purposes the Board asked the Administration Team and Finance Committee to discuss and recommend procedure and policy going forward.

The Board celebrated the completion of other Team projects for a new copier/printer, change of check signers and checkbook procedures. These were all accomplished via the new governance system and did not require the Board to be involved until the very end. Hurrah.

Sylvia Shaw

R. E., continued

talk for hours on one issue in our lives, processing, reflecting, talking more. We had many hours of discussion of death and one time she asked me if it was weird and if it bothered me. I told her then and still believe that in our time together she had taught me many things about life and now I was learning about death from her.

It changed how I taught as well. The classroom pet who died no longer “went home for awhile” to avoid conversations with children of varying beliefs. You may hear me say this about many things, but I find it to always be true. We all have different ideas about things. Especially UUs. No matter what we say to our children about death, it will at least be a conversation about what we believe. The gift of faith is about talking about these big questions with each other and especially our children. Creating rituals around these huge moments in our life is important.

The rituals Virginia and I planned around her death helped me come to terms with it. Virginia deserved those and I needed them. It gave me a sense of doing right by her and made me come to terms with her death. I found from my experience that we do our children a disservice if we don’t talk about it. We want to teach them all about life, but forget the end of life is part of it. I tell children that those we have loved live on in our hearts and minds.

I was amazed at how our children were able to articulate about their loved ones. I thought about my experience as a child with death, and I feel that the children who talked about their loss and memories were far better prepared for life than I was at their age. I am always in awe with the insights and empathy that our children are able to share with each other.

As an adult, I have come to believe it is our job to keep those who have died spirits alive in each of us. To help us remember, to be grateful for the time we had, to think about what we learned from their time with us. Thank you, Virginia.

Jillian Mooney, Director of RE

Board question

Editor: Why the Board is suddenly being referred to as the “Governing Board?”

Board Secretary: Well...under the new governance system Board members attend two different meetings a month. One of them is just Board members, Bryan and Roxana. This one is called the Governing Board whose role is policy. The second meeting is as a member of either the Administration or Program Team. Each of these teams has four congregants also, and they conduct discussion of topics brought forward from committees or staff. Procedure is set in the Team environment. If policy is needed recommendations are forwarded to the Governing Board.

Enough already?

Joy Thomas and Sylvia Shaw

Social Action brunch

The brunch will take place **November 16**, following the second service. The theme this month will be soup, salad and bread. We will try to feature locally grown produce and locally baked bread. Not wanting to compete with Thanksgiving, we’re keeping brunch simple but tasty. There will, however, be pumpkin related items (pies, etc). Price for adult: \$5. Price for child: \$1.

Proceeds raised from brunch will go to support an organization in the community.

Eve Anderson

Program and Worship Committee

We welcome two new members to our Committee: Julie Neander and Jeff Thomas. We look forward to their contributions as we continue our efforts to organize Sunday services that are meaningful and engaging for members and friends who attend.

A big thanks to all of you who signed up to provide a reading or assist with a service at the Committee Fair. Members of the Committee are delighted that we have a pool of folks to draw from in planning our services, and it will help us to assure that a broad base of Fellowship voices are included in services.

We continue to work on the details of transitioning to two services each Sunday. Let us know what is working for you or not. In appreciation for our continued opportunities to think and care together.

Wendy Rowan

Learning to listen deeply

Two Saturdays, **November 8**
and 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the
Main Hall. Local counselor Sheri
Graham-Whitt will lead us in two
workshops to help us hear our own
deep hearts and listen to the deep
hearts of others with courage and
compassion. Call the HUUF office
at 822-3793 to sign up.

Bryan Jessup



HUUF on You Tube??

"We have a vital message to share every Sunday. We could video tape our main speaker to put on You Tube and cds for public viewing. All we really need is the will to do it." So says member Andy Anderson, primary promoter of video taping only the main speaker of each Sunday's service. He has already made contact with an HSU student to help if we want to proceed. The cost would be minimal because Andy is a long-term member of Humboldt Access and can use their equipment, studio, materials, copies, etc. He also suggests we could offer the videos for \$3 to \$5 apiece to cover expenses.

The main speaker would of, course, have to formally agree to be taped, and no other parts of the service would be covered. The 9:00 a.m. service seems the logical choice if we choose to do this. The actual videotaping would be done by a photographer with a digital camera sitting in the center aisle only during the sermon/presentation so there would be no interference with traffic in the aisle during the rest of the service.

So the Communications Committee is writing for input on this proposal from the congregation. What are your thoughts, concerns, and comments on this proposal? Please contact me at 826-7107 or mrauselhorst@gmail.com with your responses.

Pat McCutcheon

Deadline info

Deadline for the November issue of the newsletter is Thursday, **November 20**, 5:00 p.m. Send your committee reports and articles to me at joythomas3828@gmail.com. Neither PDF files nor late submissions are accepted. Crisp, clear graphics may be sent as a separate file, not embedded in your article.

Joy Thomas, editor

New directories

Your new *2014-2015 HUUF Directory* will soon be ready for pick-up. Please be sure to claim your copy. There are many changes from whatever old version you have been using. Thanks.

Awanna Kalal

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are 10¢ a word.
Send your check to the HUUF
office and the text of your ad to
joythomas3828@gmail.com.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way (off Jacoby Creek Road)

(707) 822-3793

www.huuf.org

e-mail: office@huuf.org

Administrator: Roxana Stengl

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Minister: Rev. Bryan Jessup

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

822-3793 minister@huuf.org

Director of Religious Education: Jillian Mooney

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents Richard Kossow

Jana Kirk-Levine

Vice-President Brad Meiners

Secretary Sylvia Shaw

Trustees Cynthia Chason

Treasurer Joanna Welch

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

Calendar Editor Roxana Stengl

Celebration of Elva Banducci's Life

Saturday, **October 25**, 1:00 p.m. at her son Don's house,
1642 Baywood Lane, Bayside. Barbecue, song, stories and the
World Series.

Choir high notes

Look for us on **November 2 and 16**.

Please think about joining us for our annual caroling trip in
December. Details to come in the next newsletter.

Elisabeth Harrington

FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



THIS ABOMINATION OF CORPORATE EXPLOITATION
IS A STAIN ON THE SANCTUARY OF NATURE!
AND I'LL HAVE A MOCHA WITH SPRINKLES.