

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



HUUF Board Update

December 2010

At the November 9th meeting the Board received a report on Religious Education activities, opportunities and challenges. An emphasis is being placed upon greeting new families on Sunday mornings so they feel welcome and the children transition into the RE program easily. There is a need for mentors for the Coming of Age Ceremony – especially men. To participate contact Jillian Mooney at 826-7388. Efforts are underway to provide a Social Action service, and an RE Facebook page for the youth is being considered! The HUUF RE program is dynamic but does need more adult leadership – so the RE Committee welcomes more members to ensure the offerings for children and youth continue to thrive.

Debbie Coggins presented the fiscal report for the 1st quarter of 2010-2011. Based on input from the October Congregational meeting, the Board made some revisions to the current year budget and it will be re-posted on the hallway bulletin board for members to review. Debbie has offered to provide a “budget process” information session early in the new year and the Board encourages members, particularly Committee Chairs, to attend.

The Board had a thoughtful discussion about the need to engage the congregation in our next steps to secure a minister. All members should have received a letter from the Co-Presidents about pursuing a minister and the need for people to increase their pledges to make it happen. We do hope that members will respond promptly to the letter so that we have a better understanding of our capacity to move forward.

The HUUF website has been completely updated! Check it out!! A big thanks to our administrator, Shay MacKay, for ensuring our information is current and posting a full schedule of events.

Wendy Rowan, Secretary

What's Inside

- Page 2: People
Christmas Eve Service
Medical Equipment
Search Committee
- Page 3: Beverages in Sanctuary
Stocking Stuffers
HUUF Choir Activities
- Page 4: Fun Raisers
Classified Ads
Women's Retreat
- Page 5: Religious Education
January Dance
Parents' Night Out
- Page 6: “Serving With Grace”
“The Death of Josseline”
- Page 7: RE Committee
Guest at Your Table
CLF UU Online Courses

UUSC Holiday Cards Are Here!

On Sundays in December the Social Action Committee will be selling the beautiful Holiday Cards from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). There are several very attractive designs, including some new ones. There are also cards with a simple message and some that are blank. The cards will be for sale in the Foyer and each package sells for \$10.00, ten cards per pack. The proceeds from these sales go to help the UUSC advance human rights in the U.S. and around the world.

Ursula Osborne, SAC Co-Chair

People

Joy Thomas had surgery and is progressing well in her recovery. If you are interested in more information, you can go to her website on Caring Bridge at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/joythomas3>. Currently she is not ready for visitors.

Kinara is home and doing well. She welcomes visitors, phone calls and an occasional helping hand.

Betty Segal died on Sunday, November 7th at the Mad River Hospital following surgery after a fall. A memorial service will occur at a later time. Betty served the Fellowship in many ways and for many years. She will be missed.

Congratulations to **Kai Neander** for being one of three people who received the Roots & Shoots Global Youth Leadership awards at the Jane Goodall Institute Global Leadership Awards Celebration in Washington D.C.!

After months away, **Roxana Hand** is happy to be back as a healthier person. Welcome home!

We look forward to seeing **Elisabeth Harrington, Sandy, Casey and Trevor Lynn, and Steve Nobles** in their Ferndale performance of "Amahl and the Night Visitors".

Karen Knapp



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, Dec. 24th, at 5:00 p.m.

"Return of the Light"

As Unitarian Universalists we draw from many traditions. Christianity is but one of the many traditions that celebrate miraculous births and the Light returning to the World. At this year's Candlelight Service, we will listen to stories of Christmas and other traditions, sing seasonal songs and culminate our service with a candlelight procession. We will also be lighting candles for those members of our Fellowship who have died during the past year. This early evening service is an intergenerational event and we hope to see all of you there.

Berti Welty

Medical Equipment

HUUF and the Caring Circle have collected several items for members and friends to use if the need arises. These items include:

A walker with a basket and seat

A plain walker

A wheelchair

A shower chair

Two bathtub stabilizers - just handlebars, not seats

One pair of crutches

If you or someone you know is in need of any of these items, please contact Jan Rowen at 822-8599.

Wanted: HUUF Board of Trustees is looking for five or six dedicated members who want to be a part of the search for our minister. You will have the challenge of completing our Congregational Record, describing who we are and what we want in a minister, which will be sent to UUA, PCD and potential candidates. You will also be responsible for reviewing applications for our Consulting Minister position, interviewing and listening to candidates speak, and ultimately recommending a potential candidate to the Board. You must be willing and able to devote some time and energy to this committee, as it involves a lot of writing, working together to study applications and reach consensus, and possibly traveling to meet with candidates. The process could take up to a year, so be prepared. If you are interested in sharing in this important responsibility, please contact JoAnn Thomas at 442-5962.

Please Drink Responsibly

An informal ban on bringing beverages into the Sanctuary during Sunday services has been awkward to enforce and unpopular with those who drink responsibly.

Bringing beverages risks spills that distract from the service and also the potential of damage to our floor. However, we are trying out a "Drink Responsibly" experiment for several Sundays. If you want to bring beverages into the Sanctuary, please:

- Drink them unobtrusively, without raising the container into the air to get the last drop and avoiding slurping noises.
- Guard your container, even when empty, so you or someone else doesn't kick it over when standing or moving from a chair.
- Take your container with you when you leave. Each year we acquire a sizeable collection of left-behind containers.
- If you'll be distracted managing children or otherwise, consider leaving your container outside until the service ends.

Let's see how responsible we can be, to preserve the special atmosphere we want at our services and to preserve our beautiful floor!

Jeff Knapp, Co-President Board of Trustees



Great Ideas for Holiday Stocking Stuffers

On the first three Sundays in December the Social Action Committee will be in the Fellowship foyer with all the wonderful products from the Equal Exchange program, including organic coffees, cocoa, chocolate bars, dried cranberries and almonds. Prices are reasonable and the earnings help us reach our goal of supporting the small farmers who grow the raw products, the partnership of liberal congregations who market the products to us and others, and the Social Action Committee's own commitment to financially support the education of our eight year old Nicaraguan student, Emyi. We very much appreciate your patronage and support!

Ruth Needham and Marianne Pennekamp, Sales Coordinators



High Notes from the HUUF Choir

Drop In and Sing

On **Sunday, December 5th** all interested persons are invited to arrive at 10:20 a.m. to learn a song for the 11:00 a.m. service. We will rehearse for 20 minutes in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the HUUF choir and make a bigger, louder joyful noise together!

Holiday Caroling

Come join us as we travel to the homes of our less mobile members and friends to share some holiday songs. We will depart from HUUF at **12:00 noon on Saturday, December 18th** and make several stops in the area. Singers of all ages are welcome. We will rehearse for caroling on the prior two Wednesday evenings, December 7th and 15th at 7:00 p.m. at HUUF.

If you have any questions about either of these events, please contact Elisabeth Harrington at (720) 936-4987

Deadline Monday, December 20th

Please email articles to jthomas3@csulb.edu.
Print and .pdf items
cannot be accepted.

Joy Thomas, Editor

Fun Raisers



The Fund Raising Committee (which is vacant) is being renamed to the **FUN** Raising Committee in hopes that people will join up to have fun and raise some cash for the Fellowship. What we really need are members who have an idea for a fun event that might generate some money for the Fellowship and who can run with the idea, but would benefit from help and ideas from other members.

Right now we have a number of members who are single-handedly putting time and effort into fun raising by moving forward with fun events.

Ilene Harris is putting together a Mother/Daughter Tea event in the Spring. She could use your help and ideas.

We're bringing back the Service Auction this year, which is always a fun time and raises substantial income for the Fellowship.

JoAnne Howell is leading the charge on a new event for HUUF, the staging of a play by North Coast Repertory Theater, "the Government Inspector". The performance will be on June 4th, 2011.

Some other ideas include a Shrove Tuesday pancake race, Bistro nights of music and a Thrift Fashion Show. The Board has a goal to raise \$12,000 for this fiscal year, which is a substantial increase over previous years, in anticipation of needing funds to hire a minister.

If you have ideas about an event or would like to help with one of the exciting events listed above, but liken being on the Fund Raising Committee to serving time at hard labor, then give one of us Board members a call and we'll hook you up with other members wanting to have fun raising money for the Fellowship.

Greg Blomstrom, Vice-President

For Sale: A Second Home on Wheels!

Excellent 34 foot 2007 Holiday Rambler travel trailer with all the amenities, including washer and dryer and queen-size bedroom. Super clean. \$28,500. Call for more details: 476-9198.

Jack Phipps and Barbara Madaras

Wanted: looking for part-time work close to a bus line. Please contact Jennifer Young at youngjennif@gmail.com.

“Building the World We Dream About”

Women & Religion UU Retreat at Enchanted Hills, Napa

March 4th thru 6th, 2011

Join a Caring Circle in a time away from the everyday world. The weekend includes: two nights lodging, six delicious meals, Friday spa, workshops for the mind, body and spirit, conversation with old and new friends, shopping at the annual book swap, boutique and silent auction, beautiful surroundings and a nurturing community.

First time attendees are \$190. Early Bird reservations (by Feb. 2) are \$230. All others are \$250.

For more information please contact Shay in the HUUF office at 822-3793 or check out the poster on the hallway bulletin boards.

Religious Education



December 5th

All ages will gather in the CARE Building for our Nativity Practice. What do you want to be this year? A Shepherd? An Angel? Have you practiced your animal noises? Come pick your part!

December 8th, Wednesday Nativity Practice, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

We will have a pizza dinner together and do a run through for our performance on Sunday. The HUUF Choir will practice with us.

December 12th, Nativity Performance

9:30 a.m. breakfast snacks

10:00 a.m. Time to get dressed! Please be on time.

December 19th

We will stay with our families for an all-ages service, making cookies for the Night Shelter (we can nibble some too!), making ornaments to take home, and singing together.

December 26th

Friendship Sunday. Childcare provided with books, games and art.

Save the Date!

The annual HUUF January Dance will be on Saturday, January 29th, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Hosted this year by Pat Carr and Valerie Gizinski, their daughter Lili Carr and friends will once again demonstrate their gravity-defying swing-dance talent, followed by a group dance lesson. Watch for more Dance details in the next newsletter!

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, December 4th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

HUUF would like to offer a night out to the parents of young children of the congregation. It can be a time to do some holiday shopping without the kids, dinner alone to catch up or even an uninterrupted bath and quiet time. Whatever you choose, reserve your spot by contacting Jillian Mooney at jillian@humboldt1.com. We will serve pizza and snacks, make holiday crafts, play games and watch a movie.

Volunteers Needed!

Religious Education still needs folks to help with Parents' Night Out. You can volunteer for just an hour or for all of it. It has been a HUUF tradition to offer this to members of our congregation who have young children and it gives our busy parents the gift of time during the busiest time of the year. Come play with children, read stories, do crafts, and help with the pizza dinner. It's a fun night for all and you get all the pizza and hugs you could want! Contact Jillian at jillian@humboldt1.com if you would like to be a part of this fun tradition.



Building Mission and Community Into Giving and Receiving

In his “Serving With Grace” book, pages 53-61, UU minister Erik Wikstrom proposes everything we do with our Fellowship is more fulfilling if we first consider our shared mission.

What *is* our HUUF mission? When we do things with our Fellowship, why are we doing them? Why does our Fellowship exist? What would be missing if it didn’t exist? Why is our Fellowship still around and worth supporting today?

A good “mission statement” answers these questions, but is our 1989 Fellowship Covenant still in agreement with our mission? Although I was very attracted by our Covenant, things have changed since 1989, and I wonder if we should – singly or together – study our Covenant. Should we leave it unchanged but identify parts we feel most strongly about, and parts shared by most of the members we have today?

Why did *you* join HUUF? What do you want to receive from or contribute to HUUF, rather than at a church you could join, or by joining a non-profit organization, or expect from your community or government? What’s in our Covenant that’s “alive” or that you want to be more alive? Write down what parts of our Covenant speak to you, and what you receive or want to receive from our Fellowship – your notes may be the beginnings of a mission statement for our Fellowship.

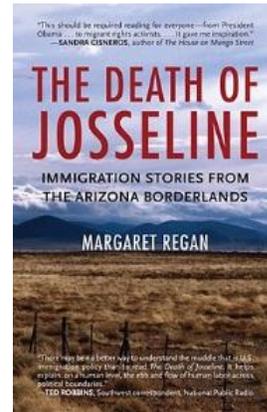
Being mindful about our shared mission focuses and inspires meetings, task forces and discussions.

It helps us:

- Discover activities, rituals or ministries that are no longer appropriate or need changing.
- Resolve conflicts or competition for money or volunteerism.
- Narrow choices so decisions are easier to make.
- Take the “me” out of group processes and instead focus on the “we” inherent in pursuing our mission.
- Center debate on what’s held in common rather than on differences.
- Give purpose and fulfillment to the “work” required to run our organization.
- Adapt to changes that we didn’t see coming, like who we are.

Our Fellowship offers both rewards and work to do. As we accept the rewards and do the work, let’s remain mindful of our shared mission, and if that mission isn’t clear, perhaps we can make the process of discovering that mission our greatest task and our greatest reward.

Jeff Knapp, Co-President Board of Trustees



**UUA
Common
Read
2010-2011**

For the 2010-2011 Common Read, the Unitarian Universalist Association offers Margaret Regan’s “The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands”.

With a sweeping perspective and vivid on-the-ground reportage, Margaret Regan presents a series of intimate stories from the Arizona-Mexico border – stories of immigrants, activists, human rights workers and border patrol people. The book explores the ethical, moral and spiritual challenges presented by the complex immigration issues on the border, evoking a human and religious response, rather than a political or policy debate. Regan calls us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair along with extraordinary courage and commitment.

You can order “The Death of Josseline” from a local bookstore, an online bookseller or at www.beacon.org.

For more information on the UUA Common Read program, please visit: www.uua.org/publications/commonread.

Want to Get Involved?

The Religious Education Committee is looking for some new members. Come get involved in growing our youngest UUs. You don't need to be a parent to give your opinion and contribute to the important job of planning a vital Religious Education program.

We meet on the 3rd Sundays of each month (except December) from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Teen Room of the CARE Building. We usually pick up some great food from the Social Action Brunch and then have a fun, dynamic meeting. Come join us every month or even if you're just interested in helping out with one event. For more details contact Jillian Mooney at jillian@humboldt1.com.

Classified Ads

Ads in the newsletter are 10 cents a word.

Please email your ad to Joy Thomas at jthomas3@csulb.edu

and send your check, made out to HUUF, to the Fellowship:

HUUF
P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

Guest at Your Table: UUSC is Depending on Us

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. "An eye-to-eye partnership is a partnership that offers respect and mutuality," says UUSC Director of Programs Atema Eclai. "The commonality of our partners is that we treat them as equals... We don't subsume them, we don't make them part of us. We join them."

Founded in 1939 to rescue victims of Nazi persecution, our UUSC is an independent human rights organization grounded in UU principles. UUSC received neither government funding nor general financial support from UUA. We are grateful for the work they do and for this opportunity to give our individual and collective support.

We hope that you are keeping a setting for your GUEST AT YOUR TABLE in your home. Collection boxes are available in the HUUF foyer if you have not yet received one. Your daily donations should be collected until January at which time you will bring your contributions to the Fellowship at either the January 2nd or January 9th services. You may make out a check in the amount of your contributions (rounded up, if possible) written to UUSC.

Our goal is 100% membership in the UUSC. Contributions of \$40 or more qualify for UUSC membership (\$75 for dual membership, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for youth). Contributions of \$100 or more will be matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, New York.

If you have any questions about this program or the UUSC, please contact Chip Sharpe at chipsharpe@sbcglobal.net.



The Church of the Larger Fellowship

A Sampling of Upcoming Online Courses

www.clfuu.org/learn

Free and Ongoing:

- Welcome In: An Intro to Unitarian Universalism
- In Our Mothers' Footsteps

January-March courses \$40/each:

- Humanism Today: Issues and Origins
- The Soul of Nature: A Journey into the Poetry of Mary Oliver
- Metaphor and Meaning



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way
(off Jacoby Creek Road)

(707) 822-3793

www.huuf.org

email: office@huuf.org

Administrator: Shay MacKay

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Co-Presidents: JoAnn Thomas
Jeff Knapp

Vice-President: Greg Blomstrom

Secretary: Wendy Rowan

Treasurer: David Harris

Trustees: Kim Moor
Beverly Morgan Lewis

Newsletter Editor: Joy Thomas



A Few Words from the (Substitute) Editor

Giving our editor, Joy Thomas, time to prepare for, and recover from, surgery, I was handed the opportunity to edit this month's newsletter. In doing so I have learned even more ways to use the new office laptop computer, and also a few new ways it can drive me crazy. I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience, as it has introduced me to many Fellowship members I had not yet had the chance to interact with, as well as given me more insight into this amazing community I have found myself a part of.

I want to take this moment to express my gratitude for the very warm welcome I have received from everyone at HUUF. I come to you with abundant enthusiasm, and have been given just as much in return. I look forward to continuing to get to know all of you, becoming more a part of this evolving community and serving you to the best of my ability.

(And wishes for a speedy recovery for Joy, as I'm about to throw Microsoft Word out the window!)

Shay MacKay, Administrator