

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Interim Minister's Column: Words of Joy

December 2012

Let me take the time

To watch the candle's light;

And know it is the same

Vast silence of the silver stars.

—John Q. Parkhurst

As the holidays approach, many of us speed up the pace of our lives, making lists of tasks, running from here to there as we plan for or rush to parties, entertain guests, decorate our homes, shop for and wrap gifts, send cards, bake, cook and clean, donate to and work for charities whose pace is also ramped up, and so on. The common denominator in all of this holiday activity is that we do it for others in our lives, even for those we may not know, because we care.

What may get lost in the rush is the need for self-care. With all of this activity, or even if your place is a slower one, it is not uncommon to be visited by the holiday blues. Paradoxically, the blues may also descend on you if you have less to do during the holiday season. If, for instance, your loved ones are gone or are far away, the holiday cheer we are all “supposed” to feel may not be there for you as compensation for frenzied activity. It is especially important during this season to take time for yourself, and to remember to do those things that are restful and renewing for you.

Part of your holiday self-renewal may be your connection to HUUF—your spiritual community. In December, in addition to the Sunday services, there will be a Winter Solstice service in Friday, **December 21**, at 7 p.m. and a **Christmas Eve** service at 5 p.m. I will also conduct several small group experiences during my visits in December and January, designed to allow members and friends to explore the present issues and future of this congregation. Come and renew your connection to friends at HUUF as part of your holiday experience! Anna Mae Botley is keeping a list of attendees for these small groups. You can sign up for one by contacting her, or at Sunday services in the next few weeks.

*In this chilly and dark, but holy season
when Orion wheels against the night sky
and Sirius shines blue-hot in the darkness
May your pain and struggles
soften for a moment into love and awe.
May hope, like a newborn child,
be born anew within you,
and may your life be blessed with peace.*

Joy Atkinson

What's inside

Page 2:

People

Open house

Chalica

Requiem presentation

Page 3:

Guest at your table

Art on our walls

Christmas day potluck

Page 4:

Board update

Chalice lighters

Deadline information

New year's party

Page 5:

Religious education

Page 6:

Future events

SAC coffee sales

Fellowship artist of the month

Page 7:

Sunday services

Page 8:

SAC brunch

Halloween lost and found



People

Carol and Steve Newman's daughter, Tara, was married in late August.

Dave Davis wants everyone to know how proud he is of his wife, June, for her two weeks of work in Nevada on the Obama campaign.

Happy 96th birthday to **Phyllis Stanewick**. Phyllis is at Pacific Rehab and Wellness.

Happy 90th birthday to **Marilyn Walker**.

Elva Banducci celebrated her 98th.

Irith Shalmony is proud of her daughter, Lauren Wieland, for directing the play "Anything Goes" which is currently being performed at NCRT.

Peggy Stockbridge has moved to an assisted care home in Redding, near her daughter.

Beverly Allen's grandson, Dylan, is becoming quite a fish. Amongst his successes, he won the 200 meter IM at the Fort Bragg Swim Meet.

Ursula Osborne fell and broke her rib. She is also hoping for a hip replacement soon.

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

Karen Knapp

Open house

Celebrate the season. See Guatemalan and Kuna Indian holiday items I have collected in my travels. **December 15 and 16**, 1 – 3 p.m. 2060 Palomino Lane, Arcata. 826-1580.

Ginger Gardner

Chalica – celebration of the flame

Chalica is a fairly new and evolving Unitarian Universalist holiday that lasts for seven days, commencing on the first Monday of December. It allows us to celebrate and examine our Unitarian Universalist principles. Each evening a chalice is lit in the home for that day's principle. People are encouraged to do positive and creative acts each day, focusing on that day's principle. Simple gifts may be given and received.

- Monday – "We light our chalice for the inherent worth and dignity of every person." Possible act: Give gifts [apology, invite to dinner, card] to honor those you do not understand, like or agree with.

- Tuesday – "We light our chalice for justice, equity and compassion in human relations." Possible act: Volunteer to assist people less fortunate than yourself. Donate and/or become involved in a cause for justice.

- Wednesday – "We light our chalice for acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." Possible act = give gifts to honor fellow UUs and their spiritual journey. Reach out to someone who may be hurting.

- Thursday – "We light our chalice for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Possible act: Listen, without judgment, to another's spiritual questing. Give or read a book. Take part in an event that celebrates another religion or tradition.

- Friday – "We light our chalice for the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Possible act: Write your government. Help a committee. Host a party to celebrate democracy.

- Saturday – "We light our chalice for the goal of world peace, liberty and justice for all." Possible act: Stand with Women in Black or Veterans for Peace. Volunteer or donate to an organization that has global influence.

- Sunday – "We light our chalice for respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Possible act = Take a walk in the woods. Recycle. Start a compost bin. Honor the earth.

- And come to Fellowship to celebrate the culmination of Chalica.

Berti Welty

Requiem; Holocaust presentation

In the late 1930s, Ursula Osborne's family operated "de Oase" (The Oasis) where German Jews could gather to listen music and poetry during the day to avoid nightly curfews. There they met Heinrich F. Liebrecht, a "very charming" WWI veteran who was later taken to Theresienstadt and forced to work in the war industry after losing his wife, daughter and her foster mother to the Third Reich. After the liberation, Liebrecht wrote a memoir titled "Not To Hate But To Love, That Is What I Am Here For" and a play, *Requiem*, about his experiences, conversations, and unexpectedly optimistic philosophies during the holocaust. *Requiem* received only one German language production in 1982 before his death in 1989. Osborne recently translated the play and is adapting it with local director John Heckel. *Requiem* will be presented at HUUF Thursday-Saturday, **January 10-12** at 8 p.m. and Sunday, **January 13** at 3 p.m.

Tisha Sloan

Celebrate the tradition of Guest-at-Your-Table

During this season of giving, we join together with other congregations in support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. By helping make the work of UUSC possible, we consecrate our commitment to the interdependent web, to the inherent worth and dignity of all and to each of our seven principles.

UUSC works around the world helping people recover from disasters; to strengthen their communities; and to secure employment, health care, shelter, clean water and good food. This vital work could not continue without our support. Each fall, during the Guest-at-Your-Table campaign, our fellowship has shown increasing support for UUSC.

Founded in 1939 to rescue victims of Nazi persecution, UUSC is an independent human rights organization grounded in UU principles. UUSC receives 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 a guest at your table in your home. Collection boxes are available in our HUUF foyer. Your daily donations should be collected until January. You may make out a check in the amount of the contributions (rounded up, if possible) to "UUSC." Contributions of \$100 or more are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY. Please bring it to the Fellowship on January 6, 2013.

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 UUSC membership (\$75 for dual memberships, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth.) Our goal is 100% membership in UUSC.

Chip Sharpe



Christmas day Fellowship potluck dinner

December 25, 2 p.m.

Not sure what to do on this special day? Whatever your religious beliefs, or lack thereof, the holiday season in our society is a time of gathering with friends and family. Jo and Berti will host a simple potluck at the Fellowship to which all are invited. Sign-ups will be on a clipboard in the foyer so we can have a better chance of having a balanced meal; but you do not have to sign up in advance to come. As always, assistance in setting up and clean-up would be greatly appreciated.

Optional gift exchange: If you would like to participate in a simple gift exchange game, bring a wrapped gift, preferably handmade or a gift you previously received and loved, which you are now ready to pass on to someone else. A jar of homemade jam? A set of placemats you love but never use? Use your imagination. Everyone who brings a gift will leave with one.

Questions? Call me at 476-0654.

Berti Welty

Art on our walls; HUUF curator needed

It has been an honor, and I have enjoyed being the curator for our Fellowship art exhibits over the past two years. I now wish to give this position to another member of our congregation. I have the calendar filled with artists wanting to display at HUUF through the summer of 2013. The new curator would be working with them on their shows and organizing the calendar of artists to follow. Please do not hesitate but contact me with any questions and interest in the art curator position at 826-9492 or reatie@suddenlink.net.

Irith Shalmony





Chalice lighters

Ginger and I just sent our check for the “Fall Chalice Lighter Call” to help the UU congregation in Livermore build a children’s play- and meeting space to better serve young families. We joined hundreds of other UUs in the Pacific Central District in sending \$10 or more to this thrice-annually grant program. In order to apply for a grant, a specified percentage of a congregation’s membership has to have signed up. I think it’s a great way to be involved with our sister congregations. We undoubtedly will need the help ourselves down the line. Join us. Go to www.pcd-uuu.org and click “Chalice Lighters.”

Richard Kossow



Deadline info

Deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **Thursday, December 20, 5:00 p.m.**

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

Joy Thomas, editor

Board update

At the November Board meeting, Trustees appreciated the engagement of the new interim minister, Rev. Joy Atkinson, within the meeting. It is evident that Rev. Joy will be a good resource for us. Anna Mae brought options from the Ministerial Search Committee for the Board to consider to ensure that we are planning ahead and prepared for the beginning of the New Year. The Board is very grateful for the work of this committee and has asked the committee to continue working with the Board over the next few months.

Rev. Joy is scheduling “house meetings” to meet and hear from members of the congregation. The goal is to have all members attend. Look for your opportunity to participate. Currently, a Ministerial Transition Team is being formed to work with Rev. Joy during her time with us. Rev. Joy will be providing holiday services, so plan to attend with your family and friends.

It is time to start looking ahead to plan for the annual canvass. The Board received a wonderful debriefing from JoAnn Thomas on last year’s canvass activities. We will be looking for volunteers soon to help coordinate this important annual event.

The Personnel Committee has been hard at work updating job descriptions for the Fellowship. Greg Blomstrom has been the Board Liaison to this Committee and has provided encouragement for the effort of updating the Fellowship’s personnel manual.

The Finance Committee continues to improve its practices and has been assisting with the departure of Debbie Coggins as our bookkeeper. Deep appreciation to Katherine Almy for sharing her skills. The Board has requested that the Committee develop a recommendation for a new budget process so that it aligns better with the beginning and ending of the fiscal year.

Standing Committee reports were received, and it is obvious that many people are actively contributing to the life of the Fellowship. Future Board agenda items will include:

- 1) Explore a process to create a “Covenant of Right Relationship”
- 2) Revisit the Fellowship’s Mission Statement
- 3) Revisit the Fellowship’s Dog Policy
- 4) Create a “disruptive persons” policy

Want to know more about what the Board is doing? Talk to a Board member.

*Wendy Rowan,
Board Secretary*

New years’ party

The Caring Circle will host a somewhat belated party to celebrate the new year at HUUF on Thursday, **January 10**, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Details in the next newsletter. Rides will be provided for those who can’t drive. Call the office at 822-3793 to R.S.V.P.

Joy Thomas for the Caring Circle

Religious Education



December 2

Preschool: We will talk about being helpful: at home, school, HUUF and in our community. We will hear the story of Uncle Willie And The Soup Kitchen and make mobiles of how we can help.

K-2nd: We will learn about our first two Principles through story, games and crafts. We will work on our Principle booklets.

3rd-5th: We will continue our exploration of mindfulness and learn a pebble meditation. We will make a special bag to keep our pebbles in.

Intermediate: We will talk about what we know of other religions and make a plan of which ones we want to learn more about. Come give your input and share your knowledge!

December 9

All Worship: All ages will gather in our CARE building to worship with songs, readings. We will talk about a spirit of generosity and how when we can give to others, be kind to others that we too will feel good about ourselves. Bring change for the collection basket to add to our jar. Some ideas have been to buy an animal with it through the Heifer Project. What's your idea?

December 16

All Holiday Service: We will stay with our families in the sanctuary to enjoy our holiday service together. Childcare is available for babies and those who need it.

December 23 & 30

Friendship Sunday: Childcare will be available with games, books and crafts for all ages together.

This Season of Giving

One of the reasons most of us with children have come to Fellowship is to have a community of family that will help teach our children and share our belief of caring for others and generosity of spirit. We do this many ways in religious education. We will cook for the night shelter, and families deliver it. We gleaned fresh vegetables and donated it to Food for People. We made cards for soldiers and sent them caring thoughts. All of these are tangible, visible ways we teach our children generosity of spirit. We call these Social Action Sundays.

Another way we have started this year is to combine generosity of spirit in our All Worship services. During those services we have talked about affirmations and how we can't always see good thoughts, hope and faith. We have been reading litanies and passing the basket to collect our change. We talk about that can be one way we put our positive spirit out into our world and how we can manifest positive change.

Help your child think about this during the week by having them earn their change to donate on Sunday and they will be able to understand when we all work for small changes in the world, it will combine to make big changes. We have a big jar that we add to each worship service that is a visible reminder of what we can all do together.

Jana Kirk-Levine and Jenn Tarlton will host a cookie-decorating party at Jana's house on the afternoon of Saturday, **December 15** at 2:30. The plan is to have cookies to share for the service on December 16. All RE participants are invited to the Kirk-Levine house in Eureka, 3551 N Street. Cookies will be made ahead of time, so we will decorate. Jana will demonstrate her volcanic gingerbread cookie dough. Jana's phone is 923-2165.

Jillian Mooney

Future events

Berti Welty had the brainstorm of listing future UU events in the newsletter so you can get them on your calendar early. If you know of something that should be included, contact her at bertijo@humboldt1.com.

District, regional and national events are so noted; the rest are Fellowship events.

December 15	Caroling party
December 21	Solstice service
December 24	Christmas Eve service
December 25	Christmas potluck
January 26	Family soup and bread night
March 1-3	District Women & Religion retreat at Enchanted Hills Camp
March 3	Congregational meeting
April 6	Canvass dinner
April 19-21	Jeremy Taylor dream weekend
April 26-28	Western UUA Regional / PCD Conference in San Jose
May 3-5	Women's retreat
May 11	Super Service auction
June 19-23	UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY



SAC coffee sales

The Social Action Committee is well supplied for your holiday purchases. In addition to supplying your own household, our items are ideal for stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. You can find the following :

Coffees: breakfast blend ground; french roast ground and beans; decaf ground and beans.

Teas: English breakfast, Earl Grey and peppermint.

Cocoas: regular and spicy hot cocoa mix

Chocolate Bars: All organic dark chocolate with almonds; milk chocolate with hazelnuts; mint chocolate; orange dark chocolate; extra dark 80%; chocolate caramel with sea salt; organic dark minis, 55% chocolate (these are bite sized); and Geobars, small chocolate bars with mixed berries in them.

Look for me in the lobby every Sunday from now through December.

Happy holidays.

Julie Neander for SAC

Fellowship Artist of the Month

Richard Kossow – mostly glass mosaic

Please come to a party celebrating the installation, **November 30**, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The technique to create a mosaic is to cut, glue, grout. But first I need to decide upon the materials. They can come from anywhere: scraps or new sheets from the stained glass store, Beverly Allen's treasure trove of shards headed for recycling, porcelain tile shapes inspired by Fire Arts classes, not to mention beads, found objects, even stones and sand.

The next step is choosing the form for the piece. The base for "Nautilus," which hangs on the South wall of the sanctuary, is a scrap piece of plywood left over from a long-ago screen door project. More decisions and choices follow: colors, textures, what sizes to cut the tiles, how to merge the tiles (called "tessera"), black stones and the nautilus into a coherent composition. I enjoy working with visual contrasts such as large/small, precise/irregular, and pattern/chaos.

I am told that in music the space between the notes is as important as the notes. Similarly I need to consider the space between the tessera, since the uniformly colored grout will be a prominent unifying feature. In the end I try to decide which side should be up.

Mosaic is a durable and tactile medium. I encourage you to touch, but gently, please.

Richard Kossow

Sunday services

December 2 – 10:30 a.m. Somewhere Over the Rainbow – Karen Harris, M.Div.

Does the human longing for paradise obscure the heaven in our own back yard? Drawing inspiration from such disparate sources as “The Wizard of Oz,” bioregionalism, and the salmon run, we will explore the themes of heaven, home, and the possibility of deep connection between people and place.

Karen was the interim minister at HUUF for almost three years. She received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and currently teaches in HSU’s Religious Studies Department.

December 9 – 10:30 a.m. Chalica – A Unitarian Universalist holiday

Chalica is a recently developed and evolving Unitarian Universalist holiday. It takes place during the first full week of December, starting on Monday and culminating on Sunday, and it focuses on Unitarian Universalist principles. Each day we light a chalice for that day’s UU principle and then try to accomplish something that embodies that principle. We also ponder what these principles really mean. At this fun, uplifting service we will light our final chalice for our seventh principle, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” Simple gifts may be exchanged.

December 16 – 10:30 a.m. Festival of Lights – Rev. Joy Atkinson, readers and tree-trimmers

As a multigenerational community, we will gather to celebrate festivals of light from religious traditions, past and present. Joy will offer a homily, titled “Twelve Other Gifts,” on the true gifts of the season.

December 23 – 10:30 a.m. Jesus the Sage – Rev. Joy Atkinson

On this Sunday before Christmas Eve, the sermon will explore some of the recent scholarship concerning Jesus, whose birth so many will celebrate on Monday evening. Who was this remarkable figure beneath the legends? How much of what is attributed to him did he really say?

December 30 – 10:30 a.m. Right Relationship: What Does Gender Have to Do With It? – Bonita Banducci

Scientific research confirms that men and women really do see things differently. But what do we do with the constructs that make one right and the other wrong or even “inferior?” Seeing these differences as both cultural lenses and gender competencies opens up the potential for honoring the diversity. Once the gender effects are unmasked, we can respond to each other’s needs and join our strengths to build new futures beyond what we have ever known.

Bonita teaches Gender and Engineering for Santa Clara University’s School of Engineering. Her original research in “What is the Contribution Women Make that Could be the Strategic Advantage in the Global Marketplace?” launched her specialization in Unmasking the Gender Effect and Gender Competence. Nationally, she consults with corporations, governments, academia and nonprofits. She is a founder of the Global Women’s Leadership Network and a gender expert for Mentornet, which is committed to attracting and retaining women into fields of education, science, technology, engineering and math.



No calendar information was received this month.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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SAC brunch

The next Social Action Committee brunch will be on Sunday, **December 16**, closely following service. Please allow a brief time (10 to 15 minutes), for setting food on table. The theme will be a healthy, wholesome variety of dishes, but not competing with the usual traditional holiday fare. Everyone is welcome. Suggested donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child.

Funds raised from December's brunch will go to the Hope Coalition.

Eve Anderson

Halloween festival lost and found

There were items left over from the Halloween Festival, including some power cords. Let me know, 499-1131, if you are missing anything. (Sue M, I'm still looking for your orange cord!)

Sandy Lynn

FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



I JUST LOVE CHURCH BRUNCHES,
DON'T YOU?