

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



December 2013

## A Note from Bryan

*All the leaves are brown and the sky is gray. I've been for a walk on a winter's day. I'd be safe and warm if the fog went away. Humboldt County dreamin' here on this winter's day.* (with apologies to the Mamas and the Papas.)

Eddie and I are enjoying the beginning chill of our first Humboldt County winter. I'm sure the novelty will wear off sometime, but right now we are delighted by the swirls of fog we see against the hills and the heavy mists hanging over the bottom lands.

The delight is enhanced by the light and warmth we experience when we come home to our "Manila mMansion" (cabin) in the evening. We feel so fortunate to have a warm, dry place to live. And we feel so fortunate to be in this enchanted landscape with all of you. We've been welcomed and fed, supported and encouraged, included and nurtured.

So here in this holiday season, we are very grateful. And we are glad to be living side by side with people dedicated to extending the welcome and support we have received to all who come our way. Let us continue to "prepare our hearts to make them room."

*Bryan Jessup*

## Special holiday services

Saturday, **December 21** – 7 p.m.

A Winter Solstice Celebration –  
Rev. Bryan Jessup

Come gather round the fire to celebrate the rebirth of light and warmth. There will be food, friends and a fine time along with life-enhancing rituals and songs.

Tuesday, **December 24** – 5:30 p.m.

The Christmas Eve Service –  
Rev. Bryan Jessup

Come for a Christmas service of readings, carols and delightful music from the choir led by Elisabeth Harrington.

## Monthly potluck

We have changed the date for the monthly potluck from mid-week to the first Friday to better accommodate the needs of our families. Potluck will be served at 6 p.m. The program which follows the **December 6** intergenerational potluck will be holiday decorating. We will make popcorn and cranberry garlands, plus other decorations, and perhaps decorate a tree. Come early at 5:30 p.m. to help set-up and/or stay after to help with clean-up. Childcare will be provided. Questions? Call me at 476-0654.

*Berti Welty*

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## People

**Anne Collins** died Tuesday, October 29. She was a long-time UU and chaired canvasses. She started attending HUUF around 1999 and was very generous to our congregation.

Anne Collins' daughter, **Gigi Collins**, is a relatively new member of HUUF.

Our thoughts are with **Mandy Bray** who recently had two surgeries for breast cancer and will start radiation treatment soon. The surgery went well.

**Sandy Lynn's** father passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family.

**Casey Lynn** was accepted by the Mills College alternate spring break program, "Social Justice and Spirituality."

**Trevor Lynn** has been offered a position with the middle school activities program leader.

**Cheryl Rau** will have hip replacement surgery on December 9.

**Kinara's** brain cancer has returned. She is currently on chemotherapy. She welcomes vegan meals of rice, vegetables and/or tofu. Please call her at 825-1214 if interested in delivering a meal. And Fiona welcomes hugs.

**Fiona** auditioned for and got second chair violin in the All-County Orchestra. Congratulations!

Welcome to our newest members **Jacob Farrell** and **Fry Wolhandler**.

**Ursula Osborne** is at Stanford where she had surgery for the other hip November 16 and is now in rehab.

**Chip Sharpe** is looking forward to recovering, beginning mid-December, from chemo and radiation treatments.

*Karen Knapp*

## Social Action brunch

December's SAC brunch will take place Sunday, **December 15**, following service.

This month's there will be a healthy, wholesome variety of dishes, but not traditional holiday fare. We will try to include lower calorie dishes whenever possible. Everyone is welcome. Come join us and enjoy.

Please allow at least ten minutes for setting food on table, to avoid hazards when bringing hot food out. Also, waiting for all dishes to be placed on table will give everyone more variety to choose from.

Help in the kitchen for clean-up after brunch is always appreciated.

Suggested donation for brunch is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child. Funds raised from December's brunch will go to the Hope Center.

*Eve Anderson*

## Open women's group

We are starting a monthly drop-in open women's group to meet on the third Tuesday of each month 7-9 p.m. with the first meeting **December 17**. This will be a support and discussion group, not a therapy group. The tentative format is an opening ritual candle lighting, followed by personal sharing and check-in for the first hour. Since we are there to listen to one another rather than trying to 'fix' each other, cross talk will be limited. Confidentiality and heartfelt concern will be cornerstones for our experience. During the second hour, we will explore a different topic each month. First meeting topic will be: "How can we, as women, best be supportive of each other?" All women are invited. Childcare will be provided. Call 476-0654 with questions.

*Berti Welty*

## Halloween festival a huge success

Magic happened, and you made it so. Thank you to all the tireless volunteers who made the Festival a smashing success. While it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the Fellowship members and friends to transform our grounds into a magical land for an evening, an evening filled with wonder and enchantment. Whether you baked cupcakes, acted in skits, helped with set-up, made crafts, were a kitchen runner or helper, sewed costumes, took tickets, told stories, wired the canopies, filled sand, were a Guiding light or many other roles too numerous to mention, your involvement made a significant impact. We could not have pulled this off without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Wherever I go in the community, I keep hearing how special our Halloween festival was. My hairdresser today, who brought her grandchild for the first time, raved about how the little boy kept saying, "I'm special, too," and how he loved the hand made crafts. She plans to tell her friends to bring their wee ones next year. During the skits, I saw the look of wonder in many eyes. I saw smiling parents and dotting grandparents. All the hard work paid off. Together we were and are wonderful.

We sold 481 tickets and have yet to figure out all the expenditures. But whatever the financial and energy costs and/or profits, we provided a vital service to the larger community of which we are a part. Thank you for being part of the magic.

*Sandy Lynn,  
Berti Welty,  
Judy Rishel*

## Board update

At our November Board meeting, we reviewed actions from the October Congregational meeting which included:

- Per our Bylaws, passing the budget for the current fiscal year.
- Approving the Nominating Committee for the year.
- Discussing our recently implemented Dog Policy.

Overall, implementation of the Dog Policy seems to be going well, but we recognize that we need to do further work on understanding the protocols for service dogs.

Trustee Cynthia Chasen said that the Social Action Committee wants to initiate a 'free speech board.' Questions about how to support and manage the 'free speech board' arose and Cynthia will take these questions back to the committee.

Staff and Committee reports included: The Finance Committee recommends, per our financial plan, to transfer funds from the Calvert Fund into the checking account to ensure appropriate cash flow to cover expenses. This particular fund has been performing very poorly, so it is logical to make this transfer.

Jillian reports that one of our teens is attending the Pacific Central District Youth Conference. This is a good leadership opportunity for our youth.

Shay reported that the OWL (Our Whole Lives) program may be postponed until next fall to assure appropriate enrollment.

Anna Mae said that the Membership Committee will meet on Monday mornings.

Bryan advised there is work to do with empowering committees to make decisions specific to their charge instead of the Board having to be so directly involved.

We continued our discussion about a dedicated offering. It has been proposed that the dedicated offering be held once a month and be coordinated with the Social Action brunch. Look for more information in the newsletter and the green sheet.

All Board members having been thinking of former Trustee Chip Sharpe, with hopes for his healing. We posed for a group photo to send him to brighten his spirits.

*Wendy Rowan, Board Secretary*



## 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 our part in the interdependent web, the inherent worth and dignity of all and each of our seven principles.

UUSC works in this country and around the world, helping people recover from disasters; strengthen their communities; and 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 your guest at your table in your home. Collection boxes are available in our HUUF foyer. 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 5 or 12**.

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*

## Dedicated offering

The idea of a dedicated offering, that is, the cash or dedicated checks from a particular Sunday going to a charity or other organization, has been suggested several times. This is in contrast to the current paradigm where the offering goes to HUUF itself. The board has decided to try out this idea by tying a dedicated offering to the SAC brunches. The proceeds of each SAC brunch go to a particular local charity. The board has suggested that in addition to this amount the loose money collected during the offering for that Sunday would also go to the organization. All checks made out to HUUF, of course, would still go to HUUF, rather than to another organization. If someone wants to write a check for the organization, it should be written specifically for that organization.

This idea has at least two advantages. First, it allows us to give more money to the local charity. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, it creates a closer tie between the congregation and the local charity that we are already supporting through the SAC brunch.

The organization would be very briefly (two-minute maximum) introduced during the announcements at the beginning of the service. When practical, this announcement could be made by an individual from the organization itself. When possible, a member of the organization would bring printed information and take part in the SAC brunch to answer any questions by members of the fellowship. When not possible for a member of the organization to be present, literature will still be available for those who wish to learn more about the organization the SAC brunch is supporting that month.

*Brad Meiners*

## Holiday high notes from the HUUF choir

The choir sings this month on **December 15, 22** and at our **Christmas Eve** service. On Saturday, **December 21**, we will share holiday carols with each other and visit several locations in and around Arcata, McKinleyville and Eureka to take our music to others. This is always an enjoyable experience, and we invite all of you to join. Interested persons should gather at HUUF at 11:00 a.m. Saturday to rehearse. We will divide into groups and depart by 12:30 p.m. to sing for our local UU friends and the community at large. Snacks and social time will follow.

Please contact me with any questions. New choir members are welcome at any time, and no prior music experience is necessary.

*Elisabeth Harrington,*  
Choir Director



*Elva Banducci, pictured above, recently celebrated her 99th birthday and was honored with cake and song at the Fellowship.*

## In thanks

I hope to convey the depth of my appreciation and breadth of my admiration for those who so richly and ably conducted our service on November 17. As someone who, for 15 years, has attempted to explain the work of our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and to enlist full participation in supporting UUSC, I was overjoyed by the clarity and effectiveness with which Jana Kirk-Levine used the Story for All Ages to interpret Guest at Your Table to the children and the adults. Never has it been done better.

And as someone who, for 33 years, has attempted to explain the heart, power and necessity of mediation, I was awed and elated by the direct and compelling manner in which Linda Evans and Rev. Bryan Jessup gave life to practices of personal peace-making. I cannot imagine a better explication of mediation's place in our commitment to peace. And the music from Annette Hull and from the choir and congregation helped to tie all together into a concert that, for me, was a peak experience. Thank you.

*Chip Sharpe*

## Sidekick needed

Since I am the only one who knows the ins-and-outs of the newsletter, what happens if I get hit by a bus? Seems prudent, as one of my least-favorite presidents used to say, to train an apprentice, sidekick, co-editor, mentee or whatever. My idea is that after some basic training, the other party will edit alternate issues of the newsletter; but I am open to other ideas. If you are interested in this non-paying and stressful but gratifying volunteer position, contact me at joythomas3828@gmail.com or 444-1361.

*Joy Thomas, editor*

## Shared ministry

I have discovered, while making some lists and checking them twice, that more than 90 people of our fellowship are working on one or more tasks that support our congregational life. This was amazing and comforting. Sometimes it has seemed that too few were doing too much of the work, but it is actually spread out amongst more than 90 of us. Add to this the group that has helped out mightily in the past, but has aged and wearied past being able to do so. I think it is amazing.

This significant generosity of time, talent and energy is the way we minister to each other and make our fellowship strong enough to minister to the world outside our walls. This is one thing that "shared ministry" means.

When I told Bryan of the list of 90, he observed that a little ship has all the same tasks that a great big ship has, but a much smaller crew to perform them. We have all the same needs to keep our congregational life going that a great big church has.

I must say that actually there are some important aspects of our program that are a little short of people and energy, so don't be surprised if you get a call asking you to minister a little more.

Thank you for all you do.

*Richard Kossow*

## Volunteers needed

Mr. FitzMaurice's kindergarten classroom at Jacoby Creek is in need of volunteers. It's a fabulous and rewarding experience.

Various time slots are available. Please contact Tommy FitzMaurice at 839-1971 or stop by the school and inquire in the office.



## Religious Education

### December 1: Nativity Practice

All ages will gather together to practice the Nativity and check on costumes. We will make luminaries to light our spiral of greens. We will also cook together to make treats for next week.

### December 8: Nativity Service

Come by 10 to get costumes on and to be ready on time. Stay for treats and holiday festivities. Thank you to Shay MacKay, the playwright, for this UU version we will debut.

**December 15:** We will have some holiday activities to give to others whose light we can help to kindle and some to share with our families.

**December 22 and 29:**  
Childcare available

Nativity Play puesday, **December 3**, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Main characters are required to come. We will have pizza for dinner and do a dress rehearsal. Any questions call me at 826-7388.

*Jillian Mooney*

## Deadline info

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

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

*Joy Thomas, editor*

## Council of Chairs meeting

The HUUF Council of Chairs met November 6 from 5:30 to 6:45. Attending were Sue Lee Mossman (Endowment), Dave Harris (Finance and RE), Brian Jessup (Minister), Eve Anderson and Brad Meines (SAC), Awana Kalal (Membership), Bonnie MacGregor (P&W) and Joy Thomas (Newsletter). Thank you to all who attended. Attendees were requested to describe their committee's goals and to report on any discussion the committees had regarding moving to two Sunday services and whether they can move meetings away from Sunday afternoon.

Bonnie MacGregor reported that the Program and Worship committee's goals are to engage children into the service more, balance consistency with quality and integrate spirit and practice. The committee has moved its meetings to Saturday morning at 9 a.m. P&W is working with Bryan on the two-service issue. One idea is to have the second service in the RE room, perhaps in the midafternoon on Sunday, rather than at 9 a.m.

Dave Harris presented a summary of the Religious Education committee's goals, which included a written report. RE's goals include implementing the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program, hopefully in January, supporting the new teen director, sharing communication with the Teachers Committee, supporting intergenerational activities and helping transition to a new RE committee chair by June 2014.

From membership, Awana Kalal reported that since Bryan arrived HUUF has seen an increase in new members and an increase in involvement with the day-to-day needs of the fellowship and committees. Awana noted that the committee is working to implement the secret greeters program. Like P&W, the committee has found a time to meet that is not immediately after Sunday services, 10 a.m. on the third Monday of the month.

Brad Meines and Eve Anderson reported on the monthly brunches, which have supported the Hope Center and Hope Coalition, the Emma Center and the Tri-County Living Center. They also reported that SAC helped organize HUUF for the Pride Festival and the Lantern Ceremony and is working with P&W on four presentations including Peace Pole Sunday and a service on the new Jim Crow. SAC continues to meet monthly on the second Sunday following the service.

Dave Harris stated that the goals of the finance committee include completing the revision to the financial procedures manual, completing the conversion to and documentation of our new QuickBooks system, and keeping the board informed on the budget.

Joy Thomas will seek an assistant newsletter editor.

Bryan Jessup relayed the goals that he has for the year which were developed in conjunction with the board: 1) help the fellowship to grow spiritually, 2) build a supportive welcoming religious community at HUUF and 3) bend the world to peace, justice and sustainability.

*Greg Blomstrom*

## Social Action

Betty Chin really touched hearts here at HUUF. Volunteers can sign up to help at the new Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center at [bettychinn.org](http://bettychinn.org). She can use all types of volunteers and donations. This is a worthy cause for our congregation to be involved in.

For our SAC Brunch in November we supported Food for People. Food donations from the community help Food for People feed an increasing number of people in need throughout Humboldt County. Last year the community donated food through food drives and the involvement of many organizations, schools, businesses and individuals. The heart of our organization is their volunteers, and that equals a very big heart. Food Stamps are being cut. For many, a \$10 or \$20 cut in the monthly food budget would be absorbed with little notice. Yet, for some, it will mean turning to a food pantry or a soup kitchen such as Food for People.

Our monthly brunch will take place on December 14 to benefit the Hope Center, which provides free, supportive space for people with mental illness, ongoing groups, peer to peer support, advocacy, drop-in services.

We recommend that everyone see the documentary *Inequality for All* with Robert Reich. At the heart of the film is a simple proposition: What is a good society, and what role does the widening income gap play in the deterioration of our nation's economic health? The documentary is endeavoring to be a paradigm-shifting, eye-opening experience for the American public. They want to accurately show through a non-partisan perspective why extreme income inequality is such an important topic for our citizens today and for the future of America.

Finally, if you are not familiar with Annie Leonard and her YouTube videos be sure to check them out. The first one was the "Story of Stuff" which is about 20 minutes long. I used her seven-minute YouTube video "Story of Water Bottles" to ban the use of single use water bottles at Chalice UU. Her latest is "Story of Solutions." Kids love her style too.

*Joanna Welch*

## Babes in Toyland

The Dell'Arte Company's annual holiday show returns for its 33rd year with a mad-cap adaptation of Victor Herbert's classic family tale, *Babes in Toyland*. Dell'Arte International (DAI) is delighted to infuse the 2013 holiday season with their one-of-a-kind comedy and energetic physical performance style.

Admission is free for many performances, thanks to the generous support of local schools, Pierson Building Center, Wildberries Marketplace, Stephany Joy of RE/MAX Humboldt Realty, Renner Petroleum, Suddenlink, Green Diamond and California Redwood Company, Ironside Metal Works, ArtPlace America, The Irvine Foundation, Redbud Theatre, C. Crane Company and Umpqua Bank.

The audience is asked to contribute non-perishable food items, which the cast donates to local food banks in collaboration with local non-profit, Food for People.

DAI opens the *Babes in Toyland* tour with two free performances at the Carlo Theatre in Blue Lake, November 29 – 30. The tour concludes on the same Carlo Theatre stage, December 19 – 21. Tour dates, times, prices and locations can be found on the Dell'Arte website at [www.dellarte.com](http://www.dellarte.com).

Reservations are suggested for all Carlo Theatre shows at 707 668-5663 ext. 5, [www.dellarte.com](http://www.dellarte.com), or in person at the DAI box office in Blue Lake.

Free tickets can be picked up at Wildberries, Umpqua Bank and Pierson Building Center; in person at the DAI box office. Tickets will be available at the venues before each performance.

*Janessa Johnsrude*

## Some newsletter guidelines

For several reasons, this issue of the newsletter was more problematic than usual. Here are a few of the newsletter guidelines. I would be grateful if you would respect my work by honoring them. If you would like the complete *Guidelines*, I would be happy to provide them.

Any formatting you do makes more work for the editor and makes her crankier than usual. Please send articles as plain text. The easiest way is to type your article directly into your email or to cut and paste it from your word processor into your email. Do not send forwarded emails. Don't abbreviate words that I must then spell out.

The editor's job is to format articles during the layout process. Beyond punctuating and putting a hard return at the end of each paragraph, don't do any formatting. Do not center, bold, indent, italicize, underline, etc. Don't put anything in all caps or any other unusual font.

Anonymous articles are not accepted. Submissions must be received on or before 5 p.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

An editor edits. Please do not think that your article will necessarily go in as written. The usual reasons to edit are punctuation (especially excess commas) and length, but sometimes cohesion and logic require fine-tuning. Edited articles cannot be returned for comment because I have only a few days between the deadline and the time I must get the newsletter to the printer. I edit everybody, even the minister, so please try not to take it personally.

*Joy Thomas*, editor

## Art at the fellowship

The art exhibit on the walls of the fellowship during November and continuing through December is an exciting show. A number of HUUF members submitted pieces. These artists represent a variety of media and levels of professional commitment. Some artists have exhibited widely while for others this the first time their work has been on display. We enjoyed assembling the pieces in groups that played well together. We should be proud of the artists who provide beauty and insight into the world by sharing their art. I feel that sharing one's vision and aesthetic sensitivity is one way to respond to the portion of our aspiration that states "service is our prayer."

May next year's shows allow for even more prayers be offered in this way. Because, to quote a T-shirt, "Earth without art is just 'eh'."

Namaste "The light in me honors the light in you." May we all let ours shine.

*Cheryl Peterson Rau and  
Debbie Cooper*

### CLASSIFIED AD

#### For sale

Oak book cases: 3' w X 7' tall - \$40, 4' w (double) w x 7' tall - \$50

Plain floor clock, chimes. \$70

Semi-recumbent, sturdy, adjustable exercise bike. \$40

Suzanne - 476-8082

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Classified ads are 10¢ a word. Send your check to the HUUF office and the text of your ad to [joythomas3828@gmail.com](mailto: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: Shay MacKay

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

Kim Moor

Vice-President Greg Blomstrom

Secretary Wendy Rowan

Trustees Cynthia Chason

Anna Mae Botley

Treasurer Edie Wolterbeek

Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

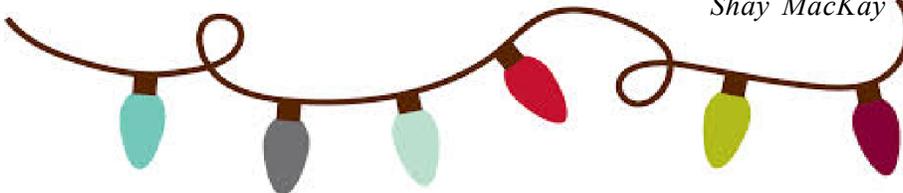
Calendar Editor Shay Mackay

## Different kind of Christmas story

The children of HUUF invite you to join them for a very special Sunday service on December 8.

Unitarian Universalists often have mixed feelings about Christmas and the biblical story of Jesus' birth, but we also covenant to affirm our Christian heritage along with wisdom from all of the world's religions. In preparing for this year's holiday program, the RE teachers decided to try something new. Shay wrote a script; Trisha, Jana, Judy and Sandy created costumes, props and sets; and Jillian coordinated the entire effort. The result is an entirely new UU nativity play, including both familiar Christmas elements and important UU principles. We hope the play will be meaningful for all who see it. How can it not be? After all, Christmas is all about celebrating hope, light and love – who doesn't need more of that in their life?

*Shay MacKay*



## Book group

Beginning **January 4**, a weekly book group will be offered to explore the thinking within Parker Palmer's book *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. This book informed the September 13 service when we focused on the 'five habits of the heart' articulated in the book. Copies of the book are available to borrow, or you can order your own copy. The book group will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 am on Saturday mornings through February. To participate, email me at [wndyrwn@gmail.com](mailto:wndyrwn@gmail.com).

*Wendy Rowan*