

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



January 2009

HUUF Future Forum: *Looking Back, Looking Forward*

Where have we, as a Fellowship, been? What have we done to grow and change? How have our wishes and choices affected where we are now?

Where do we want to go? How do we get there? What are our needs now? What will they be in 5 years? What do we want HUUF to look like in the future?

On Saturday, **January 10**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Board of Trustees and the Future Forum Committee invites you to join us to design the next five years at HUUF.

We will use a workbook for the day, and your responses will be combined with all others. Then a summary of the results and a complete record of all suggestions, commitments and observations will be published. That report will be used to draft a Vision Statement and a Long Range Plan to guide the Board of Trustees and committee chairs in their work for the next five years.

Lunch and child care will be provided. We ask that you RSVP to the office at 822-3793 or email your RSVP to office@huuf.org.

The committee's goal is 100% participation as this effort is so important that every single voice must be heard. If you are not able to attend we will contact you so that each and every member has an opportunity for input.

Please join us and blend your ideas and hopes into the tapestry of our future.

Do you have leadership potential?

The Nominating Committee seeks HUUF members interested in joining the Board of Directors. Several positions are open including a member who is interested in shadowing our current long-standing treasurer, Nancy Cook, who has served several terms. The Nominating Committee will speak to many of us in the next few weeks, so please be kind when approached. If interested in serving on the board, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Sue Lee Mossman
Grace Marton
Carol Newman

Sue Lee Mossman



Maureen Lawlor

Deadline changes

Deadline for the newsletter is henceforth changed from the 15th of each month to the 20th. With the newsletter now sent electronically, there is no reason to keep a deadline which included time for printing, folding, labeling and snail-mailing. It is hoped that this change will make the newsletter more timely by giving contributors an additional five days in which to finalize programs. Deadline for the February issue is **Tuesday, January 20**. Send articles to me. Send calendar and Sunday service information to Amanda Jones.

Joy Thomas, editor

Facilitator training

A facilitator training workshop will be held after the 11 a.m. Sunday service on **January 11**. Here is a wonderful opportunity to do your part to help the Fellowship from time to time. The training will include a light lunch, and child care will be provided. For more information, contact Program & Worship Committee Chair Berti Welty

Kathy Dillon

People

Our dear friend **Woody Marshall** has passed away. I will think of him while enjoying the music played on his piano at HUUF.

Archie Mossman continues to improve from his knee replacement and looks forward to eating a crab dinner. Hang in there, Archie.

Jeff Knapp is doing well as he recovers from knee surgery.

Jan Clark and Lisa Roberts will return to Humboldt County at the end of December.

Ginger Gardner has had some medical problems. Sending healing thoughts your way, Ginger.

Elisabeth Harrington's father has passed away. Elisabeth, our condolences on your loss.

Madeline Myers' mother has also passed away. We are sorry for your loss.

Charlynn Johnson continues to deal with her medical challenges. For anyone interested in learning more, please go to her blog at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/charlynnjohnson>.

Bill Van Fleet, who designed our beautiful Fellowship, is in hospice care. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.

Karen Knapp

UU World discussion forum

On the third Wednesday, January 21, 2:00 - 4:00, we will discuss the following from the Winter issue:

William Schulz, former UUA President and Amnesty International President: "[T]estimony of those who have experienced almost unimaginable personal agony and remained sane seems to be that placing that which we value most at the center of our consciousness and trusting that we can survive is the

best way to cope with a world gone mad."

Ed Doerr: Review of *Head and Heart, A History of Christianity in America*, by Gary Wills, *The Dominant Animal: Human Evolution and the Environment*, by Paul and Anne Ehrlich, and *The Age of American Unreason*, by Susan Jacoby. This is a fascinating combination to join in the same review.

An article excerpted from *Dignity for All: How to Create a World Without Rankism* by Pamela Gerioff and Robert Fuller.

and more!

Please read what interests you, mark up your *World* and come discuss it with your friends.

Richard Kossow



Fellowship social

We of the hospitality committee extend an invitation to everyone to join the weekly Fellowship Social. Come and experience the warmth of fellowship with some coffee, tea, hot cocoa and the occasional treat. Meet and visit with new and familiar faces who attend our Fellowship. We provide this opportunity between the first and second service (approximately 10:30) when there are two services, and at the completion of the service when there is only one. We would love to see more of you take advantage of this service.

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve our Fellowship as a volunteer, but don't have a lot of time? We would also love to have your help just a few times during the year. We have a wonderfully committed core group of servers (not that we couldn't use more!), but need a few people who could fill in when one of us is singing with the Choir during service, or must miss a weekend due to illness, etc. Contact me

Cathy Enis,
Hospitality Chair

Mentor a child

Religious Education seeks adults to be paired up with a child from our RE program. You can pick an age and gender you would be comfortable getting to know. Families who are interested will sign up their children. What you do can be as simple as writing a note, sitting next to the child during the service, visiting the classroom or maybe having an outing. It's a way for our children to build relationships with our larger congregation. It could be once or twice a month, between February and May. Please see me if you are interested.

Our RE children need volunteers to bring snacks on Sunday. They are easy to please. Contact Erica Alston or me if you can help.

Jillian Mooney

Council of Chairs

There will be a Council of Chairs meeting on Sunday, **January 25**, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m sharp, right after the 11:00 o'clock service.

Please bring with you in hard copy, or email me more than 24 hours ahead, the following information: 1. Committee name; 2. Names of the Chairperson(s) and regularly attending members; 3. "Task Fulfillers" who do not attend meetings; 4. Meeting time; and 5. **Significant** information to share.

As time permits, we will share with our fellow committee leaders experiences that we feel may be helpful to others.

Please start thinking about recruiting new members to your committee and the possibility of rotating the Chair position with someone new, if that is appropriate for your committee. I realize that many of you will be staying in your post next year, for which I am grateful, but those who are looking for new blood and new energy, this is the time to begin your process of transition. As our President-elect Obama said of his administration, when he takes his oath of office in January 2009, he plans to "hit the ground running." So shall we in June 2009.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our Fellowship.

June Davis
Board vice-president



Program and Worship

The Program and Worship Committee Chairperson of many years, Berti Welti, has also been involved in this committee in many capacities: as the Board liaison one year, as a committee member in another, and as a participant in programs. Thanks to her and her committee, our Sunday morning programs and services have been superb. We owe her much gratitude for her leadership.

Berti is ready to relinquish her position at the end of June, 2009. It is not too early to ask that congregation members consider taking on the task for next year, so that we can have a seamless transition for this very important job. We can have a shared position of co-Chairs or a single individual to take on this leadership role.

To those of you who have expressed interest in participating, to those of you who have been silently imagining how to contribute, or those of you who, just having read this announcement, feel compelled to take on the challenge, please contact me or Berti.

Thank you.

June Davis
Board liaison to P&W

Pizza extravaganza

The Social Action Committee brunch on **January 18** will be an international pizza extravaganza featuring recipes from around the world, salad and dessert. Interested persons wishing to participate and share their favorite pizza cuisine with the fellowship are encouraged to contact me. Proceeds from this brunch will go to Food for People, who fill a vital need in our community. Humboldt County is not immune from the challenges resulting from the current economic climate. The number of individuals and families, locally affected by business layoffs of workers and reduction of work hours, rises daily. Food for People is able, with contributions from the community, to respond where assistance is needed most. Brunch will begin after the second service.

Eve Anderson

Putting UU values into practice

Now is the time to add up and bring in your Guest At Your Table donations for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Your gift must be turned in by Sunday, **January 11**. Please make out a check to "UUSC" in the amount of the contributions (rounded up, if possible).

You may leave your donations in the basket in the foyer or give them directly to me or to another member of our Social Action Committee. We can also reuse the boxes next fall.

We can be proud of our strong and broad support given to the UUSC in past years. Our goal is to have every member of our Fellowship join or renew membership in UUSC. Contributions of \$100 or more are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY. Contributions of \$40 or more qualify for UUSC membership (\$75 for dual memberships, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth).

Chip Sharpe



UU Service Committee Report

The November conference call featured the UU Service Committee Manager of Public Policy Shelley Moskowitz discussing the results of the presidential election. According to Moskowitz, the presidential election is a culmination of years of grassroots work, showing the efficacy and importance of grassroots campaigning.

In New Hampshire, UUSC's 501(c)(4) organization, JustDemocracy played a major role in engaging progressive, faith-based communities in several key counties. JustDemocracy organized people around issues of war, peace and climate change. It is now clear that strategic faith-based work can make a difference on issues that matter to us. The work we are doing through JustDemocracy is building a base that will continue to push on critical issues and hold our elected representatives accountable.

Now there is a real opportunity to make progress on policy goals we have held so long. Senate election results have led UUSC staff to expect more robust debate and less delay on key human-rights issues. As we consider members of the Obama transition team, it appears to us that there is a seriousness of purpose, a true intent to make progress.

The three paragraphs above are quoted from the November *UUSC Local Reps Bulletin*.

During the December conference call, Shelley Moskowitz spoke enthusiastically about the current activities in Washington DC. Transition of power is in full swing, while Congress is in lame duck session until the end of the year. The 111th Congress will be sworn in on January 6. The presidential inauguration will be January 20. UUSC and other lobbyists are no longer protesting outside the gates, but are invited in to attend transition meetings relating to proposed appointed positions, foreign and domestic policy, etc. A new atmosphere of transparency prevails. All meetings will be made public. This is a new day of enormous openness with exciting opportunities.

All are welcome to join in on these monthly conference calls. It is amazing to receive up-to-date information, while on the same call with local UUSC representatives from congregations east, west, north and south of USA. In December there were over twenty participants, many asking questions, and entering into conversations with UUSC's knowledgeable experts. Conference calls take place at noon PST, generally on the first or second Monday of the month. Just ask me for the phone number, code and date.

Ursula Osborne

Torture

The organization, National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), whose slogan is "Torture is a moral issue" has come to the attention of the Social Action Committee (SAC). Scholars, military officers, Christians, Jews, Muslims and other people of conscience have come together to speak out on torture. The SAC of HUUF, speaking on behalf of itself, has expressed its support to NRCAT.

It is important for individuals to write their Congress people to endorse the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order banning torture. By endorsing the Declaration of Principles, members of Congress and the public will make it clear to President-elect Obama that the people of this country appreciate his publicly-stated opposition to torture. Shortly after he takes office, they expect him to act to end the use of torture. This is an opportunity for us to participate, each individually.

Ursula Osborne

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Administrator Bert Taylor

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Board of Directors:

Co-President	Maureen Lawlor
Co-President	Bonnie MacGregor
Vice President	June Davis
Treasurer	Nancy Cook
Secretary	Roxana Hand
Trustees	Jeff Knapp
	Greg Blomstrom

Newsletter Editor	Joy Thomas
Calendar	Amanda Jones

GreenTip of the month: Tap water

This is an appeal to encourage us to drink tap water at home, in restaurants, and at the Fellowship. We have a built-in water filter in the kitchen and reusable cups. We can remind ourselves and those who rent our building that there is no need to purchase bottles of water. Our efforts to be environmentally responsible make a favorable impression. Why should we do this? The following is from Environmental Defense Fund:

Tap water is cleaner than most bottled water. Most bottled water is derived from tap water. The quality of municipal water in the U.S. is generally excellent. Tap water is delivered to homes and offices for \$0.002 a gallon. Bottled water, which can cost as much per gallon as gasoline, is a thousand times more expensive.

Manufacturing the 30+ billion plastic water bottles we bought in 2006 required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil, enough to fuel more than one million vehicles for a year. (Note: This was erroneously reported by the New York Times as 1.5 million, and the error is repeated in many places.) Making those bottles produced more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide and used three times the amount of water in the bottle. And these numbers don't include transporting the bottles. Nearly 25 percent of bottled water crosses national borders before reaching consumers.

If you don't trust tap water, or you have old plumbing, or you think tap water tastes funny, then try a water filter like those from PUR or Brita.

Thanks to Chip Sharpe for submitting this GreenTip.

Scott Allen

Religious Education



Preschool

January 4: No RE today. Childcare will be available.

January 11: Social Action Sunday: We will cook together for the Arcata Night Shelter.

January 18: We will explore the concept of our environment through stories and crafts.

January 25: We will worship together with music and crafts.

K-2nd

January 4: No RE today. Childcare will be available.

January 11: Social Action Sunday: We will cook together for the Arcata Night Shelter.

January 18: We will continue to learn UU values in relation to others and ourselves.

January 25: We will worship together with music and crafts.

3rd – 5th

January 4: No RE today. Childcare will be available.

January 11: Social Action Sunday: We will cook together for the Arcata Night Shelter.

January 18: We will learn about the Chinese New Year Dragon celebration and make food art.

January 25: We will worship together with music and crafts.

Intermediate

January 4: No RE today. Childcare will be available.

January 11: Social Action Sunday: We will cook together for the Arcata Night Shelter.

January 18: We will begin our exploration of Hinduism.

January 25: We will worship together with music and crafts.

Family Ministry Night, Saturday, **January 24**, 5:00- 8:00 p.m.

Dance Party! If you were there last time, you know how fun it was. If you missed it, now's your chance. Dinner and dancing and all you have to do is come.

Much fun was had by all who entertained or were entertained at the Holiday RE Service. Thanks to the talented children and families who performed and the many folks who helped with goodies, set up and clean up.

Jillian Mooney

Some parents have expressed an interest in their child/ren getting to know

HUUF Policy on Dogs on Fellowship Property, December 10, 2008

Purpose: This policy is intended to help ensure the health, safety and well being of all people attending HUUF programs.

Background and congregational input: We love our dogs; but dogs at the Fellowship have previously created concerns, such as children and adults afraid of dogs, dog-to-dog encounters, and some dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs. An unfortunate series of events on November 23 and on-going concerns expressed by HUUF members led the Board to implement a new policy. The November 23 incident was a dog (on leash) nipping at four people and seriously biting a fifth person following Sunday services. An ambulance, the Humboldt County Sheriff and the Humboldt County Animal Control Department were involved.

On November 25, the Board of Trustees Co-president sent an email message to many members soliciting input on developing a policy regarding dogs on Fellowship property. Numerous responses were received. Many stated that dogs should not be allowed onto Fellowship property, including not being allowed in cars on Fellowship property. Several congregants stated there should be standards for dogs on Fellowship property, such as requiring control on a leash, but not to ban dogs outright. Numerous congregants stated that children in particular seem most at risk from dogs at the Fellowship and these same congregants recited specific circumstances where children have been "terrorized" as a result of encountering a dog. Numerous respondents were concerned about dog owners not cleaning up dog poop left by their dogs at the Fellowship. Finally several congregants stated that the Fellowship is a place of worship, people are the primary users of the facility and therefore should be our first priority.

Therefore, the HUUF Board of Trustees adopted the following policy on dogs on Fellowship property to promote the security and enjoyment of our Members and visitors:

Dogs shall not be allowed on Fellowship property unless dogs are a part of a HUUF program such as the Blessing of the Animals. Certified service dogs are allowed on Fellowship property so long as they are under the direct control of their master.

The Board considered allowing dogs if confined to cars, but this was deemed unfair to the dogs, plus making it tempting to let a dog out "just for a second;" or a dog owner of a "well-behaved" dog believing their dog was exempted from this policy.

Members observing non-conformance with this policy should try to report it to a Board member or the person managing the event, who will locate the dog owner and explain our policy and the reasons behind it.

Bonnie MacGregor
on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Special expenditures

Recently the Board of Trustees (BOT) has had members request funds for social events or "causes" outside of normal budget allocations. In response to these requests (and because we did not have clear guidelines set in place), the BOT requested guidelines from the Finance Committee (FC)

The FC and the BOT recommend the following operating procedure for special expenditures:

- (i) Sponsorship by the appropriate committee;
 - a. Person makes a request to committee
 - b. If appropriate committee is not identified (see back of HUUF Directory for list of committees) request goes directly to FC.
 - c. Person establishes a timeframe from the beginning
 - d. Person puts request in writing (cost included) and has request presented by Committee Chair to FC – indicate date that response is needed.
- (ii) Review by the FC;
 - a. FC reviews request and makes recommendations
 - b. FC forwards request and recommendations to entire Board of Trustees with the above mentioned response time
 - c. FC indicates urgency of request in "Subject" line of email
- (iii) Board action:
 - a. BOT reviews request and recommendations of the FC and approves or denies request
 - b. BOT makes a decision either by email or if need be in special meeting
 - c. BOT responds to the person and the FC as to their decision and rationale and/or recommendation for alternative action.

Maureen Lawlor

Green Sanctuary report

Rod Rochambeau is now the lead co-chair and Jack Munsee is the back-up co-chair of the Green Sanctuary Committee. Our tentative plan to apply for Green Sanctuary Certification is to submit the following action items:

Worship and celebration

- Guest Speaker. Request that the Program and Worship Committee set aside two programs per year that deal with earth awareness.

- Seventh Principle Themes for Sunday Services. Request that the Program and Worship Committee purposefully integrate ecological and spiritual material into the content of Sunday services regularly.

Religious Education

- Request that the Children's RE director integrate earth awareness into the RE program regularly.

- Adult Education. Establish classes so that members can learn more about their relationship with the earth and how to lessen their impact on the earth. Work with the Fellowship librarian to list and augment materials on environmental practices and to regularly disseminate information on the existence and ways to use these materials.

Environmental justice

- Interfaith workshop. Set the stage for ecumenical cooperation by offering an Interfaith Environmental Justice Workshop and invite persons from other faith communities to join us in actions for environmental justice.

- Water conservation event. UU Legislative Ministries of California, with an office and staff in Sacramento, seeks to inject UU values into State government. A major segment of its work regards State Water Policy. Our project could be to affiliate with this Ministry and ask its help to organize a local public event to illuminate State water issues and how we can help solve them in our community.

Sustainable living

- Photovoltaic conversion for HUUF. Installed a 5,000 watt photovoltaic array on the Fellowship building. GSC will raise funds through an "adopt-a-watt" project to fund each watt by selling shares at \$5.00 per watt until the entire cost of the installation is paid for.

- Local seasonal food. Collect information about local, sustainably produced and harvested food to foster energy conservation, and avoid detrimental costs for transportation.

1. Disseminate information to congregation and community. Encourage members of the congregation to use the results of this information in their own lives.
2. Encourage use of such foods for all fellowship events.
3. Prepare a cookbook geared to these foods in season.
4. Organize cooking demonstrations utilizing the cookbook.

- Energy audit. Obtain a professional energy efficiency survey of existing buildings and grounds. Price and assess ways to utilize recommendations. Focus on reducing non-essential heating and lighting, and switch utilities from gas to electricity to obtain maximum gain from energy produced with photovoltaic cells.

- Earth friendly product use. Renegotiate HUUF's contract with its cleaning contractor so that eco-friendly cleaning agents and reusable and sustainable supplies are used. All landscaping projects will be planned with the goal of xeriscaping to save water, the use of native plants, and use of eco-friendly pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals.

- Replace inefficient appliances. Replace HUUF's inefficient appliances with energy efficient appliances.

- Invest a member of the Board of Trustees with ongoing responsibility to insure that prior consideration of environmental impacts be given to all actions and policies of the Fellowship.

It is necessary to have a point person for each item and a timeline for completion. Each item must be fleshed out as to what and how we satisfy the requirements for Green Sanctuary certification. This effort will require additional people to step forward to assume responsibility and members of the congregation to carry out required surveys and changes in their lifestyles to lessen our overall impact on the earth. A copy of the Green Sanctuary Manual is available in the HUUF library.

The service on **January 18** will expound on these ideas as well as provide an opportunity to ask questions of the Green Sanctuary committee members and to give feedback. A celebration of the installation of the solar panels will take place after the second service. Refreshments will be served.

Jack Munsee, co-chair



Request for proposals

It's time to start thinking about District Assembly 2009, to be held **May 1-3**. Since last year's location was such a hit, we will return to the Fremont Marriott. This year's theme is "The Heart of the Matter", and we are thrilled to have both candidates for UUA President, the Reverend Laurel Hallman and the Reverend Peter Morales, as our featured and keynote presenters.

And now it's time to start working on the program. We hope many of our professional and lay leaders will support this important annual event, submitting their proposals for the 2-hour workshop slots (some double slots may be available). Proposals are due **January 13**. Submissions must be made electronically, but they don't need to be fancy. Just send a note to Cilla@pcd-uaa.org that tells:

1. The workshop title (up to ten words);
2. The names of the presenter(s) and their congregations;
3. The name, address, email, and daytime phone of the contact person;
4. A 50-100 word description of the program, suitable for promotional purposes;
5. A fuller description of the workshop, its objectives and target audience;
6. A list of required supportive materials or necessary logistics, e.g., chart pads, A/V equipment, room set-up.

We especially welcome program topics that cover: anti-oppression, community building, congregational dynamics, contemporary worship, diversity, environmental concerns, faith development and UU identity, fundraising, growth strategies, healthy congregations, hospitality, integrating new members, international work, leadership development and succession planning, meaningful missions, planned giving, religious education, revisioning music programs, social justice, young adult ministry, or youth ministry.



Fit tip of the month:

Our energy problem – a healthy solution

Two costly problems facing America are energy shortage for transportation and too much energy stored in American corpulence. Shouldn't the second problem be the solution for the first? One pound of lipid (otherwise known as fat) can fuel a week of bike commuting 49 minutes each way, easily 10 miles, or 17 hours of walking at three mph. From this it should be obvious that exercise alone can't solve our weight problem; but on the other hand, why buy gas when we have all this free energy we are carrying around? We would be much healthier as a nation if more people took the stairs or biked and walked much more than we do. I have a Eureka patient who decided to walk to his brother's house every day and change his diet to mostly vegetables. His brother lives in Blue Lake. He lost 150 lbs in a year, cured his diabetes, got off disability, and seemed like a different person. Is there some way you could make more of your transportation human powered? You might then feel entitled, like my wife, to eat those scrumptious pastries at Brio without guilt.

David Davis

From the UUA

UUA President William G. Sinkford has issued a holiday pastoral letter in which he recalls his recently-completed pilgrimage to Africa, and writes, "We were witnesses to humankind's capacity for cruelty - and for compassion. One of the most important and difficult parts of the journey was visiting Goree Island, off the coast of Senegal. There we saw the small, dark cells where enslaved people were held. Dozens of human beings were crammed into these dank and crowded spaces and were only allowed outside once a day..."

But, Sinkford says, "We also witnessed the human capacity for love and for hope. One of the most wonderful moments of the trip was our visit with the Manya Krobo Queen Mothers Association of Eastern Ghana, a program partner of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office." The Queen Mothers' campaign against HIV/AIDS, he notes, "successfully cut in half the rate of new [HIV] infections in their communities." . . . In the face of a virulent epidemic, they were able to save lives through their compassion and dedication."

Sinkford adds, "For many here in the United States and around the world, this year's holiday season will be a challenging one, in which the continuing problems of war and poverty will be exacerbated by worldwide economic strains. Now, as much as ever, it is critical that we affirm the primacy of love and hope." To read Rev. Sinkford's complete pastoral letter, go to <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/124657.shtml>.

Ed Uyeki



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