

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Fun, inspiration and beyond

April 2010

Sunday, **April 18**, at 11:00 only, treat yourself to great food, great music, lots of laughs and hearing members share their dreams for the Fellowship, and saying how they'll make those dreams come true.

It's *Time, Talent and Treasure*, the opening celebration of our annual pledge drive, with features you can't find at any other Humboldt County Unitarian Universalist Fellowship:

- ◆ A new, humorous skit to tickle your funny bone and your generosity.
- ◆ Great music from our choir and—very likely—other fun and inspiring music surprises (sorry, The Beach Boys were booked.)
- ◆ Great food and drink, to thank you for all you do for the Fellowship.
- ◆ Testimonials from the Board and individual members on why the Fellowship is important to them, and how they'll generously support its mission.
- ◆ An opportunity to share two things that, to you, would be “Wow! really exciting things the Fellowship could do.” These could include ministries or programs that make your imagination and excitement take off.
- ◆ The children will surprise us—I can't tell you how, it's a surprise!
- ◆ Staffed information tables on social opportunities and volunteer opportunities with our Fellowship.
- ◆ Staffed pledge tables to accept or discuss your pledge.

So, what's the “Beyond?” Soon after the pledge celebration, you'll be invited to a small (six to eight people) informal meeting at a member's home, for coffee, tea and cookies. You can share what you want to share about the Fellowship, learn how pledging works, and then or later on decide on a pledge for making our dreams happen.

The pledge drive requires Time and Talent to make it a fun, inspiring experience. If you have a few minutes to help or have an acting or musical talent at any level, we very likely can use it. Contact me at 825-7674 or headhunter1942@gmail.com to learn what we need and to tell us what you'd enjoy doing.

Treat yourself! Come and have fun on April 18.

Jeff Knapp, for Canvass Committee

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Learn about UUism

You are invited to an Inquirers Class taught by Maureen Lawlor on **April 25** at 12:30. This class for anyone wishing to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this fellowship. If you are just curious or you may be thinking of becoming a member, we urge that you attend this class or attend. Lunch and childcare will be provided

Awanna Kalal

People

Felicia Oldfather is home and recovering after surgery in San Francisco. She is doing well, without much discomfort. She is in good spirits and continues to retain her wonderful sense of humor. A note would be appreciated if you would like to communicate with her, as she prefers not to receive many phone calls at this time.

After so many years of dedicated service, support and fellowship as a “friend”, we welcome **Marianne Pennekamp** as our newest member.

Maya McKenzie has pneumonia.

Steve Sottong has a herniated disc, so don't ask him to lift anything heavy for a while.

Inge Leonardos is moving to the East Coast to live near her children and grandchildren.

Lucera Love gave birth to a girl named Penelope Athena. Mother is healing and baby is fine. Nova Love is the happy father.

Mickey and John Strang have not been able to attend the Fellowship but would like their old friends to know that they welcome phone calls. Mickey reports that she is closer to approaching normality every day and is working hard on getting her driver's license back.

June and Dave Davis are going to Hawaii. June is continuing on to Japan for the interment of her mother.

Nancy Cook, Barbara Barratt, Thea Gast, Bert Taylor, Phyllis Helligas, Laura Barney and Anna Mae Botley, our PCD attendees, continue to celebrate fellowship with a trip to Ashland.

On April 1, **Darsty McAlinn** will have back surgery at UCSF.

Karen Knapp

Congregational meeting

On **April 18**, at 11:00 a.m., just before the start of our annual pledge drive celebration, we'll have a short congregational election meeting for:

◆ Presentation of a slate of members for our Nominating Committee. This committee recruits members they believe are qualified to fill positions on the Board, Endowment Committee and Nominating Committee.

◆ Presentation of a slate of members to fill vacant or to-be-vacant Board of Trustees positions.

In the near future, we will announce to the Fellowship which members are on these slates.

Please arrive in time to attend this very important election meeting, which is vital to the governance of our Fellowship. If you have questions, please contact me at 825-7674 or headhunter1942@gmail.com.

Jeff Knapp,
for the Board of Trustees

Program and Worship Committee

Our Program and Worship Committee will have a new co-chair effective July 1. Katherine Almy has agreed to replace Berti Welty, who as co-chair provided tremendous service and structure to the creation and production of our Sunday programs. Many thanks, Berti. Katherine will serve as co-chair with Steve Sottong, who currently serves as the other co-chair of the committee.

Jeff Knapp

Explore the wisdom of your dreams

Jeremy Taylor's 16th dream workshop at HUUF will be offered Friday, **April 9**, and Saturday, **April 10**. If you've wanted to take this workshop, now might be a good time to do it.

Friday night is \$20. Come hear Jeremy introduce the six simple steps for working on dreams with a group of peers. We can do this ourselves with these simple guidelines.

The Saturday workshop is filling rapidly. Make sure to secure your place by sending your check for \$60 (payable to HUUF) to me at 2310 Hillside Drive, Eureka, 95501. For information, call 442-0743.

Jeremy will speak at both Sunday services on **April 11**.

Barbara Clark

Daylighters a success

Twelve enthusiastic people met to start a new Daylighters group. Their first decision was to keep on meeting. Their second decision was to change the meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month. So the next meeting will be **April 13** at 1:30 p.m.

The meetings will cover subjects of mutual interest from storytelling to favorite books and beyond. Everyone is urged to come to share tea, cookies and great company.

For the April 13 meeting, please bring a small heirloom, knicknack or any article of special interest to you. Plan to spend five minutes telling the group about its significance to you.

Anne Weiss

Gospel Choir story

It was such a joy for me to produce the 9:00 service back in February when my Arcata Interfaith Gospel Choir performed. I was unable to give my story then, so I'd like to do that here.

During my first two years in the Gospel Choir I kept having great conflicts with the words we sang and my beliefs. So I put myself in an acting role: If I were in a play acting as an 82 year old woman, I would not have to be an 82 year old, I would just act. So, I didn't have to believe in these words, I would just act as if I did because I was presenting black gospel music.

During the third year in the choir, I had a devastating incident happen at work. It became very public and I had to handle many questions, complaints, investigations and sorrows. During this time the choir was learning a song, "Pressing On." I came in every Thursday for about two months feeling the worst I have ever felt and sang "Pressing On" over and over; and I sang it with loving, generous souls who took me in and wrapped me up in music. Each Thursday night I would leave that group feeling loved and healed.

The community of people working to learn something together, creating a loving circle to give people strength and joy carried me through. For me that is what black gospel is all about: People coming together and learning new songs and creating a loving joyful place for themselves and any others that come into that space.

The choir will present its annual concert on Sunday, **May 2**, at the Arcata Community Center. The Oakland Interfaith Youth Gospel Choir will sing as well this year, and they are amazing.

Roxanna Hand

Call to rally

On March 7 at our Congregational Meeting, the Board of Trustees (BOT) came before you and said, "We need your help." We said there is much to do and few to do it. We let you know that we needed support. We told you that we were sorry we had let some things fall through the cracks and asked your forgiveness.

The Webster definition of "rally: *To gather together so as to bring back into a state of order.* So we made a call to rally.

Within minutes after the meeting, the Board of Trustees was humbled by your response. Upon hearing that there were needs for the Nominating Committee; the BOT; the Pledge Drive; the Personnel Committee; and Program and Worship, we had 39 volunteers. Literally, in minutes, you/we came together to "bring back into a state of order" areas in our Fellowship that need you, that need us. So to those 39 awesome folks who rallied thank you, thank you, thank you.

Now, we can, all together, move forward from a position of power.

Maureen Lawlor



Pick me!

After five years of retirement, I recently found myself back in a classroom, thanks to the Social Action Committee's resolve to help out in the Loleta Community. It took a few weeks to get fingerprinted, tested for tuberculosis, etc.; but it certainly didn't take long for the kids in the first/second grade class to endear themselves to me. Basically, I listen to them read individually...e.g. "pick me! pick me!" and chat with them a bit. It's been a lot of fun and certainly could be a positive contribution to the school. At present, I go on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.; but the times seem to be quite flexible. Maureen Lawlor, who brought the Loleta Community's needs to the Fellowship via the Social Action Committee, gave me a list of possible volunteers, and I've spoken to several already. If I haven't contacted you and you might be interested in being a reading buddy, or have any questions, please contact me at 725-9043 or ileneharris@gmail.com.

Ilene Harris

General Assembly and District Assembly

Each year a terrifically exciting “happening” occurs when thousands of Unitarian Universalists from around the world meet at our annual General Assembly (GA). Members who’ve attended returned with great ideas and inspiration, and the four delegates we’re allowed give us four votes on important UU matters.

This year GA is in Minneapolis, from June **23 to June 27**. The Board will pay the registration fee of up to four delegates; delegates are expected to attend the workshops of greatest interest to the Fellowship and also attend sessions at which delegates vote. Travel, meals and lodging expenses are not reimbursed by the Fellowship. You do not have to be a delegate to attend. For more information on GA, type UUA General Assembly on your browser to bring up the GA link. For information on being a delegate, contact me at 825-7674 or headhunter1942@gmail.com. The early registration discount ends April 30.

District Assembly

From **April 30 to May 2**, our UU Pacific Central District of 38 congregations in three states holds its District Assembly (DA) conference in the East Bay city of Fremont. Around 400 UUs attend exciting workshops with new ideas, hear inspiring talks from district and national leaders, and make new UU friends. The Fellowship will pay the registration fees of up to four delegates willing to attend the workshops of greatest interest to the Fellowship and also attend sessions at which delegates vote. Travel, meals and lodging are not reimbursed by the Fellowship. You do not have to be a delegate to attend. For more information, go to pcd-uua.org; and click on the “Harvest the Power” image. For information on being a delegate, contact me at 825-7674 or headhunter1942@gmail.com.

Whether it’s GA or DA, why not enjoy laughing, learning, networking and worship, as you expand your horizons and connections with others who share your values.

Jeff Knapp, for the Board of Trustees

Religion for our time

The Unitarian Universalist Association and President Peter Morales are pleased to present a new video series, *A Religion for Our Time*. These short videos will highlight inspiring work in UU congregations, including innovative projects relating to worship, religious education, social justice, membership and fellowship. The first episode is now available and features the Ogden Outreach Center, the UU Church of Ogden’s drop-in program for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender youth and young adults.

Please share the news about this exciting series and watch for new installments to be released every couple of weeks between now and General Assembly. Join in recognizing and celebrating Unitarian Universalist congregations as they build *A Religion for Our Time*. Watch the six-minute first episode: “Ogden UUs Reach Out to BGLT Youth.”

Ed Uyeki

Update on single service Sundays

At the October 4 Congregational meeting, there was substantial discussion about moving towards having only a single service on Sundays, not just during the summer. There is a valid concern that having two services divides the membership since the demographic of the people attending the two services is quite different. There is also the possibility of some potential cost savings when the Fellowship has to pay presenters, since they only have to make one presentation. And, of course all of the other things that are done twice would only have to be done once, such as choir performance.

However, there are also many possible problems with going to a single service, not the least of which is with a popular speaker there simply isn’t enough room to hold all of the people who would like to attend. Several presentations over the past year have had a combined total attendance that would have exceeded the fire marshal’s allowed capacity of the sanctuary as well as the number of chairs that the Fellowship currently owns.

In November, 2009, the Board drafted a work plan for a task force that would investigate the pros and cons of a single service. It quickly became apparent that a Single Service Sunday has many potential benefits but also many potential costs. Because of the complexity of the issue and all of the other matters in front of the Board, we have decided to temporarily put investigation of Single Service Sundays on hold until the How To Who Too task force completes its work plan on June 1. If you would like a copy of the work plan, contact me at 839-9017 or gregb@bbwassociates.com.

Greg Blomstrom



Still making a joyful noise

The choir rehearses weekly from 7:00-8:30 pm on Wednesday nights at the Fellowship, and performs at two services a month, September through May. New singers are always welcome and do not need prior music training.

If you are interested in joining the choir, or have a musical talent or idea you would like to share at a future service, please contact me by e-mail at elisabethharrington@yahoo.com.

Upcoming in late May and June: Saturday Morning Community Music Classes for Fun, Fellowship and Creativity. Tentative dates are May 23, June 5 and June 19.

Plans are under way for a three-part series of classes to explore elements of musical performance including harmony, rhythm, movement and expression in an enjoyable and supportive multi-generational environment. HUUF Choir Director and HSU Professor of Music Elisabeth Harrington will lead, assisted by HSU music students. Classes will include learning some basic music-reading skills, and then combining reading music with improvisation to emphasize spontaneity as part of the performance process. All ages are welcome (young children should attend with a parent or older sibling). Donations will be accepted and will support the music program at HUUF.

Elisabeth Harrington,
Choir Director

Religious Education



Thank you to all the folks who helped make our Cookies For Haiti fundraiser such a success. Kim Moor's planning and organization made it look easy and was such fun, while raising money for a worthwhile cause. We raised \$344 with the help of all those adults who came to mix and package dough with children, bought our dough and especially those that cleaned up. We will donate it to the local doctors' group that flew into Haiti to assist.

April 4: Traditional Easter egg hunt

All ages together in the CARE building to hide or hunt eggs. Younger children hunt, those in junior high and up can hide (and be rewarded). Easter crafts and snack to follow. Bring your basket to hunt.

April 11: All Worship Sunday

All ages will gather together in the CARE building to celebrate (a little early) the Pagan holiday of Beltane. We will learn a chant for Mother Earth and make Garden Goddesses and magical bath salts.

April 18: Earth Day Fair

All ages will gather together to celebrate our Earth. We will have different crafts and activities for children to rotate through and experience. From worm farms to solar art, come see what we can do for our Earth and what our Earth gives us in return.

April 25: Social Action Sunday

All ages will gather together in the CARE building to make presents for our upcoming Family Day Tea in May. Ask your parents what their favorite color is.

Jillian Mooney

Deadline Tuesday, April 20

E-mail articles to Joy Thomas at jthomas3@csulb.edu.

Spring brunch

SAC is celebrating spring with this **April 18** brunch after the Canvass program. Scrumptuously new and refreshing foods will be featured. You might find baby vegetables or edible flowers in a salad. You might even find an Easter egg or two (deviled, of course). Come celebrate spring with us. Proceeds will be used to support local community projects helping those most in need.

Eve Anderson

Classified ads are 10 cents a word. Please e-mail your ad to Joy Thomas and send your check, made out to HUUF, to the Fellowship.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Newsletter Editor Joy Thomas

What's a Green Sheet?

If you attended Fellowship during the past month, you must have noticed a full-size sheet of green paper in your Order of Service. Hopefully, you took a few minutes to read its contents and discovered a new attempt to strengthen communications. The Green Sheet is a summary of meetings and events for the upcoming week at the Fellowship. Dates and contacts are included and locations, if not in our facilities.

It is the hope of the Board that members will take advantage of the Green Sheet, thus giving current information of upcoming events and eliminating the need for oral announcements during Sunday services. You are invited to take the sheets home for reference or to recycle them in the basket in the foyer. Please send items for the Green Sheet to me or Maureen Lawlor by the Friday before publication.

JoAnn Thomas