

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



April 2019

A note from the minister

As I write this “Note,” we have just heard of the horrible slaying of fifty Muslim people in New Zealand. Among other things, the white, racist killer said he hoped to provoke more killing of Muslims and other immigrants around the world.

As I write this “Note,” the Midwest of the United States is being pounded by a very unusual inland hurricane of snow and rain. Historic flooding is swamping parts of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

As I write this “Note,” young people are uniting around the world in a coordinated school walkout to demand that the leaders of their countries take radical action to curb climate change.

Years ago Pete Seeger wrote “Isn’t this a time, isn’t this a time – a time to try our souls again? Isn’t this a terrible time?” He had the question right, and this is such a time. In this time, we are called to remain awake. We are given the opportunity, like high school students around the world, to choose what values we will embody and serve. The role of religion in this time is to center us in our deepest principles, to ground us in our commitment to love and justice, to unite us in our responses to the interrelated issues that we face, and to inspire us with a vision that will keep us working for the world we hope to see.

In one of my favorite UU hymns, poet Barbara Zanotti, harking back to the prophet Isaiah, says: “We’ll build a land where we bind up the broken.” In this “terrible time” may we take that commitment “to bind up the broken” as our own. May we bind up our own hearts. May we help to bind up the hearts of those around us. And may we continue to join together to bind up our world.

Yours in the journey -



Rev. Bryan Jessup

Justice on Earth workshop

In this workshop led by Maureen Lawlor and Rev. Bryan Jessup we will again examine the interconnection between race, class and the environment. This session will meet on **April 13** at 1 p.m. and focus particularly on alternatives to industrial agriculture, the importance of the human right of access to clean water and the imperative of interfaith/intercultural collaboration to counter oppression. Contact Social Action Chair Maureen Lawlor for information: huuflawlor@yahoo.com.

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Little Free Pantry at HUUF



Bill Thompson memorial

The memorial service for our long-time, beloved friend and inspiration, Bill Thompson, will be at the Bayside Community Hall at 3 p.m. on Friday, **April 26**.

Council of Chairs

The HUUF Council of Chairs will hold an open meeting at 6:30 p.m. on **April 23**, to discuss the interconnected web of Fellowship life and to consider UUA leadership materials on participating in congregational life. All are welcome. Contact HUUF Vice President Cathy Hanafi for information: cbhanafi@yahoo.com.

Life's Last Gift

An Inter-faith and Multi-generational Conversation: "Focusing on Advanced Care Planning" will take place **May 18** from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at HUUF. A \$25 donation is requested but no one will be turned away. Led by Dr. Charles Garfield and Dr. Gina Belton, this workshop will help individuals and families, adults and children talk with others about death and loss. Call Rev. Jessup for more information at 822-3793.

Concert for homeless scholarships

Following up on last week's service, here is one small way you can help the homeless situation in our area. There are College of the Redwood Students who are homeless, yet want to stay in school. CR has set up a scholarship fund for them. The Concert at HUUF on Friday, **April 5**, from 7-9 p.m. with singer/songwriters Tempa and Naor Nave, will donate proceeds to this important fund. You can help by purchasing tickets either ahead of time at the Fellowship (\$20) or at the door (\$25). Food and Beverages are included. Call Ilene Harris at 725-9043 for further information or see their web page: <https://tempaandnaorproject.com/>.

People

Condolences to the family of **Maya McKenzie** who passed away in February. She and **Win Sample** attended HUUF regularly. Maya was on the first grass roots committee, putting out the word to help raise funds for the purchase of Betty Chinn's first food truck for delivering meals to the houseless.

Best wishes for uncomplicated surgeries coming up in the near weeks for **Karen Knapp**.

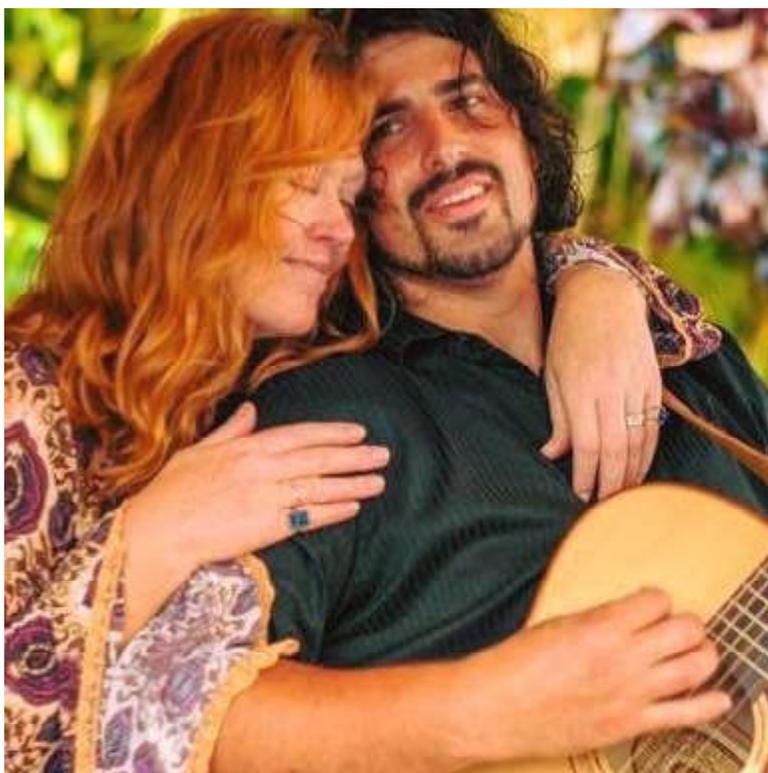
Sylvia Shaw



Newcomer Orientations

Newcomer Orientation Part 1 will occur on Sunday, **April 14**, at 12:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Lunch and childcare will be provided. The focus of Part 1 is our individual spiritual paths and the values and structure of Unitarian Universalism.

Newcomer Orientation Part 2 will take place on Sunday, **April 28** at the same time and location. The focus of Part 2 is on the story of the Humboldt UU Fellowship, how the congregation operates and what membership means. Contact Membership Chair Kate McClain for information: katecmclain1@gmail.com.



Religious Education

The energy of spring calls to mind our seventh principle, a respect for the interdependent web of life of which we are a part. This past month, I have had the great honor to work with HSU student volunteers. They too carry within them the energy of new beginnings. Their enthusiasm has awakened a deep sense of hope and joy. One student noted how breathtakingly beautiful the view from the RE yard is. As he shared his delight, I silently bowed in gratitude for this community and all who have stewarded the land we gather upon. As we move into this season, the youth will have an opportunity to contemplate the soul matter's theme for the month, wholeness. We will specifically ask the children to consider how the items they use affect the whole interdependent web of life.

Family Practice:

Last month I suggested every family make one small shift in their diet to lessen their impact on our environment. This month, you may continue to deepen that practice or shift your lens to other household habits. Brainstorm over dinner all the ways plastic packaging, bottles or single use items impact our environment. Is there one small habit your family can shift to lessen your carbon footprint? Could you bring your own to-go containers for take out with your own utensils or reusable bags for produce? How about bananas for snacks, instead of individually wrapped ones. Consider a small, specific goal and maybe even a celebration once you've reached it.

April Sunday Program Schedule:

Youth Choristers will rehearse on **4/14, 4/21** and **4/28** from 10-10:45 in the multi-purpose room, and perform on **4/21**.

Preschool- K:

4/7: Love for the Earth: An art exploration with Cheryl Rau about how our actions affect the interdependent web of life.

4/14: A nature treasure hunt to celebrate Earth day and appreciate the interdependent web of life.

4/21: Exploring new life throughout the interdependent web of life, and candy-free Easter egg hunt.

1st-3rd grade:

4/7: Love for the Earth: An art exploration with Cheryl Rau about how our actions affect the interdependent web of life.

4/14: Love Looks Like: A session of exploring love in action and what works of love can be.

4/21: Love in Nature: An outdoor session of observing and recording the natural order of love in creation, and our annual candy-free Easter egg hunt.

4th-8th grade:

4/7: Framing our Intention: A day to upcycle materials into frames for our upcoming art photography exhibit with HSU volunteer Scarlet Trippsmith.

4/14: The Gift of Listening: We'll finish our framing project and share our completed works with each other.

4/21: Come celebrate the return of spring with our all ages candy-free- Easter egg hunt.

All:

4/28: All ages Service Sunday: Cook dinner for the night shelter.

Teen Group will have an all day retreat **April 20** from 10:00-5:00, to celebrate spring and all the work we've done so far. We will also have our regular meetings on the first and third Sundays.

The young adult group is gaining momentum. In April we'll be meeting at least twice, though dates and times have not been chosen yet, so to stay in the loop, please email Kit Lynn at kitestringsflying@gmail.com. Childcare is available, email Kit for details.



Personal Climate Action Opportunities and Recognitions

Legislation:

Beginning Sunday, **April 28**, and on every fourth Sunday of the month, the Climate Action Campaign will staff a table with stamped postcards and sample messages for you to send to key local, state, or federal legislators on issues related to climate change. We hope this will help HUUF members and friends make an impact on this crucial issue.

Climate Related Art and Writing from the Congregation:

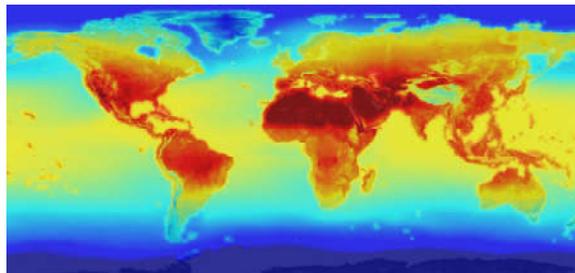
Cheryl Rau will hang the annual children's art show on **April 18** in time for Easter and Earth Day. Some of the children's art will relate to questions like: How does climate change affect you? What do you think our future will look like? What are you doing about climate change? This is what we're calling the Big Think and Challenge. These are big thoughts, and they challenge us to act like humanity has never acted before.

We're also inviting adults to Think Big and Challenge themselves, and to show that in any artistic or written form. If you have works you'd like to share, you may bring them to HUUF office on Thursday, **April 18** between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you need extra time, you can also submit them on Thursday, **May 1** between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

On Sunday, **May 19**, we will present the Big Think and Challenge Recognition of Artists. Join the Climate Action Campaign to honor HUUF artists, writers, and performers whose climate action related works will be on exhibit at HUUF in April and May. We will celebrate the contributors during the SAC brunch at 1 pm on Sunday, May 19. A \$200 award will be shared among the participants who will in turn share with us their climate action related thoughts through art, poetry, and performance.

We also invite everyone to bring an item (eg., a magazine photo, your own art, a photo, fabric, something from nature, or something personal) to the May 19 SAC brunch. As we enjoy the brunch, we'll create a Climate Action Vision Board that will reflect our feelings about climate change and what we're doing about it.

Sue Lee Mossman



Climate Change Communication now on huuf.org

In case you missed the "Climate Change Communication" service presented March 3 by Connie Roser-Renouf, Ph.D., it is now available on our website, huuf.org. Connie also attached references, and passes on that she recommends the book *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, by M. B. Rosenberg, for anyone talking to others about potentially contentious issues. To access Connie's talk, click on "Worship," then "Past Services." Thanks to HUUF Administrator Bridgette Garuti for posting this on the site, and to Connie for making this available to us.

Pat Carr

Men's group

The New HUUF Men's Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, **April 1** in the Multi-Purpose Room. The group will close to new members in the near future, so please come if you'd like to participate. For further information, email Bob Billstrom at tunesmith89@sbcglobal.net or me at david.marshak@gmail.com.

David Marshak

Deadline info

Deadline for the **May** issue of the newsletter is Saturday, **April 20**, at 5:00 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF to newsletter@huuf.org (email only).

While many file formats are acceptable, but .doc, .docx, .rtf and text are preferred, and .pdf and .pages cannot be used. Late submissions are not accepted without prior approval.

Full guidelines are available at:

<http://huuf.org/upcoming-events/newsletter-2/newsletter-guidelines/>

Stephen Sottong, editor

Weekly Mindful Yoga practice

Join Patricia Starr, a longtime community yoga master on Monday mornings for a gentle stretch and meditative practice. “Mindful Yoga” is held from 9-10:30 a.m. in HUUF’s Sanctuary. Bring a mat and wear movable clothing. A drop-in donation of \$15 is requested but no one will be turned away.



Dialogue workshops

Practicing Healing Dialogue is a workshop for being seen and heard. Couples, individuals (partnered and single), curious adults of all walks of life are invited to join Yaj, Relationship Coach since 2001, for a learning gathering about Conscious Communication: what it is, what it isn’t, and how to do it. Yaj will give information, handouts, demonstrations and facilitated practice of real skills. This workshop is free, open to the public, and designed for anyone who desires a higher level of skill in connecting with others and themselves. The workshops are on Saturdays, **April 27**, **May 25** and **June 15**, from 1- 4 p.m. at HUUF. For details, call Yaj: (845) 641-8843, and visit www.heartmindpartners.com.

Open Soul Matters Group

“Starting Point” is a “Soul Matters” small group approach for newcomers to get acquainted with Unitarian Universalism and for long-term members to deepen their connection to our faith. The group will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room at 10 a.m. On **April 11** the topic will be on how members of the Humboldt UU Fellowship have responded to the challenges of life over more than 60 years. Contact Rev. Jessup for information at 822-3793.

Volunteer of the month

The Caring Circle wants to acknowledge one of our Fellowship’s long time, very involved, and active volunteers. If you happen to be at HUUF some afternoon and hear a rustling in recycling, it is likely Chip Sharpe doing one of his many unseen, essential, and important tasks. Chip’s “committee of one” notices what needs to be done and, unasked, gets it accomplished.

Thank you very much, Chip.

Nancy Engel



“My own view on religion is that of Lucretius. I regard it as a disease born of fear and as a source of untold misery to the human race. I cannot, however, deny that it has made some contributions to civilization. It helped in early days to fix the calendar, and it caused Egyptian priests to chronicle eclipses with such care that in time they became able to predict them. These two services I am prepared to acknowledge, but I do not know of any others.”

Bertrand Russel in *Has Religion Made Useful Contributions to Civilization?*

Meet our new Grounds Committee intern

We are very happy to welcome our new grounds intern, Lilyanne Price. Lily has created a “seed altar” in the foyer to highlight native plants that play an important role in our environment. She is giving away seeds or sprigs in the hope you will bring them into your gardens, too. Lily will give more information about these native plants on our website, including gardening tips and a map showing where you can see them growing here at HUUF.

On Sunday, March 10, Lily brought willows, a vital source for the caterpillars and larvae that support nearly all baby birds, even those that eat seeds or fruit as adults. More native plants will be introduced on March 31, April 7, May 5 and May 12. Please come by to meet Lily and hear about the treasures we have on the fabulous grounds under our care.

I asked Lily to tell us a bit about herself:

I am the native plant intern working with Valerie Gizinski, the HUUF Grounds Committee chairperson. I am doing this service-learning project as a part of the class, Religion in America that I am taking at Humboldt State University. I was recently thrilled to learn that simply by gardening with native plants one can help revive precious ecosystems so that their whole web of life forms may flourish. As a Botany major and granddaughter of a UU, this was a perfect fit. I have been a part of the Sufi community here for the last three years and have admired this open and beautiful space, at the Dances of Universal Peace.

I hope to contribute to the fellowship by giving away native plants every other Sunday at the Seed Altar, along with posting an article on the website about the ecological value of the plant and a labeled map of all the native plants on the grounds. The first plant I gave away at the Fellowship, on Sunday, March 10, was the native dune willow, *Salix hookeriana*.

I am excited to be taking part with the fellowship and so grateful for the Fellowship’s honor for the Earth, as well as all the welcoming love I have already experienced from you all.



Into the future

Your Stewardship Committee is excited about our two-pronged stewardship drive this spring. As we go into the future with a new minister we are hoping that everyone will pitch in with time, talents and treasures. The first part of the stewardship drive will kick off on **March 31** with the pledge drive. Our ambitious goal is \$220,000 in pledges. On your way into Fellowship on that Sunday please pick up your pledge envelope. All envelopes not picked up will be mailed the next day. Read the cover letter and follow the directions to submit your monetary pledge for July 2019 – June 2020.

Later in the spring you’ll be asked to complete a survey of your skills, areas of interest, how you’d like to volunteer. Hopefully, most of you will complete this online. Assistance in doing so will be provided every Sunday afternoon. For those who’d rather complete a form, that option will be available. We’d also like to have a digital photo directory, which would be available for members on-line and be very helpful to our new minister.

Each of us is a building block for our future as a Fellowship. Make sure to add your personal block into our foundation.

Berti Welty for the Stewardship Committee

Auction Feedback

The Auction Committee seeks input from HUUF members about this year's Auction. Please return completed survey to box in the lobby by April 7, or complete on-line (preferred) at <https://tinyurl.com/HUUF-Auction-Survey>

1. Why did you attend the HUUF Auction? (choose all that apply to you)

- Not applicable – you did not attend
- There were items or services you wanted to bid on
- You like to support a fundraiser for HUUF
- You enjoy the auction as a fun event
- You came with a family member or friend
- You liked the HUUF Auction Store items
- You volunteered at the auction
- Other:

2. If you did not attend the HUUF Auction, why not? (choose all that apply to you)

- Not applicable (you attended)
- You did not attend, but had someone serve as your proxy
- You did not attend due to schedule conflict
- You did not attend because \$10 entry was not affordable
- You did not attend because you can't afford bidding on auction items
- You did not attend because you don't enjoy auctions
- Other:

3. The HUUF Auction offered free child care. (choose all that apply to you)

- You did not come with any children
- You came with children, but they did not go into child care room
- You came with children, and you used child care room
- Other:

4. Which of the following were true for you in the Silent Auction? (choose all that apply to you)

- You had enough time to bid on item(s) of interest
- The table closed before you could increase your bid
- The bidding sheets were confusing
- You did not win any items because the bidding got too high
- There were no auction items or services you were interested in
- Other:

5. Which of the following are true for you about the Live Auction? (choose all that apply to you)

- You were an active bidder in the live auction
- You stayed for the live auction, but did not bid on anything
- You wanted to participate in the live auction, but could not stay till the end
- You participated, but left before the live auction was over
- You were not interested in the live auction items
- Other:

6. Auction catalogs were mailed to all members and friends of HUUF. (choose all that apply to you)

- You never received one in the mail.
- You received and read the catalog before the auction.
- You received the catalog in the mail, but didn't look at it.
- It is unnecessary that a catalog is mailed out prior to the auction; a digital catalog would suffice.
- Receiving a listing of the items and donors without a full description would suffice.
- Other:

7. What kinds of auction items or services would you like to see in future HUUF Auctions?

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the service auction?



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: Bridgette Garuti
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: Therese FitzMaurice
498-3564 t_kslin@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Stephen Sottong
newsletter@huuf.org

Board of Trustees:

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are 10¢ per word. Send your check to the HUUF office and the text of your ad to newsletter@huuf.org (email only).

For sale: metal file cabinet, 2-drawer size, \$10. Ann King; 442-8274.



Little Free Pantry at HUUF

Your Social Action Committee has partnered with Cooperation Humboldt (<http://cooperationhumboldt.com>) to create a Little Free Pantry at the Fellowship to provide food for those without enough. It is located just inside the fence between our two buildings. We hope the congregation will generously keep it full of non-perishable food, to be taken by folks who come to the Fellowship and may be food insecure. Don't be afraid to bring too much food. We will carefully monitor the Little Free Pantry and transport excess to other Little Free Pantries maintained by Cooperation Humboldt scattered throughout Eureka.

Let us make this effort in remembrance and continuation of the years of tenacious efforts by Jean Wagner to collect food for hungry folks on Tuna Sundays. For more information please contact Richard and Ginger Kossow 826-1227, Carol Newman 839-0388 or Kate McClain 839-0313.