

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



December 8 meeting

December 2019

Creating A Compassionate Camping Policy: Honoring both our Values and our Responsibilities

Our Sunday service on December 8 will be a “Congregational Threshing Session.” As in the Quaker tradition, a threshing session provides an opportunity, guided by the Spirit, to ask questions, as well as to state a position or express a point of view. It is a process through which we are all invited to speak plainly and truthfully about our questions and concerns. The focus will be how do we create a compassionate policy regarding houseless persons camping on HUUF property. This process is not about George per se, but likely some aspects of George’s actions will be discussed. He will not be invited to attend. Our gathered community will strive together to respond to the questions and concerns with love and thoughtful discourse. The threshing session will help prepare us for decision-making. Each person will be able to voice what is in their heart and mind. No debate. Just listening.

This is a sacred process – the essence of democracy and the true spiritual practice of a UU congregation which is why it is being conducted as a Sunday service. We will be led in our threshing session by Minister Anthony Johnson and Bonnie Macgregor. The service will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Childcare will be provided and sandwiches will be available for adults and children. There will also be background and up-to-date information about HUUF’s no-camping policy, insurance matters, legal liability, county requirements for camping and HUUF’s Sanctuary policy, as well as copies of our UU Principles, HUUF Covenants, Aspiration, and Statements of Purpose to help us use all our tools and capacities to reflect and contribute to our collective understanding.

We welcome and encourage all to attend and participate in this unique opportunity.

Rev. Anthony Johnson & HUUF Board

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Interested in membership?

Please speak to a Sunday service greeter or contact our minister Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson at 822-3793 or minister@huuf.org.

Kate McClain



Proposed guidelines

New building use and personal use of HUUF property policies and guidelines proposed.

An ad hoc committee has proposed a revised set of building and personal use of HUUF property guidelines to the Board for consideration. The current building use and personal use of HUUF property guidelines were last updated in 2001. In the approximately 18 years that have elapsed much has changed about how the HUUF facilities are managed and used. The principle change is that the building and grounds are now in almost constant use and wear and tear on our campus is starting to be a problem. In addition, paid rentals are being crowded out to some extent by HUUF sponsored groups and HUUF members use of the building. As a result, the proposed changes to the guidelines, if adopted by the Board, would ask for a donation to be made to HUUF for all HUUF group and personal use of the building and grounds. These donations would be required if a door fee was charged but would be voluntary if no up-front charge was made for using the facilities. The same would go for personal use of the building by HUUF members: they would be asked (but not required) to make a donation to the Fellowship. In all of these donations, 10% of the funds donated or collected from a rental or use of the facilities would be placed in the reserve maintenance fund to help cover future maintenance and depreciation of the building and grounds. Please contact Bridgette if you want to review these proposed guidelines. Any comments can be sent to me via the email, listed on the back of the newsletter. The Board will be taking up the proposed guidelines in the near future.

Greg Blomstrom, Co-president

Matilda the Musical

Matilda the Musical is stage play based on the 1998 book by Roald Dahl. The story centers around five-year-old Matilda who has the gift of Telekinesis. If you are familiar with Dahl's books for children (e.g. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) you'll know he has a zany sense of humor, combining nice and wicked kids. All ages will be delighted. The musical is especially appropriate for ages 6 and up. In 2013, the musical won five Tony Awards, including Best Book of a Musical.

There will be a special performance on December 7 at 2 p.m. at Ferndale Rep. Tickets are \$18 for Children 12 and under. General Tickets are \$25. They will be available at the Fellowship Office, at Sunday Services in October, by contacting me at 725-9043, and also at the Ticket Office (Wildberries).

For those who have purchased tickets, but are unable to attend, or who would just like to purchase tickets as a donation, please return the tickets to me at HUUF and I will gift them to people who would like to go.

Ilene Harris

RE Calendar:

Dec. 1: Midwinter Magic Scene rehearsals by age group.

Dec. 8: Dress rehearsal. All ages meet directly in CARE building at 11:00. No story for all ages.

Dec 15: Midwinter Magic debut at the service. All performers please meet at 10:00 in the CARE building.

Dec. 22: All ages Service Sunday. Youth will make gifts from the heart for the holidays.

Dec. 29: Friendship Sunday

Youth Choir:

This month, as our wonderful RE teachers do the work of crafting and preparing a musical presentation for our Solstice service, we shall be adding & combining our gifts with theirs. If your child is musically inclined, I want to invite you to this time. We meet 10-10:45 in the Multi-purpose room.

Dec. 1: Continue our work on rhythm & rounds. New song(s) shared.

Dec. 8: Rehearsal 2.

Dec. 15: Final Rehearsal & prep for Service Performance.



Religious Education

Hello beloved community. What a gift it was to have Bryan and Eddie with us last month for a visit. At Edie and Bryan's lifetime achievement award for Practicing Peace, Edie spoke with grace about the sobering reality of the challenges we face, while Bryan stood up as a powerful mirror naming the profound love and justice work he witnessed here. "I see you," he chanted over and over in his gentle, warm tone. When we truly see each other, see our children, our partners, our parents, we are nourished, as Bonnie articulated, in ways that allow those around us to become their best selves, to connect deeply to the source of love. Being seen is one of the most powerful offerings of love.

I have been blessed to be seen by our community. You have, week after week, expressed your gratitude for my presence and my work. Many of you have invited me into your inner world, and I have become a wiser, more grounded being because of it.

Some of you already know that I received a call from my children's school three days before the year began with a job offer for which I did not apply. This job was one I never imagined filling, a PE teacher. It is a role that has often been used to perpetuate competition, hierarchy and even abuse. What could be more radical for me, right now, than to work directly with the youth who are the greatest influence on my own children in one of their most beloved environments, the gym. It was a call I knew immediately I must accept. And as I began offering my gifts to that community down the street, it became clear, I am no longer able to be fully present for the needs of the RE program.

In October, I requested a temporary job-share as I worked to decipher a clear path forward. I greatly appreciate the Board's creative solution to appoint an "Assistant to the DRE" with whom I can share my duties for the remainder of this church year. It is with great humility, I'd like to formally introduce to you, Amy Day, who has accepted the board's recent appointment to be my "Assistant".

Amy began attending the Fellowship about two years ago with her daughter, Sailor and her husband, Ed. She has offered two services, performed twice in the Halloween Festival, co-created a nourishing parenting retreat, offered a Yoga as Political Activism Adult RE course, and is currently serving as our Youth Choir Director. Amy is a trained life coach, certified yoga teacher, theater arts graduate, podcast host and producer, writer, mother, partner, and most importantly she is a graceful, loving presence. She and I will be sharing the 20 hours dedicated to the DRE position. Amy will be working closely with the Playscape and RE committees, helping in the classrooms and providing behind the scenes support updating the website, database and newsletter. Please take a moment to get to know her before or after services. She has a wealth of knowledge in the healing arts. Do feel free to call upon her for parenting support or resources. You can reach Amy at TheWorkOfTheseHands@gmail.com

Therese Fitzmaurice

Practice:

While the recent power outages created some major stress for many, there was something lovely about the quiet that ensued. A home lit by candlelight. Moving about in a rhythm dictated by Nature and not by the incessant demands of digital timekeepers. What would it look like to intentionally re-create that space for ourselves and our home? This practice comes from the book *Simple Pleasures for the Holidays* by Susannah Seton. On or around Solstice, her family enjoys a Night of No Lights. Assembling around candles, warm cups of tea, and the glow of the fireplace, they sit inside the warm dark and let the hours unfold. Sometimes trading stories and dreams, other times just letting the silence speak. Consider a voluntary un-plugging for a night. Just as our other senses become enhanced when one is temporarily subdued, what luminous qualities might emerge in your home when the lights momentarily go dim?

Amy Day

Christmas dinner at the Fellowship

On December 25 at 2 p.m., come feast with your Fellowship family. Do you really want to cook an entire dinner after opening presents, etc.? This intergenerational, orchestrated potluck may be the highlight of your holiday. Berti and Jo will again cook up lamb for the carnivores among us. Who will bring the vegetarian and/or vegan dishes? Bring your favorite side dish. To get an idea of how many people are coming and what they plan to bring, please call Berti Welty at 476-0654 and let her know. Assistance on setup will start at 1:15 p.m. Who is willing to be on the clean-up crew? Since it is assumed that children will be eating with their parents, there will not be childcare.

Endowment Funded Projects

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce another year of successfully completed projects and scholarship grants that benefit our HUUF community and secure our future. In 2019, the Endowment Fund Committee was able to award \$3,550 in grant projects. Improvements to the Fellowship building and grounds included the sanctuary office door replacement and upgrades to parking lot lighting. In addition, scholarships were awarded to members Sandy Lynn and Pat McCutcheon to attend General Assembly in Spokane, WA.

We are approaching that time of year when the Endowment Fund Committee will accept applications for grant funding to be used for the benefit of the Fellowship during 2020. Grants can range in size from \$200 to \$2000. Application forms will become available on our Fellowship website or by contacting members of the committee by email or phone starting January 1, 2020. The deadline for submission of the applications will be February 1, 2020.

We thank the many members of the Fellowship who have been so very generous in providing donations to increase our Endowment Fund. We hope you will consider a gift to HUUF in your planned giving and estate planning endeavors. Your legacy and our Fellowship mission can live on through contributions to the HUUF Endowment Fund.

Yours in Fellowship,

Howard Stauffer, Cynti Chason, Katherine Almy

Welcome new members

Susie Heustis served as a Sunday service greeter, a participant in our Membership Committee and a financial contributor with HUUF for several months prior to her “signing of the book” on November 12.

After 2 1/2 years participation with the Fellowship, **Maggie Moore** signed the Membership Book on Sunday, November 24. Maggie has shared her “treasures and talents” as a HUUF Friend by pledging annually and volunteering for many endeavors such as: Love Light Auction contributor, Halloween Festival traffic assistant, kitchen wall painter, and Sunday service greeter. Maggie has been most visible as an assistant in worship services and singer with Bob Billstrom.

Susie’s and Maggie’s commitment to our HUUF community are most valued. Congratulations!

Kate McClain

Attention Lost and Found

Items left in the coat closet or the foyer’s lost and found bin for several months are given to charity. Please check frequently to claim your personal items.

Kate McClain

Social Action Committee notes

The November 17 dedicated offering was \$555.20 and was donated to Arcata House, which has served the houseless of Arcata for many years with our continuous support.

The third Sunday of December falls on the fifteenth. Our offering will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Humboldt County, meeting the needs of 6-18-year-olds of Eureka and surrounding communities. <http://bgcredwoods.org/>

This is how we exercise our congregational generosity.

Richard Kossow

Walk the Green Spiral into Yule

Youth and adults are invited to welcome the mystery and adventure of Yule with a Spiral Greenery Walk. This candlelit ceremony is a spiritual journey to ignite your own light and add it to the path to illuminate the way for others. It’s a ritual of discovery and renewal for individuals, families, and our community.

Join us on Saturday, December 21, from 5:30-7 in the sanctuary. Bring drums and rattles to accompany the singing and chanting, and finger food and drink to share afterward. This is an all-ages family event. Children will stay with their parents during the ritual. For more information, contact me at 822-6508.

Margy Emerson



Fellowship Engagement (formerly Adult RE) Calendar

January 2020:

Practicing Healing Dialogue: A Workshop for Being Seen and Heard with Yaj Jay – In the Fellowship Sanctuary from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, January 4, – Repeated on the first Saturday of each month through April.

MultiKulti Workshop: Building a Multicultural Beloved Community. Sessions facilitated by Anthony Johnson and Bonnie Macgregor – In the Fellowship Sanctuary from 10-2 p.m., Saturday, January 11. Continues on the second Saturday of each month through April.

February 2020:

White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo: Workshop and book discussion with Libbi Miller and David Marshak. This book tackles the tools necessary for moving the discussion of our white supremacy culture forward. In the Fellowship Sanctuary weekly on Wednesdays from 7-8:45 p.m. Four sessions: February 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Practicing Healing Dialogue: Saturday, February 1, from 1-4 p.m.

MultiKulti Workshop: Saturday, February 22, from 10-2 p.m.

March 2020:

Laotse, Waldo and Me by Margy Emerson: A book discussion with local author Margy Emerson. In the Fellowship Sanctuary on Tuesday evenings, March 3, 10, 17, 24 from 7-8:45 p.m.

Practicing Healing Dialogue: Saturday, March 7, from 1-4 p.m.

MultiKulti Workshop: Saturday, March 14, from 10-2 p.m.

April 2020:

Of Water and the Spirit by Malidoma Patrice Somé: A book discussion led by Rev. Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson. An exploration into Ritual, Magic, and Initiation in the Life of an African Shaman. In the Fellowship Sanctuary weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Five Sessions: April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Practicing Healing Dialogue: Saturday, April 4 from 1-4 p.m.

MultiKulti Workshop: Saturday, April 11 from 10-2 p.m.

May 2020:

Healing the Heart of Democracy by Parker Palmer: A book discussion led by Wendy Rowan. In the Sanctuary, Monday, May 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. **Five Habits of the Heart:** Saturday, May 9 from 10:30 to noon. Engaging the Five Habits in Your Daily life.

Please come to the second session only if you have participated in the first one.



Celebrate the Tradition of Guest at Your Table

During this season of giving, we join with other congregations in support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). By helping make the work of UUSC possible, we consecrate our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of all, the interdependent web of life, 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 daily needs. 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 and hope that you keep a setting for the Guest At Your Table in your home. Collection boxes are available in our HUUF foyer.

UUSC is a 501(c)(3) organization and has earned the highest possible evaluation from Charity Navigator. Make checks in the amount of the contributions (rounded up, if possible) to "UUSC". Contributions of \$125 or more may be matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY.

Please bring your "UUSC" check to the Fellowship on January 5 or 12. I'll mail our collected donations to UUSC on January 14, 2020. If you have sent your Guest-at-Your-Table donation directly to UUSC, please inform me so that he can include your amount in our HUUF tally.

Chip Sharpe

So you think you can [sponsor a] barn dance?

As the second in the series of FUNdraising Committee articles on fun and feasible ideas for HUUF fundraising, I propose we partner with the Humboldt Folklife Society (HFS) for a barn dance. The HFS Barn Dances are all-ages, no dancing experience or partner required, held about 5-6 times a year.

When an organization cosponsors the barn dance with HFS, they run the concessions and get a percent of the door take. Profits can run from several hundred to over \$1,000. HFS takes care of the hall rental fees (typically, they are held in the Arcata Veterans Hall), paying for the band, the caller, sound engineer (and equipment), and printing of posters. HFS provides volunteers for set-up, running concessions, and cleanup.

Above all, the barn dances are a fun and healthy community-building activity, with dancers from grade school to seniors. The caller provides instructions before each dance, so it is easy to learn.

I have been a point person for many barn dances the past several years; I would love to have two or more HUUF fun-enthusiasts willing to co-champion a barn dance and learn the ropes. Who's game for do-si-do-ing and helping raise money for HUUF? Call me at 499-0740, or email terryuwiki@gmail.com. Let's set something up for January or March and work off those holiday pounds.

Terry Uyeki



Climate Action Campaign News

We invite everyone to attend the UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar in NYC - All In For Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet - on April 16-18 (youth and sponsors arrive April 15 for orientation). See <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar> for the goals of the conference. For a tentative schedule of the conference, see https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/seminar2020_schedule.pdf. Conference participants will be meeting at the UN on the morning of April 17 to attend a tour and a panel on climate change. Cost for the conference is \$375 per person for early registration (Dec 2-Jan 20), \$425 after, plus airfare. Registration covers hostel accommodations and some meals. Some local financial support for registration is available from CAC and perhaps from other Fellowship sources. For more info contact Sue Lee Mossman.

With power outages likely to become the new norm, Pat Carr and John Schaefer will be our CAC liaisons with Scott Allen to explore adaptive options that our Fellowship can take to become more climate-resilient (e.g. battery vs. external generator back up system). As part of the local Jacoby Creek neighborhood, HUUF could also participate in a microgrid system, pooling resources to support not only our own members but also support our immediate neighbors.

Also with recent power outages, it seems appropriate to remind folks about a few easier energy saving strategies we can do as individuals and as a community:

- Turn off lights and electrical appliances when not in use at home and at the Fellowship.
- When possible, unplug electrical appliances not in use.
- When replacing light bulbs, replace with LEDs. (don't forget to recycle your CFLs)
- As the weather cools, dress in layers.
- Shut doors and close windows when possible.
- When possible, hang wet laundry out to dry.
- Set the thermostat lower on your hot water tank.
- Insulate your hot water tank.
- For your next car, if you can afford to do so, consider purchasing an electric or a hybrid plug-in vehicle. Either way, during a power outage, with the proper additional equipment, you can use the auto's fully charged battery to power at least your fridge and/or freezer.

Another reminder: For residences and businesses, energy advisors at Redwood Coast Energy Authority can help residents reduce their energy bill. The service is free. You can check it out on <https://redwoodenergy.org/services/customerprograms/residential-services/> or call 269-1700. RCEA offers a free Efficiency Kit, valued at up to \$75, customized for your home. Kits may include LED light bulbs, smart power strips, showerheads, weather stripping and more. Kits are available to Humboldt County RCEA and PG&E customers.

Thanks to CAC member Cena Marino, who has surveyed HUUF members residing in Eureka for their interest in participating in a car-pooling network for Fellowship events. Next, we will undertake a similar survey of members who live north of the Fellowship.

Thanks to all CAC members including Pat Carr, JoAnne McGarry, Sylvia Shaw and John Schaefer for attending and/or writing letters and providing input at numerous meetings in October and November on local energy issues.

Sue Lee Mossman

Donations Please

I am still collecting items for two programs to help our poor neighbors.

- Coats, rain gear and other winter clothes to be distributed at HSU to people who need them, in memory of Josiah Lawson.
- The AHHA mobile shower trailer is operational and available to houseless people in Eureka. AHHA needs toiletries (soap, shampoo, tooth paste and brushes, razors and shaving cream), towels, washcloths, and new men's socks and underwear. Travel sizes preferable. AHHA also needs food preparation help for the trailer outings. Email Nezzie Wade nowl@suddenlink.net

Thank you to all who have donated already. For more information, call me at 407-5076.

Richard Kossow



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Call or email for an appointment.

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Love Light Auction

Your Auction Committee is preparing for the fast approaching Love Light Auction to be held on Saturday, February 8, 4-7 p.m. We need more hands, though, to make this event truly successful.

Won't you consider joining our committee so that we can achieve another exciting and rewarding event?

Please visit our Volunteer Sign Up found on our huuf.org homepage, under "News and Events" and "Upcoming Events." After you sign up, find us in the foyer on Sundays to fill out a donation form and pick one up to give your favorite local business, too. Ever-popular donations are anything food and hospitality related, and certificates for talents and services you enjoy sharing, or anything you would like to bid on. To be included in the Auction Catalog please return your donation forms to the box in the foyer or to a committee member by Monday, December 16. Email questions to fund@huuf.org or call the auction chair at 512-420-3919.

With Shining Gratitude,

Cathy Hanafi, Cynthi Chason, Judy Rishel, Lydia Johnson, & Rebekah Paez (chair)

Deadline info

Deadline for the **January 2020** issue of the newsletter is Friday, **December 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF (email only) to newsletter@huuf.org.

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 at: <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFnews>

Stephen Sottong, editor

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