

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



April 2018

A note from the minister

It's April. The name April comes from the Latin verb *aperire* which means "to open," and it refers to the opening of buds and leaves and flowers in the springtime. When springtime works inside us it also opens our hearts and we could use that kind of opening right about now. In the world around us so many things work to shut us down. I hardly need to mention the litany of worries that are brought to our attention by the daily news. Thich Nhat Hanh does not deny the challenges of life, but he does invite us to be open to a better form of news even amidst the troubles. He says:

"Our media does not focus on good news but there is a new edition of good news being published by the universe every moment and here's some of it: We are alive and the linden tree is still standing after our harsh winter. The sky is still blue. Children are still coming into the world and we still have arms to hold them. The dandelions are still sprouting up by sidewalks. If we bow our heads close to them we just might hear them singing. Their song reminds us to celebrate the beauty around us and to open our hearts to that beauty wherever we see it."

April means "to open," and it is a great time to remember to intentionally stop our fixation on bad news and to intentionally open to the little miracles that surround us every day. In a time much worse than ours Anne Frank said: "In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again."

This April I am so grateful to be associated with you in this congregation as, together, we remain "open" to the good news of the universe and "open" to doing our best to expand its reality in our own lives and in the world around.

Yours on the journey,



Rev. Bryan Jessup

Social Action Committee meeting

Because Easter falls on the first Sunday of the month, the Social Action Committee will meet on April 8 after the second service. Come to this meeting and lend your ideas and energy to the important efforts this group helps coordinate for our congregation.

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Art and Aesthetics

The Aesthetics Committee thanks everyone who helped Spring clean at HUUF both inside and out.

The art display for April features the work of HUUF members. You will recognize returning participants; however, we have some first time artists as well. May is the annual Children's Show. I will hold an art-making day in Children's Religious Education on April 8.

Cheryl Rau

People

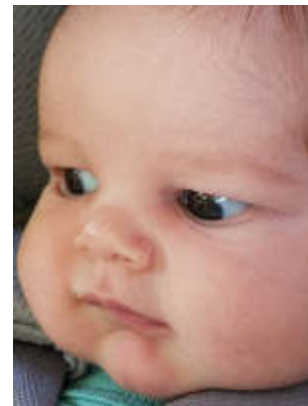
Welcome to new members **Ann Kimbel** and **Susan Penn**.

We welcome **Harrison Bennett Hoyle**, born on February 22 to **Elisabeth Hoyle Harrington** and **Steven Kossow**. Harrison weighed 7 lbs. 15.5 oz. and measured just over 20 inches long.

Debi Cooper is really excited to be starting her new job at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. She's also continuing her classes into the spring/summer semester.

Happy trails and fun adventures for **Berti** and **Jo**, and for **Terry Uyeki** who are off on major trips in April.

Sylvia Shaw



Open Soul Matters group

On Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. in the main hall, the Open Soul Matters group will meet and explore how the “emergence” of new insight and new energy affects our spiritual lives. “An acorn struggles in pain to crack its hard shell and emerge into the world. It dares to emerge because it senses that out there... exists more and than it knows. It feels some warmth and energy and aches for more. How surprised it is when it finally breaks through and starts to grow in the sun.” – Robin Rumi. Email Rev. Jessup (minister@huuf.org) to sign up for this group – or just come and see what emerges.

Let Earth Day inspire you

Earth Day. The name conjures images of tie-dyed, 1970-era hippies going back to the land, holding protest rallies and getting laws passed that stopped polluters in their tracks. No surprise, we're still working on those things, even without the tie dye. This Earth Day, April 22, the UU Ministry for the Earth (UUMFE), has put forth the theme of Justice for #EachGeneration, to express solidarity with the 21 young plaintiffs (ages 10 to 21) who are suing the federal government over the loss of their constitutional rights to life and happiness as climate change worsens, unaddressed. You can learn more about this potentially precedent-setting case at <http://uumfe.org>.

Another Earth Day organization, the Earth Day Network (<http://earthday.org>) focuses on the rising tide of plastics pollution. They point out that plastics manufacturing consumes 8% of the world's petroleum, and by 2050 plastic in the oceans will weigh as much as all the fish in the seas.

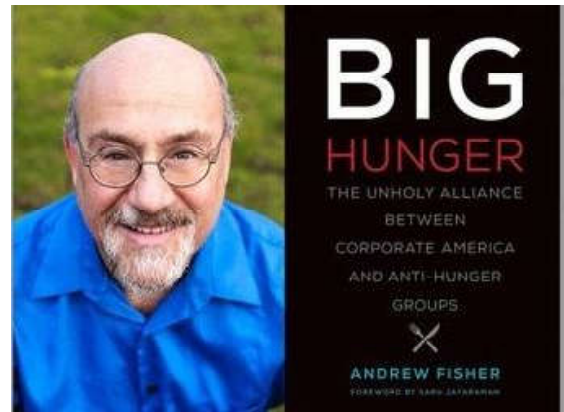
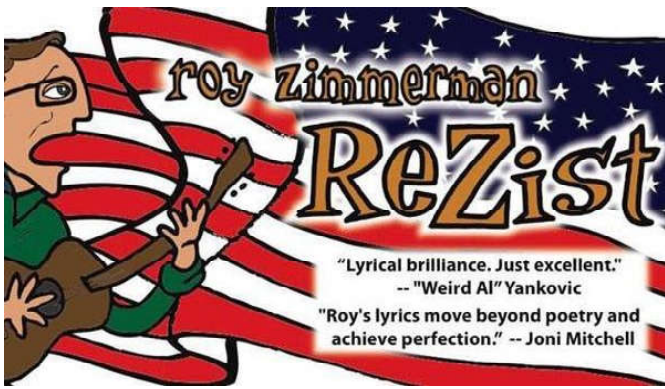
You can begin to do your part by avoiding plastic straws, or reusing them. About 500 million plastic straws are thrown away each day. And come to HUUF's Earth Day program on Sunday, April 22 for some earthy music and talk that will include more steps we can all take.

Pat Carr, Social Action Environment Subcommittee

Newcomer orientation sessions

The Membership Committee with our minister, Bryan Jessup, invites newcomers and any other interested parties to come to a two-part orientation, to have their questions about Unitarian Universalism answered. On Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m., the first night of the orientation offers participants an opportunity to get to know each other and presents an overview of Unitarian Universalist history and theology. It explores what membership in HUUF means and includes an exploration of our HUUF covenant, aspiration and purpose. On Monday, April 23, at 7 p.m., part two of the discussion goes local. We'll talk about the history of HUUF, how the congregation runs itself, how it funds itself and how its committees work. In this session we'll explore the duties of membership. We would delight in your presence.

Bryan Jessup



ROY ZIMMERMAN: *REZIST*

ReZist is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility for change." The concert is Monday, April 16, at 7 p.m. at HUUF. Admission is \$10 at the door, but no one will be turned away.

Bryan Jessup

Andy Fisher talk

Andy Fisher, author of *Big Hunger: The Unholy Alliance Between Corporate America and Anti-Hunger Groups*, will speak on Friday, March 30, 4 p.m. at the Fellowship. This community event is sponsored by Locally Delicious, the Humboldt Food Policy Council, Food for People, and the Social Action Committee.

In *Big Hunger*, author Andrew Fisher argues that many key anti-hunger efforts are missing an essential element of the problem: economic inequality driven by low wages. His research finds that efforts to end hunger, reduce obesity, and reform farm subsidies are compromised by corporate interests. Encouragingly, *Big Hunger* sets forth a vision for what we can do to solve hunger.

Join SAC and others for this free event, addressing concerns around poverty and hunger right here in Humboldt County.

Edie Jessup

2018-19 Budget Development

Our pledge drive and budget development are intertwined. We share responsibility for setting our goals, fulfilling our aspirations, and financing our activities. Now that the pledge drive is underway, we need your help in creating a balanced budget. Here's how that process works.

The Board of Trustees has already supplied the Finance Committee with its budget assumptions. These include (1) a pledge goal, (2) expectations about personnel and salary changes, and (3) an incremental target for the percentage of full-time wages for our minister.

The Finance Committee asked Committee Chairs and/or cost center managers to submit their budget requests for 2018-19 by mid-April.

The Finance Committee will assemble and submit a preliminary budget to the Board of Trustees in early May. After incorporating Board recommendations/adjustments, the Finance Committee will make the preliminary budget available to the Congregation for review and input by mid-May. Congregational input will be accepted until the end of May.

The Finance Committee will incorporate the final pledge total, along with any additional suggestions from the Board and the Congregation into a proposed balanced budget in early June. The Board will finalize and publish the proposed budget for Congregational adoption at a special Congregational Meeting before June 31, 2018.

As the fiscal year progresses, the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees will regularly monitor the budgeted expenses and income compared to the actual expenses and income and make adjustments as required.

Dave Harris

Sunday Services

Sunday, April 1 – 9 and 11 a.m. – Easter and Other Mysteries – Rev. Bryan Jessup

In this service we will ponder positive outcomes that sometimes arise from dark and dangerous scenarios. We will ponder a “grace” that is greater than all our doing. Even after difficult passages, life continues. Even after harsh winters, spring blossoms.

Sunday, April 8 – 9 and 11 a.m. – Balance When It's Difficult -- The Rev. Muata Rasuli

What do we do when the going gets rough? How can we find balance in a changing world when it seems ever more chaotic? We need balance between the outer seeming chaos and our needs for peace. There are many ways to find balance and Rev. Muata will tell us of some he has used in 25 years as a minister of a Center for Religious Science in San Francisco.

Rev. Rasuli has also taught classes including about the writings of Henry David Thoreau through his Center and is quite familiar with our Transcendentalist tradition. Last year, Rev. Rasuli spoke to us regarding black history.

Sunday, April 15 – 9 and 11 a.m. – Unitarian Universalism and Activism – Rev. Bryan Jessup

In this service we will explore the link between Unitarian Universalism and activism and ask why UUs might be called to be activists in many different ways and why activists might benefit from being part of UU communities. None of us can accomplish great social change alone, but it won't happen without us either.

Sunday, April 22 – 9 and 11 a.m. – For Our Children's Sake, We Can Be More Sustainable – John Schaefer and Joanna Welch

Facing frightening environmental prospects, we can take heart to see the progress we've made since the first Earth Day, and HUUF's solar electricity is one example. With that history, we can make the even greater changes we now know are necessary. In this service congregation members John and Joanna will describe and exemplify some sustainable changes. Watch for suggestions on car-pooling and biking.

Sunday, April 29 – 9 and 11 a.m. – An Interweaving of Traditions –Rabbi Naomi Steinberg

Rabbi Naomi will share her experience as a long-time practitioner of Siddha Yoga, a path of meditation and devotion. The program includes some of the Rabbi's original mystical tales, Hebrew chants, and brief meditation practice. This service is in memory of Swami Girijananda.

Looking Ahead – Options for Getting involved

HUUF Events

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|--|
| Sa | Mar. 24 | 6 p.m. | Canvass Dinner |
| Tu | Mar. 27 | 10 a.m. | 'Stoners' – Memorial Garden Committee |
| Tu | Mar. 27 | 7 p.m. | Open Soul Matters Group |
| Fr | Mar. 30 | 4 – 6 p.m. | Andy Fisher – speaker on 'Big Hunger' |
| Su | Apr. 1 | 12:30 p.m. | Social Action Committee meeting |
| Su | Apr. 1 | 12:45 p.m. | Religious Education Committee meeting |
| Sa | Apr. 7 | 9 a.m. | Worship Leader's meeting |
| Sa | Apr. 7 | 2-4 p.m. | Poor People's Campaign presentation |
| Sa | Apr. 7 | 5-10:30 p.m. | Dance Party – all welcome |
| Su | Apr. 8 | 12:30 p.m. | Social Action Committee meeting |
| Su | Apr. 8 | 12:30 p.m. | All HUUF Retreat Planning |
| Mo | Apr. 9 | 7 p.m. | Newcomer Orientation, part 1 |
| Tu | Apr. 10 | 11 a.m. | Membership Committee meeting |
| Tu | Apr. 10 | 5:30 p.m. | HUUF Board of Trustee's meeting |
| Su | Apr. 15 | 12:30 p.m. | Social Action Brunch |
| Su | Apr. 15 | 1:15 p.m. | Sanctuary Initiative Workshop |
| Mo | Apr. 16 | 7 p.m. | Roy Zimmerman Concert |
| Tu | Apr. 17 | 7 p.m. | Open Women's Group |
| Fr | Apr. 20 | 2 p.m. | Caring Circle Happy Hour |
| Sa | Apr. 21 | 12-3 p.m. | Grounds work party |
| Mo | Apr. 23 | 7 p.m. | Newcomer Orientation, part 2 |
| Tu | Apr. 24 | 7 p.m. | Open Soul Matters Group |
| Sa | May 5 | 9 a.m. | Worship Leader's meeting |
| Fr-Su | Aug. 3-5 | | HUUF All Fellowship Retreat |
| Sa | Oct. | 5-9 p.m. | Halloween Festival |
| Weekly Wed. | | 7 p.m. | Choir practice |
| Weekly Thurs. | | 7 p.m. | Reflections – open discussion group in CARE building |
| Weekly Sunday | | 10-10:45 a.m. | Children's choir |
| Weekly Sunday | | 9 & 11 a.m. | Sunday Worship Service |

Out of Area UU events

| | | |
|-------|------------------|---|
| Fr-Su | Apr. 27-29 | UUA – Pacific Western Regional Conf. - Portland Or. |
| We-Su | June 20-24, 2018 | 2018 UUA General Assembly, Kansas City, Mo. |
| We-Su | June 19-23, 2019 | 2019 UUA General Assembly Spokane, Wa. |

Religious Education

Family Practice

At the March 11 service on Creating Loving Families, we each paused to clarify what our intention was for our family. We listed practices, such as offering gratitude, listening to nature, reading together, that we can do alone or with others to support that intention. I invite you to have this conversation as a family. Share your intentions. Brainstorm inspiring practices. Hang it up as visual inspiration to create spaciousness for those practices. See what new ideas emerge throughout the month.

RE Calendar

April 1st: All Ages: Explore the pagan roots of Easter egg hunts, then search for hard boiled eggs and extra hidden surprises (even better than candy!)

April 8th: Preschool to 8th grade: Art Exploration: The youth will create visual pieces exploring the emergence of Spring with Cheryl Rau for our annual youth art exhibit, displayed in the Sanctuary in May.

Teen group will meet.



April 15: Emergence of new life and ideas

Pre-2: Through a mindful walk on our beautiful grounds, we will hunt for signs of spring, then capture what we've found through artistic expressions.

3-8: What does it take for new life and new ideas to emerge? How can we nurture our intentions into the world?



April 22: Social Action Sunday

Pre-8: will cook for the night shelter.

Teen Group will meet.

April 29: Friendship Sunday. All ages will choose a fun activity or game indoors or out. Bring a favorite game to share.

Teen group: The teens will delve into spirituality exploring what that means to them. We will discuss current events as well as continue to have a movie night and con style worship.

Notes from RE

What does it mean to be a people of Emergence? Young children (and sometimes big ones too) love learning new words. What other words can you think of that share the root "emerge"? What emerges this time of year? Where does it come from? Seeds. Eggs. Spring. All miracles unfolding. I am so thankful to be on this journey of creating and sustaining love in our families with all of you.

With gratitude, love and light, Therese FitzMaurice

Youth choir

Our youth choir will emerge for their first performance on April 1. Fourteen children showed up for the first meeting in March and will continue to practice every Sunday from 10 to 10:45 in the multipurpose room. New singers are always welcome. They will perform the first Sunday of every month through June. Contact Anna Gaines at 499-6128 or gainesa76@gmail.com.

Therese FitzMaurice

All ages dance party

On Saturday, April 7, there will be a Caribbean Dance Party from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Fellowship. Thomas and Cadence's group, the Blue Dragon Steel Band, will open the show. Members of Samba de Alegria will also keep the party swinging. If you'd like, bring finger food or drinks to share. Invite all your music loving friends.

Pat Carr recently shared that it was at dance parties and game nights that he truly got to know the friends of his children at the Fellowship, while other adults, notably Ursula, made meaningful connections with his girls, Navara and Lily. It is in this spirit, I invite everyone of all ages to participate in this event. If you have sensitive ears, you may want to bring ear protection for the Samba set.

Therese FitzMaurice

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).

High Notes from the choir

A big thank you to Rachel Samet for leading (and the HUUF Choir singers for following) while I was out on maternity leave this month. It has been a happy collaboration. I look forward to returning in April to begin preparation for Music Day.

The tenth annual Music Day service hosted by the HUUF Choir will be on Sunday, May 6 (both services). We are looking for percussionists, guitarists, brass, woodwind and string players who read music and would be willing to accompany the choir on several pieces and/or play a solo.

Please let me know if you or someone you know might be interested in sharing their talents in this way.

Many thanks, and happy singing to all.

Elisabeth Harrington

Poor People's Campaign

On Saturday, April 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., Anthony Prince, Chairman of the Northern California Poor People's Campaign, will speak at a Fellowship-hosted meeting of the justice-seeking community of Humboldt County. Anthony has just returned from a Campaign planning meeting in Nashville with the national leadership of the state campaigns. He will help us look for ways to bring the power of this national cry of outrage to bear on the injustices we face.

The Campaign started by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years ago seeks to bring together everyone working for justice, to join their voices, to demand that compassion, respect and equity control public decisions instead of greed and privilege. To understand this movement better visit <https://poorpeoplescampaign.org>.

Richard Kossow

Scholarships awarded

Three members of the Fellowship have been awarded scholarships to help them attend the UUA's Western Regional Conference in Portland from April 27-29. Margy Emerson and Rebekah Paez are funded by money from the Endowment Committee. Cathi Hanafi is the recipient of a grant from Pacific Central District. The Conference promises to be an exciting event, featuring keynote speaker, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal; the newly elected president of the UUA, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray; and dynamic Sunday worship speaker, Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern. A number of other members of our congregation are attending, and the voting delegates appointed by the Board are Greg Blomstrom and Berti Welty.

The scholarship awardees expect to be encouraged and inspired by the Conference, and they will be sharing their thoughts and experiences with us in a newsletter article after their return.

Pat McCutcheon

Deadline info

Deadline for the **May 2018** issue of the newsletter is Friday, **April 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports and articles to newsletter@huuf.org (email only).

While many file formats are acceptable, .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/?page=Guidelines.html>

Stephen Sottong, editor

Board-Member-is-In moving to first Sunday of month

If you have a bone to pick with the Board, or just want to tell us how great a job we're doing (sorry we can't receive cash) then you'll need to know that we're moving the "Board-Member-is-In" listening sessions from the second Sunday of the month to the first Sunday. Also, there will be a new location, next to the drinking fountain instead of in Kinara's Korner.

The Board-Member-is-In listening sessions are a chance for any congregation member to talk with a Board member about issues important to members. This change will begin on April Fools Day/Easter Sunday April 1, when Greg Blomstrom will listen to your concerns. Katherine Almy will staff the May 6 Board-Member-is-In. These listening sessions take place between services and after the second service during our regular season and after the single service for our summer season.

Greg Blomstrom, Co-President



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Annual August Retreat - planners needed

There will be a Retreat planning meeting on Sunday, April 8, at 12:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. You can be a part of planning our annual retreat. No planners will mean no retreat. Last year 54 HUUF members and friends had a glorious weekend at the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center. We again have the retreat center reserved for the first weekend in August (3-5). Before we confirm that reservation by paying the deposit, we need to be sure that we have the people committed to making it happen. The committee is fun, the results are tangible, and the meetings are usually short. Much of the planning from last year will be reused. Sue Mossman has again volunteered to coordinate the food. Should we have a theme? Same registration forms as last year? Who will be registrar? On-line registration? What kinds of activities do you want? Come to our organizational meeting with your ideas and willingness to pitch in. If you're not able to make the meeting but willing to help in some capacity, contact me.

Berti Welty

CLASSIFIED ADS

Lost : a light colored hat with opal on band, Aubra: reward for return. Shawn Nichols fishnic@suddenlink.net

Looking for reliable and mature petsitter to stay at our house for 5 days in July and take care of our very active dog and three birds. Please call Allison at 268-8767 or email bronkall@sbcglobal.net.