

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



January 2019

A note from the minister

The Soul Matters theme for January 2019 is “Possibility.” In the materials for the theme is this quote from Howard Zinn.

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history *not only* of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives.

If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places (and there are so many) where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

And if we do act, in however small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

I love that quote and the notion that, centered in compassion and mindfulness, every time we behave with caring and courage it contributes to positive change in the world and the possibility of a brighter future.

May the power of this possibility guide all of our steps as we enter this new year.

Yours in the journey,



Rev. Bryan Jessup

Baba Jamal Koram storytelling concert

On Friday, **January 18**, at 7 p.m. the Fellowship will be delighted to again host African-American master storyteller Baba Jamal Koram. Jamal weaves a tapestry of words and music to enthrall listeners with his tales of days past and present. Intertwined in his stories are insights, impressions and thoughtful commentary. Since he will be telling children’s stories all week long in area schools, this is his opportunity to address a mostly mature audience. The North Coast Storytellers will open the event with varied stories. Suggested donation is \$10. Contact me at 476-0654 or bertijo@humboldt1.com by January 13 to request childcare.

Berti Welty

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People

Congratulations to **Barbara Madaras** on the recent publication of *The Friendly Whales of San Ignacio Lagoon*, a compilation of works by Barbara and other participants in several Ocean Conservation Research trips. Sales benefit OCR.

Happy 90th birthday to **Anna Mae Botley**. Family came from as far as New Zealand to help her celebrate.

Welcome back **John McAlinn** after a procedure and hospital stay at Stanford.

Our thoughts go out to longtime HUUF members **Edie and Bob Wolterbeek** who moved to San Francisco about two years ago. Bob is now in a VA care facility and Edie was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer after surgery and says she should have 2 years with chemo. She has family with her. You can call her at her cell number 415-850-7039 or write them at: 1034 Ingerson Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124. They would love to hear from you. Thanks for your caring.

After emergency surgery at Mad River in October, **Veronica Galiani** is now ambulatory, and making good, steady progress.

Sylvia Shaw

Barn Sales to benefit HUUF

As most of you know, F. Suzanne Moore died on November 17, leaving most of her assets to the Fellowship. Nothing can take the place of the deeply spiritual person Suzanne was. We will miss her sorely. Several Fellowship members have been sorting through her belongings and determining the best 'new home' for each item. We will be having several 'Barn Sales' over the next weeks and months. Since we will be organizing and having these sales to benefit HUUF, we encourage any additional donations of salable items. Clean out your cupboards. This is your opportunity to prune excess belongings while benefiting the Fellowship. Contact me at 476-0654 or bertijo@humboldt1.com.

Berti Welty

Open UU Orientation Soul Matters Group

The second Thursdays of January, February, March and April at 10 a.m., we will be offering a UU Orientation class called Starting Point, in the Multi-Purpose Room at HUUF. It's a "Soul Matters" approach to finding out how Unitarian Universalism works. Session one on **January 10** will focus on our individual spiritual journeys. Session two on **February 14** will focus on the journey of Unitarianism and Universalism and on the story of HUUF. The third session on **March 14** will offer the first of two sessions on the religious practices of listening to others, opening to life and serving people and the world around us. And on April 11 the fourth session will offer a second time to focus on listening, opening and serving. Feel free to contact Rev. Jessup with any questions at 822-3793.

Meditation practice

You are welcome to mindfulness practice based on the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh with Ancient Forest Sangha on the second and fourth Friday of each month, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. For more information call Valerie Gizinski 825-7446 or Richard and Ginger Kossow 826-1227. If you are new to practice please come 10 minutes early.



Deadline info

Deadline for the **February 2019** issue of the newsletter is Sunday, **January 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/upcoming-events/newsletter-2/newsletter-guidelines/>

Stephen Sottong, editor

Religious Education

Exploring Possibility

Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season and winter break from school routines has allowed your family to renew your connection to each other and this beautiful land that sustains us. As we enter into the new year, many feel called to make resolutions. May you consider before imagining the future, spending some time together reflecting on the past year. Perhaps with a journal in hand or looking through photos, name together all you wish to celebrate. If challenges arise that want to be named, consider naming them as opportunities for growth or calls to explore new possibilities.

Family Practice

In the Soul Matters packets this year, there is only one spiritual practice offering. Many years ago, my aunt shared her own experience with this practice of identifying a single word to contemplate. After reflecting on a very difficult year, she found herself deeply longing for joy in her life. She decided, one January, that this would be the year she would call Joy into her world. She began to create things, photos, paintings, greeting cards, all which had the word joy illustrated beautifully. I remember the radiant delight as she shared the fruits of contemplating this simple three letter word. May you and your family call in a single word for each of you to contemplate, illustrate and practice this new year.



January Sunday Program Schedule:

K-2 OWL Class: 1/6: Mandatory Parent Orientation 12:45 pm.

1/20: First class during the 11:00 service, in the Multipurpose Room.

Preschool- K: 1/6: Explore sensory experiences of the rainbow.

1/13: Explore and wonder about dreams and night life.

1/20: Explore and develop the power of imagination and develop an understanding of creative expression.

1st-3rd grade: 1/6: Love is Creative — Exploring the value of our own imaginative minds under the UU sources of wonder and awe.

1/13: Love and Gratitude - Talking about the harmony of nature and sacred circle of life, and what expressing gratitude means.

1/20: From Anger to Kindness - Learning to rely on love and faith to move ourselves, and thereby others, from anger to love.

4th-8th grade: 1-6: Explore “what is my place in this world” through the lens of a camera. If you have a digital camera please bring it with you. Phones ok—only as cameras.

1-13: Dave Woody, HSU Photo Professor will lead us in our photography exploration.

1-20: Dave will continue our work with us as we select a photo and write an artist statement to display as part of the youth art show in the Spring.

1/27: All ages Service Sunday: Cook dinner for the night shelter.

Teen Group: 1st & 3rd Sundays: Dive into the world of social justice and action. What does social justice mean in a personal, communal, global, and spiritual context? Plan a social action for the latter half of February.

Therese Keslin

Making a joyful holiday noise

It's been a rewarding fall season for the choir. In mid-November, we participated for the first time in the Thanksgiving Interfaith Sing hosted by Christ Congregational Church in Eureka. We shared the same upbeat song that we later performed with the HUUF Youth Choristers, "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around," by Rollo Dilworth. We had a great time, and enjoyed singing and sharing cookies and conversation with singers from several local congregations. It was truly an Interfaith gathering, and very uplifting.

In December, members of the Choir, plus a few guests, visited several of our long-time members in their homes, and also those receiving care at Granada Rehabilitation, to share some holiday songs. It was wonderful to spend time together and see the smiles as we sang favorite carols and popular songs. Our youngest member, baby Harrison, stayed awake almost until the end.

We will finish the year by singing a special arrangement of Silent Night at the annual Christmas Eve service, and then take a short break before resuming rehearsal on Wednesday, **January 6**.

Music Day is right around the corner on Sunday, **May 5** (Cinco de Mayo). It will be a joyous musical celebration, appropriate for all ages.

As always, new singers are invited to join and do not need prior choral experience to participate. Feel free to contact me with questions, at my new e-mail address: elisabethharrington@gmail.com. (note the 3 "h's" in the address)

Goodbye 2018!

Holiday hUUGs,

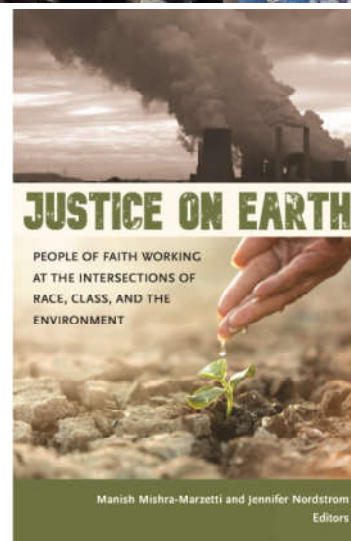
Elisabeth Harrington



The UUA Common Read 2018-19

The Common Read Selection Committee is pleased to announce the 2018-19 Common Read: *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (Skinner House Books, 2018).

The book is available in hard copy for \$20 in the Minister's Office or in Kindle format for \$10 from Amazon. The HUUF Social Action Committee will be offering three workshops on this book on Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. on **January 12**, **March 23** and **April 13**. Maureen Lawlor and Rev. Bryan Jessup will be facilitating the workshop. Call Rev. Jessup if you have questions at 822-3793.



Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change

Our attempts to reduce carbon footprints are very important, but are by themselves insufficient as a result of the global warming that has already occurred. The effects of global warming are already changing the lives of organisms, including ourselves, so we need to devise ways to mitigate those effects. In the future, global warming will increase, according to scientific consensus. That means that even greater investments of money, knowledge, and hard work will be required of us in the years ahead.

We thank Elisabeth Harrington, Anna Gaines and 'A Company of Voices' for generously donating the proceeds from their holiday concert to the Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change.

Archie Mossman, Ann Kilby, and Sue Y. Lee Mossman

Service Auction: What will you bring?

There are many kind and generous people in our Fellowship. Please consider something you can do for another person as a service. The donation forms are in the foyer. We need to have them filled out by **January 21**, so they can be included in the catalog. The auction committee needs to edit the catalogue and get it to the printer by January 25.

What would you like to offer?

- Services: dinner at your home, yard work, teaching a craft, baked goods, car detailing.
- Silent auction items: art pieces, gift baskets, gift certificates.
- Live auction with Mack Owen as Auctioneer: larger items.
- Store: handmade items, including those by children in R.E. and the Teen Group.

New members are encouraged to participate. Talk to an experienced member for ideas.

Questions, contact me at ileneharris@gmail.com.



Ilene Harris

Art and Aesthetics

For January and February, Kit Felis will be showing photography in the sanctuary gallery. This body of work explores Kit's version of what constitutes beauty. Her photos utilize deep saturated color. They attempt to place the viewer in the moment the photos were taken.

Kit's show will be taken down temporarily, from January 24 – February 4, when the art of Suzanne Moore will be displayed for her memorial service on **February 2**.

Cheryl Rau

Lost and found

Our Lost and Found area has many items that you may be missing. Please take a look. There are several coats in particular that have been hanging around for months. Unclaimed items will be donated to a shelter after the new year.

Celebrating volunteers

This month the Caring Circle would like to acknowledge a HUUF member who is always doing ten times more than anyone would think possible. Here is a partial listing: co-president of the HUUF board, worship leader, shed builder, instigator of holiday feasts, artist, retreat organizer, Halloween festival ringleader, and frequent Circle Dinner hostess. Of course, we are honoring **Berti Welty**. Thank you Berti—we appreciate you!

Nancy Engel

Shelter meals

If you have an interest in providing a meal for the homeless shelter, call Crystal Miller at 572-8645 for information on their needs. In years past, the Fellowship has delivered meals for 25 on Tuesdays. Religious Education will continue cooking monthly the first 6 months of the year. A meal should be prepared, ready to eat, high in protein and complex carbohydrates. No desserts.

Jan Rowen

Missing soft cooler

On Saturday, December 1, Berti left a red and black six-pack-size cloth cooler in the Sanctuary or Foyer during the Worship Leaders meeting. Jo *really* wants her cooler back. It belonged to her deceased brother who was a printer, as Jo was for many years. It says Heidelberg Saphira on the side. If you have any idea where it went, please contact Jo Weisgerber at 599-3057.



Guest at Your Table donation deadline

In this season of gratitude and giving, we support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the Guest-at-Your-Table campaign. Our welcomed “guest” in our home reminds us of need and of abundance, and of the privilege of being able to share our bounty. We all need help sometimes, we all give help sometimes, and we all deserve a welcoming table, with plenty of good food, love, and beauty.

UUSC works in a variety of ways, in this country and around the world, always respecting the particular needs and the particular abilities of our partners in change. This year, we emphasize work with those who face challenges at national borders. Investigation, education, service, protection, and advocacy are urgent and daily needs. UUSC has the tools and connections required for effective action.

By making the work of UUSC possible, we affirm our commitment to peace, liberty and dignity, justice and compassion, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

In past Guest-at-Your-Table collections at HUUF, our individual gifts have typically been \$50-120, but have ranged from \$5 to \$1,400. Last year, HUUF sent \$3,225.00 to UUSC. As always, our goal is 100% membership in UUSC.

Your contributions will be collected at the Fellowship on the first two Sundays of 2019. You may make out a check in the amount of the contributions (rounded up, if possible) to “UUSC”.

UUSC is a 501(c)(3) organization and has earned the highest possible evaluation from Charity Navigator. Contributions of \$125 or more are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY.

Please bring your “UUSC” check to the Fellowship on **January 6 or 13**. I’ll mail our collected donations to UUSC on January 15. If you have sent your Guest-at-Your-Table donation directly to UUSC, please inform me to include your amount in our HUUF tally.



Chip Sharpe

The Reluctant Radical

HUUF’s Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change and the climate action group 350/Humboldt will present *The Reluctant Radical* at 7 p.m. on Sunday, February 3, at The Sanctuary, 1301 J St. in Arcata.

This documentary film profiles Ken Ward, who joined several other activists in briefly closing five of the seven pipelines importing Canadian tar sands oil into the United States. Ward, in his early 60’s and not accustomed to breaking laws, explains that he was more afraid of the impacts of climate change than of going to prison.

We hope you’ll join us at The Sanctuary for this inspiring film. The suggested donation is \$5 but no one will be turned away.

Newcomer Orientation Parts 1 and 2

Pat Carr

On Sunday, **January 13**, at 12:30 after second service, newcomers and all others interested are invited to Newcomer Orientation Part 1, in the Multi-purpose Room. The focus will be on UU Identity, UU History and UU Theology.

On Sunday, **February 10**, also after second service, newcomers and all other interested people are invited to Newcomer Orientation Part 2, in the Multi-Purpose Room. The focus will be on the story of HUUF, how it is organized, what membership means, and how to get involved and participate. For more information call Rev. Jessup at 822-3793.

Suzanne Moore’s Memorial and Imbolc Ritual

Suzanne Moore’s Memorial Service will take place on **February 2** and will be followed by a Community-wide Imbolc ritual hosted by CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans). As many of you know, Suzanne was actively involved in Pagan ritual for many years. It is only fitting that her Memorial Service be held on this symbolic day. The Wheel of the year moves from season to season. It moves from birth to death, making room for new life. We will celebrate Suzanne’s multi-faceted life in the early afternoon, share a finger food potluck, and usher in spring with a community wide Imbolc ritual. Look for details in the February newsletter.



Endowment Fund review

The Endowment Fund Committee has concluded another successful small fund drive. Currently we are approaching our goal of adding approximately \$10,000 for the Endowment Fund. We sincerely thank all those who have donated.

We are also making arrangements with a reviewer from the Fellowship to conduct an independent review of the Endowment Fund. The committee goal is to enlist the assistance of a knowledgeable HUUF member or friend to conduct the review. This past year, 2018, the Endowment Fund Committee funded over \$5000 in improvements to the Fellowship with 5 grants. Improvements included the front door replacement, parking lot lights, and Web site development.

We are approaching that time of year when the Endowment Fund Committee will accept applications for small grant funding to be used for the benefit of the Fellowship during 2019. Application forms will become available on our Fellowship website or by contacting members of the committee by email or phone starting on January 1. The deadline for submission of the applications will be February 1.

- The total funds expected to be available in January will likely be approximately \$4,000. Applications will be accepted for requests of \$200 to \$2,000.
- Application forms and copies of the Endowment Fund Document which detail the guidelines for acceptance of the funding proposals can be obtained after January 1 by contacting Howard Stauffer, chairperson, by email at HowardStauffer@gmail.com. The deadline for submission will be **February 1**. Send submissions by email to Howard Stauffer.
- Applications accepted for funding will be announced at the Congregational Meeting in March.
- We will request a report on the use of the funds by the end of the year 2019.
- Funds not expended by the grantee in 2019 will be returned to the Endowment Fund.

Selection criteria for our Committee and the Fund are governed by the HUUF Endowment Fund document, which specifies that disbursements are meant to be applied to special opportunities that align with UUA principles and that further the mission of the Fellowship. Funds are not to be used as a substitute for annual operating budget funds. Possible areas of funding include, but are not limited to: buildings and grounds (improvements, not regular maintenance), religious education enhancements, community service investments and actions, and member leadership development.

Now that visible actions will be resulting from having a solid and growing Endowment Fund, we believe that members will appreciate even more the meaningful legacy they can pass on via donations and bequests to this all-important permanent financial pillar of our Fellowship. Deep appreciation goes to all whose contributions have allowed HUUF to successfully create and expand this trust for the future.

Howard Stauffer, Cynthia Chason, Katherine Almy, Endowment Fund Committee

New Year's Eve gathering UU style

Have you ever wished that midnight on New Year's Eve came at 9:00 instead of midnight? Then the annual Thursday Night Reflections New Year's Eve celebration is designed for you. Join us for a musical, intentional, meditative, and joyful evening. We'll cast stones into the water for our fervent wishes for the world and ourselves in the coming year. We'll write what we want to let go of on slips of paper and incinerate them in a cleansing fire. Bring finger food and drinks for afterward. It's all happening in the sanctuary 7-9 p.m. on Monday, **December 31**. Call me at 822-6508 for more information.

There will be no Reflections meeting on Thursday, December 27 so we can save up our energy for the festivities.

Margy Emerson





Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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).



Linda Vinson offers her service of Conscious Care for your home and pets while you are away
Contact her at: linvinson@yahoo.com or 808-987-7323.



Minister Vacancy Notice out for public view

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) – comprising Bonnie MacGregor, Danielle Stubblefield, Wendy Rowan, Cathy Hanafi and Greg Blomstrom has successfully posted our vacancy notice within the UUA Settlement system and it is now visible to any UUA accredited minister looking for contract ministry. We started the search process in June with a presentation to the congregation as to how the MSC would proceed with contracting for a new minister. We proposed, and you all agreed to, both the composition of the search committee and a way forward that included the following: a survey of the membership, MSC outreach to various subgroups in the Fellowship, and construction of an application/congregational record that met the UUA requirements for posting. As of December 13 we have successfully posted the notice of vacancy, received and analyzed 121 survey responses and met with 10 or more subgroups in the congregation (with more to go). We will be presenting a summary of the search process to date, including the survey results and the focus group input, at the **January 27** service. We'll also be talking about what to expect over the next six months, as we receive applications from inquiring ministers and conduct interviews on behalf of the congregation.

Greg Blomstrom, Co-President and Chair, Ministerial Search Committee