

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



February 2017

## A note from the minister

Many of my thoughts this month are about purification. I think of it because the sordid mess of our current world and also because our name for the month of February is taken from the name of the Roman god Februus, a god of purification. In ancient Rome this god was honored in a three-day festival called “Febratio,” which was held during the rainy season. Our lives today are still shaped by old structures (like names of our months) that call for our attention. The ongoing purification of our thoughts and actions still is something we need to work on.

Our efforts to reshape our society toward economic and racial justice, our efforts to reshape our habits toward health and sustainability, our efforts to reshape our hearts and minds away from anger and vengeance and toward love are forms of purification that are much needed in our world. This effort is not new. We human beings have been working on purifying the way we think and behave for a long, long time. But if we know its origins, the month of February might encourage us in our work and help us remember that ongoing purification is an important part of being human.

Yours in the journey,

*Rev. Bryan Jessup*



## The Purpose-Driven Congregation

At the heart of a healthy and effective congregation is its Mission or its Purpose in the world. A congregation’s Purpose defines what it stands for and the reason for its existence.

As we enter this new year with all of the complexities in our country and in the world, having an energizing conversation about our Purpose will be especially important for us. So Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. until Noon, with support from the Ministerial Relations Committee, we will gather for a conversation about our Values and Purpose. Email me to sign up for this conversation – [minister@huuf.org](mailto:minister@huuf.org).

*Rev. Bryan Jessup*

## Inside

Page 2:

People  
Purpose driven  
Council of committees

Page 3:

Religious education

Page 4:

Before the Flood  
Gen Silent movie  
Keep walking forward

Page 5:

Social Action brunch  
Imbolc for all  
Art & Aesthetics  
Roy Zimmerman concert  
Choir needs you

Page 6:

Guest at your table  
Endowment fund update

Page 7

Auction approaching  
Fundraiser dinner  
Classified ads

Page 8

Looking ahead



## People

Congratulations to **Sue Mossman**, who delivered an inspirational speech at the women's march in Eureka on Saturday, January 21. Sue was asked to speak as an elder in our community, someone who embodies compassion, intelligence, and strength. Her message was that women's rights are human rights and must be protected and expanded.

Congratulations to **Bill Thompson** and **Jane Riggan** on their 3rd anniversary.

Good wishes to **Anne Wadham**, who is starting her new job at the Indian Health Service.

Welcome home to **Marianne Pennekamp** and **Margot Julian**, both of whom spent time in the hospital in January.

**Pat McCutcheon** and **Cheryl Rau** have just returned from three wonderful weeks in Italy. The highlight was the time they spent with the family of Annapaola, their former exchange student, in a village close to Milan.

We send our healing thoughts to **Karen Knapp**, who's had a setback recently.

Continued good thoughts for **Mary Freedlund**, who's with Hospice.

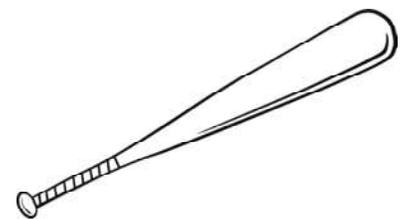
Hurrah for **Steve Sottong**, who has had three short stories accepted for publication in the last month.

Congratulations to **Berti Welty** for her art show at the Arcata Marsh visitor center for January and February. This is your chance to see some of her woodcuts and bronze pieces.

*Sylvia Shaw*

## The dreaded !

Ever notice that an exclamation point resembles a baseball bat? In a way, it is. It's kind of like hitting your reader on the side of the head with a bat. This can be a useful way to get their attention on occasion, but when used too often, it begins to resemble reader abuse. Elmore Leonard once said you should only use two or three exclamation points every 100,000 words. So, yes, I regularly remove them from your articles (so do the proof-readers). Try using fewer and they will be more effective (and more likely to get printed).



*Stephen Sottong*

## Report from Council of Committees

At a meeting held January 17, members Cheryl Rau, Katherine Almy, Greg Blomstrom, Jeff Knapp, Sylvia Shaw, Jamila Tharp, Ruth Broderick, Cathy Hanafi, Joanna Welch, Sue Mossman, Awana Kalal, Bonnie MacGregor, Cynthia Chason, Kate McClain, Jillian Mooney, Nancy Engel, Virginia Chatfield, Pat McCutcheon, Berti Welty and Bryan Jessup stated what committee they were on. Following a short presentation made by Berti on the new cluster approach to governance and how operations could work, the group watched a dorky video produced by UUA on recruiting volunteers. The five key points on recruiting volunteers are:

- 1 Connect the volunteer to the mission of the congregation
- 2 State why you think this ministry is a good fit
- 3 State how the volunteer will benefit from this service
- 4 Accurately describe expectations and time commitments
- 5 Offer support and feedback

The group then brainstormed ways to increase involvement by the congregation and gain new volunteers, followed by a brainstorming session on ways to increase committee functionality. The meeting closed at 7 p.m. with each person describing their likes and wishes as a result of the meeting. Most everyone agreed that it was a good prelude to our January 28 full-congregational meeting concerning our Mission, Purpose, Values and Ends.

*Greg Blomstrom*

## Religious Education

RE is bursting at the seams. Welcome to new families and the many visitors we've had. Many thanks to Kate McClain and Chip Sharpe who volunteer in our classrooms, adding so much to our children's experiences.

Sonya Woody is the Adult Shelter food delivery coordinator for RE. You can contact her at [glasserkey@yahoo.com](mailto:glasserkey@yahoo.com) if you would like to deliver food to the shelter. It's a wonderful way to show our children our UU principles in a concrete way. A sign-up sheet is available on the RE table in the foyer. Thank you, Sonya, for supporting this important program.

There is also a sign-up for snacks on Sunday. With our increase in numbers comes increase for the need of healthy snacks for our growing UUs. Please contribute what you can.

We have flexed our Sundays to again accommodate cooking RE's dinner contribution to the Adult Shelter. This month it will be on the second Sunday, with Exploration Sundays on the first and third. With the addition of the OWL classes, we will be using the CARE building for all children who are not participating in OWL and saving the formerly known as the Preschool room for the OWL class. Thank you to our fabulous OWL teachers Danielle Stubblefield and Therese FitzMaurice for facilitating this important program.

### February Schedule

**February 5 & 19:** Exploration Sunday, Classes by ages

**Preschool & K-2:** have been joining together depending on numbers of children and activities. Last month, RE teachers Lorraine and Daisy took their classes outside together to practice yoga while appreciating the miracles of nature. We explored the miracle of how our bodies can move in space and shared different yoga poses with each other.

**Miracles Through Different Lenses:** This month we will look at miracles through different lenses: science, arts and creativity. Did you know a Unitarian invented the eraser and another invented carbonation? Come explore with us.

**3-5:** Miracles We Create: will continue to explore our Miracles curriculum, focusing this month on making our environment better and taking care of our world.

**Intermediate:** will continue their discussion and experiments with miracles of all kinds. The students that attended the recent conference will share their experiences.

**February 12:** Awareness Sunday, all ages together

We will cook for the Adult Shelter and run our recycling obstacle course.

**February 26:** All Worship, all ages together

We celebrate the miracle of speaking up for things we believe in. President's week just happened; why do we celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln? If these people did not speak and act on what they believed in, we would have a very different history. How can we speak up?

*Jillian Mooney*

### Youth Group:

**February 12:** Youth will meet during the 11 o'clock service to discuss the UU values of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, especially relating to Valentine's Day and our personal lives.

**February 24:** Movie Night at HUUF at 7 p.m. and end around 9:15.

Movie is TBD

*Navarra Carr*

Love Without Exceptions



Unitarian Universalism.

## ***Before the Flood* screening**

The public is invited to attend a screening of *Before the Flood*, the new movie on climate change. This screening, held Saturday, January 28 at 7 p.m., is sponsored by the Social Action Committee.

Climate change is happening. That's a fact. The science is sound. Sea levels are rising, ice is melting, and dangerous weather patterns are becoming more and more frequent. But what can be done about it? That's one of the central questions of the documentary *Before the Flood*, directed by Oscar-winning Fisher Stevens and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio.

Our first line of defense is an informed public. *Before the Flood* will hopefully spur people to enact their own further research. And maybe, just maybe, incite action.

Join us, and bring your friends.

*Edie Jessup*

## ***Gen Silent* movie**

*Gen Silent*, a movie about LGBTQI persons' issues of aging, will be shown Tuesday, January 31, at 7 p.m. here at the Fellowship. Sponsored by Adult RE and supported by Jessica Pruitt of "Good Enough Now" the screening of this film will be followed by a discussion facilitated by Jessica. \$10 donation is requested - but no-one will be turned away.

*Bryan Jessup*



## **Going To Keep On Walking Forward**

We live in the "interesting times" the Chinese saying warned us about. It tells us that interesting times can be difficult and precarious. In chaotic moments we sometimes forget to take the victory lap for a job well done.

Such an example is our foyer expansion. On Sunday it's difficult to ignore the energetic buzz of fellowship and friendship in our new space. Just one short year ago, it wasn't there. It is important to remember that this was made possible because of Debi Cooper's generous donation. In addition, hundreds of hours of planning by the Board and Building Committee, and Scott Allen's navigation of the project were all necessary for its completion. The money to accomplish this project is one thing, but the contribution of energy, ideas and planning is what makes it priceless.

There are scores of examples we could draw on—the gifted work of our worship leaders, the vitality of the RE program, the splendid and beautiful work on our grounds, the constant vigilance of people who show up when a little maintenance is in order, the quiet managers of funds and budgets, the leadership and energy of our minister. We could go on and on. The point is that we have a community that is alive and vital.

The Stewardship Committee acknowledges and honors all the skillful means so obvious in each individual's participation. We will be kicking off this year's canvass with a lovely dinner to be held at the Grange on March 25. You'll soon get a postcard to "Save the Date," and additional details. Plan on celebrating with us. Also begin to imagine other unique accomplishments ahead of us, as well as those behind us.

The annual pledge drive enables us to keep on walking forward, no turning back. You are invited to join the parade.

*The Stewardship Education Committee  
Margot Julian, Jeff Knapp, Debi Cooper, Ruth Broderick*

## February Social Action brunch

This Valentine's Day month, your Social Action Committee aims to serve foods that are good for the heart. We will have a variety of low cholesterol, low-fat, healthy, wholesome and nutritious foods. Best of all, we guarantee they will be scrumptious. And since we are told that chocolate is not only good for us, but also enhances our sense of well-being, there will be a nice selection of relatively low-cal, and yes, guilt-free chocolate desserts.

Brunch will be on the third Sunday, February 19, following the second service. Please allow time for food to be put out on the tables, to provide everyone with a full range of variety.

Proceeds from our February brunch will support the Breast Health Project. Recommended donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child.

*Eve Anderson*

## Imbolc for all

Adult RE will be sponsoring a ritual called "Imbolc for All" followed by a potluck, on Saturday, February 4, starting at 5 p.m. at the Fellowship. Imbolc is the ancient Gaelic holiday halfway between Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. It marks the beginning of lambing season and the flow of milk from sheep and goats. Come find out about this ancient holiday and bring a potluck dish to share. Children are welcome.

*Rev. Bryan Jessup*

## Art and Aesthetics



In The HUUF gallery during February and March, member Helen Vatcher will show her paintings. In April and May, the annual Children's Show will be on the walls. For June and July, the Gallery will show the work of Peggy Ho, a recent addition to the HUUF community.

For the remaining six months of 2017 the gallery is seeking ideas for shows. These shows would be for August/September and October/November. Then December and January will be an All-Member Exhibit.

The Gallery needs a spry volunteer for hanging and taking down the shows. This person will help me by being a second set of eyes and ladder climber. Please contact me at 826-7107.

*Cheryl Rau*

## Roy Zimmerman In Concert

Wondering what to do to lift your spirits in this troubled time? Come to hear satirist Roy Zimmerman in concert Monday evening, February 20, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. Roy's combination of wit, humor and compassion gives many hearts and minds a boost and encourages us to both organize and laugh. \$15 donation is requested, but no one will be turned away.



*Rev. Bryan Jessup*

## HUUF Choir needs you

Choir is in full "sing" again for the new year, and busily preparing for Music Day in May. We rehearse weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:45, and welcome new members at any time. We are especially seeking new tenors and basses. You do not need to read music in order to participate.

Our fundraising efforts continue on the second Sunday of each month with the sale of cards, pictures and posters featuring the beautiful artwork of Dorothy Klein. Proceeds will be used to purchase new music for the choir. Please contact me with any questions.

*Elisabeth Harrington*

## Guest at Your Table wrap-up



There were 29 Guest-at-Your-Table donations from 41 contributors at our Fellowship this past holiday season ranging from \$10 to \$1400 and totaling \$3,795, including three gifts mailed directly to UUSC. This was HUUF's largest total ever, though from fewer donors.

A heartfelt thank you for your generosity to these contributors and their families: Colleen Ruth Broderick; Cynthia Chason and Bonnie Macgregor; Martha Devine; Janelle Egger; Thea Gast; Valerie Gizinski and Pat Carr; Roxana Hand; Debra Harrison and Greg Blomstrom; Edie and Bryan Jessup; Awana Kalal; Richard and Ginger Kossow; Darsty and John McAlinn; Kate McClain; Sue and Archie Mossman; Alison O'Dowd; Ursula Osborne; Marianne Pennekamp; Karlyn Rocheleau; Jan Rowan; Sylvia Shaw; Celestine Armenta and Chip Sharpe; Danielle and Andrew Stubblefield; Bert Taylor; JoAnn and Carl Thomas; Jane Riggan and Bill Thompson; Karen and Stephen Underwood; Berti Welty and Jo Weisgerber; and the ever-faithful Ann Onymous.

*Chip Sharpe*

## Endowment Fund update

As of December 30, 2016, the value of the HUUF Endowment Fund was \$49,520.05. The value of the fund at the end of 2015 was \$46,286.27.

For the calendar year, 2016 there were four generous contributions to the Endowment Fund totaling \$15,207. Additionally, in January 2017, the Chaffee Fund ad hoc Committee and the HUUF Board of Trustees approved \$20,000 from the Chaffee bequest for the Endowment Fund. As of this writing, we are in the process of having the total sum of \$35,207 from the four donations and the Chaffee fund deposited into the Endowment Fund that is invested with Charles Schwab. With these latest contributions, the value of the Endowment Fund will total about \$84,600, meaning the fund will be just about \$15,000 shy of finally reaching the \$100,000 benchmark, at which point roughly \$4000 annual earned interest can be used for special projects.

Our very deepest gratitude and appreciation to all the donors to this fund for their commitment to help keep our HUUF faith and values vibrant in our community.

*Sue Y. Lee Mossman for the Endowment Fund Committee  
(other members are Ann King and Howard Stauffer)*

## Deadline info

Deadline for the **March** issue of the newsletter is Monday, **February 20**, 5 p.m. Send your committee reports and articles to [newsletter@huuf.org](mailto: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 will not be accepted without prior approval.

*Stephen Sottong, editor*

## Becoming a member

If you are ready to become a member of HUUF, please talk to a greeter and we will schedule a time during the week for you to sign the Membership Book. There is a pamphlet available in the lobby which explains some of the details of becoming a member. We'd love to have you join us when you're ready.

*Awanna Kalal*

### CLASSIFIED ADS

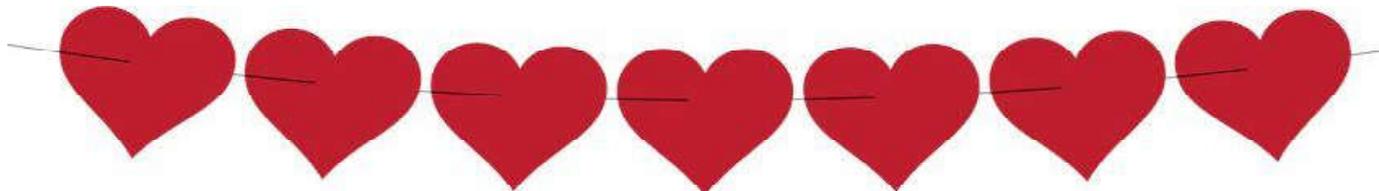
Classified ads are 10¢ per word. Send your check to the HUUF office and the text of your ad to [newsletter@huuf.org](mailto:newsletter@huuf.org) (email only).



## Auction approaching

Just two months until April 29. The HUUF service auction is fast approaching and we need your donations of items that will tempt us all to bid. All proceeds of this Spring Gala Auction event, "An Elegant Afternoon," will benefit our congregation. Donate a service or a special dinner on your own, or join with a friend to cook up an idea - creativity welcomed. We will have donor forms available starting this month, so please be on the lookout. If you have questions or would like a donor form mailed to you, don't hesitate to call me at 616-7924.

*Cathy Hanafi*



## Melt Someone's Heart

Monday evening, February 13, we are hosting a fundraiser for HUUF at Folie Douce. The four-course, prix-fixe dinner is \$50 per person. Seatings are from 5 - 9 p.m. The price excludes beverages and gratuities. Our Fellowship receives all the profits from both the meals and beverages. Dietary requests (vegan, gluten free, allergies, etc) must be made at the time you call in your reservations. Details of the four-course menu will be available the week prior to February 13.

Free child care is available at the Fellowship from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. Contact Jennifer Mager, 668-1848, jen9510021@hotmail.com, by Sunday, February 5, for child care reservations.

Gift certificates (not reservations) may be purchased (cash or check) from Kate McClain and Terry Uyeki before and after Sunday Services on January 29, February 5 and February 12.

All friends, associates, sweethearts, and neighbors are welcomed. Group tables are available. This is a highly coveted evening. Make your reservations early before they sell out. Call Folie Douce, located in North Town, Arcata at 1551 G St., 882-1042, for reservations.

*Kate McClain*

### CLASSIFIED ADS

#### House/pet Sitter

Linda Vinson is offering her service as house and pet sitter and is available after April 2. Contact: linvinson@yahoo.com or 808-987-7323.

#### Old PC?

Did you get a new PC for Christmas and want to get rid of your old, still-working PC? Mine crashed. Looking for a replacement. Call Nancy Cook, 822-8264.

#### Have Car – Will Travel

Reliable, economical transportation. Dependable & caring fellow UU will drive to & from Fellowship, doctor appointments, meetings, shopping, social events, etc. Call Eve 444-8220

#### Auction site specialist

Needed: someone who knows about buying and selling items on sites such as eBay, Craigslist, and Etsy. Purpose: A trial of offering member-donated items and collectibles for online sales, to benefit HUUF. Time required: occasional - maybe a couple of hours a week. Payment: a negotiable percent of sales. Contact: Cathy at 616-7924 or cbhanafi@yahoo.com.



# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Kate McClain

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Calendar Editor Roxana Stengl

## Looking Ahead

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|-------------------------|--|
| Sat. Jan 28, 9-noon     | Congregational workshop on Values, Purpose (Mission), and Ends for HUUF            |
| Sat. Jan 28, 7 p.m.     | Climate Change movie - <i>Before the Flood</i>                                     |
| Tues. Jan 31            | Aging for LGBTQI movie - <i>Gen Silent</i>   |
| Sat. Feb 4, 5 p.m.      | Imbolc Potluck and Ritual  |
| Mon. Feb 13, 5-9 p.m.   | Fundraiser dinner at Folie Douce   |
| Th.-Su. Feb 16-19       | UU International Women's Convocation at Asilomar                                   |
| Mon. Feb 20, 7 p.m.     | Roy Zimmerman Concert  |
| Sun. Mar 12, 12:30 p.m. | HUUF Congregational meeting  |
| Sat. Mar 25             | Pledge Drive dinner  |
| Sat. April 29           | HUUF Service Auction   |
| F.-Su. May 5, 6         | PCD Assembly at Mt Diablo UU, Walnut Creek, with UUA presidential candidates forum |
| Early June              | HUUF Board Retreat   |
| Th.-Su. Jun 21-25       | UUA General Assembly at New Orleans  |
| Fr.-Su. Aug 4-6         | HUUF retreat at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center                                    |

