

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



February 2021

## Congregational Gathering on Honor Tax

Each week during our Sunday service the Fellowship acknowledges that we are on ancestral Wiyot land. However, is acknowledgement enough? Across the nation, and here in Humboldt County, there is the growing concept of voluntarily paying an Honor Tax as a method of reparations to the descendants of the Tribal peoples whose lands were essentially stolen. Here in Humboldt we know that the Wiyot tribe's lands were taken through acts of genocide, including the massacre on Indian Island.

On February 21, following the Sunday service, we will have a congregational gathering to discuss the pros and cons of voluntarily paying this Honor Tax. Several members of the Fellowship and Cooperation Humboldt are already doing so. The 'recommended' amount is 1% of income or budget. After our gathering and discussion, a proposal on the Honor Tax will be decided at the March 14 Congregational meeting. What follows is the local Honor Tax Resolution from the Seventh Generation fund.

### The Honor Tax Resolution:

We, the peoples, organizations, institutions, agencies, and governments who now reside on the Wiyot Nation's traditional territories hereby respectfully pledge an annual Honor Tax (in an amount decided by the giver) to the Wiyot Nation in recognition and support of their sovereignty;

Recognizing the sovereignty of the Wiyot Nation, whose aboriginal homelands include the estuaries of the Bpadtawodt (Mad), Wiyodt (Eel) and Dtagkdtug'agka (Van Duzen) Rivers, and adjacent coastal lands which comprise their traditional territory;

Respecting the Wiyot Peoples' historic, cultural, and economic relationships to their homelands that have provided them the gifts of physical and spiritual sustenance since time immemorial;

Affirming that such relationships have supported the Wiyot people's cultural, philosophical, and intellectual evolution as a distinct people for countless generations;

Considering that the Wiyot Nation has never surrendered their aboriginal rights to their lands, resources, or territory by treaty or any other instrument or decree;

Acknowledging the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly on September 13,

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## People

Dan Benedict, son of Ann King, died of Covid-19 after a short illness. Dan lived in Alabama. He stayed with Ann during her last days and many of us had the opportunity to get to know him and are in shock at the news.

*Stephen Sottong*



## Honor Tax (cont.)

2007, in its entirety;

Acknowledging specifically Article 26 of that Declaration regarding lands, resources and territories, which states:

- 1 Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- 2 Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- 3 States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

With this in mind, we invite all residents, organizations, businesses, and governmental entities to join us in acknowledging and respecting the sovereignty of the Wiyot Nation through participating in this Honor Tax.

*Berti Welty*

## Search for New HUUF Minister

Our Ministerial Search Committee – Terry Uyeki, Chip Sharpe, Montana Caouette, Emily Teraoka, Sally Williams, and David Marshak – has successfully posted our HUUF Congregational Profile on the UUA Ministerial Search website.

While the activities of the Search Committee must be kept confidential out of respect for the candidates' privacy, we want you to know that our efforts are underway, and we have every intention of having a new minister here in Humboldt by August 1.

The UUA operates an open system in which congregations post their Profile on a website. The Profile includes detailed information about the kind of minister sought, the history and qualities of the congregation, a description of the community, finances and so on. Qualified UU ministers have access to the listing of congregations seeking a new minister. When a candidate expresses interest in applying, all members of the Search Committee receive an email from the interested candidate. Then the Search Committee members review and consider documents and videos that the candidate has posted on the website to introduce themselves, and the Committee meets to discuss and evaluate their candidacy.

The aspiration for this process is to create the venue through which congregations and ministers can find each other. This is the process our Search Committee employed two years ago to hire Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson, and we intend to have a successful outcome this year as well.

*David Marshak*

## UUA General Assembly

Now is the time to start considering whether you would like to participate in this year's virtual General Assembly, which will take place June 23-27. As those who attended last year can attest, it is a remarkable experience. Where else can you gather with thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from around the country and globe, while not paying for travel or housing? The whole group events are spectacular yet in the intimate groups and workshops you can actually get to meet others and develop friendships.

Registration is now open. The cost is \$200. All are invited to attend. The HUUF Board may be offering a limited number of scholarships and partial scholarships for those unable to afford attending. You might also wish to be a part of the democratic process and serve as a delegate for HUUF. Please let a Board member know if you wish to be a delegate. Further information about General Assembly can be found at [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga).

*Berti Welty*

## Amy Day as RE Director

The HUUF Board of Trustees is delighted to announce the hiring of Amy Day as HUUF's Director of Religious Education, beginning in July. We look forward to the renewal of our RE program in the fall.

In her role this past year as Fellowship Engagement Coordinator, Amy has led the way to HUUF members creating and offering a variety of programs and activities, even with the constraints of Covid. We have benefited greatly from Amy's leadership and presence in many Sunday services during the past months and from her grace and love in all the many ways that Amy has served our Fellowship. While her role will change next year, we as a Board are grateful that Amy's leadership will continue to be a big part of HUUF.

*David Marshak*

## Women & Religion PCD Retreat

On Saturday, March 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., a virtual retreat will take place on Zoom. The Theme of this retreat will be "Hanging In, Hanging On." We will share our lives in an opening orientation, touch groups (affinity circles), learning sessions (workshops), a scavenger hunt in your home, Suffragist bingo, a memorial for lost members (Liz Fisher and Meg Bowman in 2020), and a closing session.

Registration is \$25. Net proceeds will be split between Women & Religion Continental and International Women's Convocation. To be added to the retreat email list, send a blank email to: [PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io). We will email you when registration is open.



*Marnie Singer*

## WhaleCoast Alaska 2021

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2021 is for you. Four Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program this summer, when it will be safe to travel again. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info is available at: [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org). This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss.

*David Frey, WhaleCoast Alaska Tour Director*

## Worship Leaders welcome your involvement

The Program and Worship Committee works hard to produce meaningful Zoom services each Sunday that will uplift and inspire the members of our congregation. Lay-led since June in this time of pandemic and turmoil, we strive to understand and appreciate the varied needs of Sunday viewers, from honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to celebrating the solstice. We meet via Zoom the first Saturday morning of the month to evaluate past services and create upcoming ones – fresh inspiration and ideas are needed. You don't have to be a Sunday presenter (though you might choose to become one). Join this dynamic team and offer your insights. We welcome you! Contact Pat McCutcheon, [mcauselhorst@gmail.com](mailto:mcauselhorst@gmail.com) or 826-7107.





# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## Bird Walk for February

My friend Lynne and I have been making the rounds on the HUUF grounds to document the rich bird life we're finding. We are keeping an eye on a pair of red-shafted flickers, and hope to see a batch of babies at some point. In addition, HUUF is home to a host of ruby-crowned kinglets, yellow-rumped warblers, hummingbirds and others. We'd love to have you join us on the search, on Friday, February 12, at 8:30 am. We are limiting the group size to 6, so send an email soon if you are interested: [polkaqueen@gmail.com](mailto:polkaqueen@gmail.com).

*Valerie Gizinski*



## Deadline information

Deadline for the **March** newsletter is Saturday, **February 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF (email only) to [newsletter@huuf.org](mailto: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/HUUFNewsGuide>

*Stephen Sottong, editor*

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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

## Climate Action Campaign news

I write this as the inauguration of Biden and Harris is taking place. Relative to climate issues, I am encouraged that Biden has pledged that the US will rejoin the Paris Climate Accords, and has pledged to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline permit. Given the major challenges that face this nation, I pledge to do what I can to be part of the solutions to these challenges as Karen Harris encourages: one person at a time, one day at a time. To start, here are some recommendations for climate activists and climate action for this coming month.

I look forward to the wisdom Rabbi Naomi Steinberg will share when she speaks on “Olam & Tikun Nefesh: Restoring the World & Restoring the Soul” on Monday, February 1, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. In this presentation, she will explain the Hebrew terminology in the title, share songs and stories, and discuss the connections between climate activism, political activism, and spiritual practice.

Rabbi Steinberg has served Humboldt County’s Jewish community for more than 25 years. She was also active during the 1990s to preserve the Headwaters Forest of old-growth redwoods. She is a member of the Humboldt Interfaith Fellowship and the True North Spiritual Leaders’ Caucus, and has taught in the HSU Religious Studies Department. She is also a folk singer and storyteller, and composes music for the Temple Beth El choir and soloists.

Participants may register for the presentation at 350 Humboldt’s Facebook page or at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/naomi-steinberg>. This event is cosponsored by the HUUF Climate Action Campaign, 350 Humboldt, Temple Beth El, Cooperation Humboldt, and EPIC.

“Elizabeth Kolbert in Conversation with Bill McKibben” occurs on Tuesday, February 9 at 5 p.m. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yx954v2h>. Elizabeth Kolbert is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author of several books and a staff writer for the New Yorker on climate, environment, and other science issues. In “Under a White Sky,” Kolbert tells us about a lava field in Iceland, where engineers are converting carbon emissions to stone; and about Harvard physicists investigating the use of tiny diamonds in the stratosphere to reflect sunlight back to space and cool the earth. In “The Sixth Extinction,” Kolbert examines how practices and technologies that have endangered our planet might also provide solutions for its salvation. Kolbert will be joined in conversation by Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org

Dan Chandler of 350 Humboldt suggests we consider switching to Ecosia as a search engine. Based in Berlin, Germany, the company donates 80% of its profits from advertising revenue to nonprofit groups that plant trees where most needed. See <https://www.ecosia.org>. For independent verification, see <https://tinyurl.com/y48nnwaw>; <https://tinyurl.com/yeea37k>; <https://tinyurl.com/yx9daotf>.

More than ever, even with a more climate friendly administration, we need to keep pressure on all our lawmakers about the climate crisis. Keep attending virtual town hall meetings, writing your letters, phoning, and signing petitions to our legislators eg., support net metering at <https://solarrights.org/savecaliforniasolar/>. For petitions with the Sierra Club, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y6jrzpkh>. Then go to “Browse campaigns” at the top of the page. Petitions with the Environmental Defense Fund can be found at: <https://act.edf.org/z0nMwDU> and with the Natural Resources Defense Council at: <https://www.nrdc.org/get-involved>.

Thanks to all who are already doing a lot to reduce our carbon footprints. Thank you, CAC members Cena Marino, Margy Emerson, Ann Kilby, Laurel Busse, and John Schaefer who are creating a survey to assess these efforts.

*Sue Lee Mossman*

# Sunday Services

**Sunday, February 7 – 11 a.m.**

**Celebrating the Interconnected Web of Life in Story – Ali Freeland**

Our beloved community includes the world in which we live with its other inhabitants. Join storyteller Ali Freeland as she brings to life stories of kindness, community and respect for all. Ali has been telling original stories for over a decade here on the North Coast. She will also tell other stories during the 10:15-10:45 a.m. family time.

**Sunday, February 14 – 11 a.m.**

**Side with Love Sunday – UU Congregations LiveStream**

Thirty Days of Love is an annual celebration that runs approximately from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January through Valentine's Day in February. It is an opportunity to lift up the ways in which Unitarian Universalists and many of our partner organizations are building and organizing by taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice. This service will feature stirring music, deep-hearted reflection, and moving testimonies from a range of UU leaders.

**Sunday, February 21 – 11 a.m.**

**What Stands in the Way of a Beloved Community – Lezley Troxell, Amy Day, Bonnie MacGregor and JoAnn Huffman**

Bell Hooks says, "If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice; have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege."

Martin Luther King Jr. said it this way: "Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

Our speakers will delve into what stands in the way of Beloved Community.

**Sunday, February 28 – 11 a.m.**

**The Power of Self-Compassion – Debi Cooper and Amy Day**

Self-compassion invites us to use unconditional positive regard toward ourselves and our moment-to-moment experiences. When life is difficult and suffering is present, this practice offers care, support and action to mindfully meet and mitigate our pain.

Debi Cooper and Amy Day will explore three core components of self-compassion, and how to "H.E.A.L." and practice these skills with mindfulness, gratitude and love.