

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved HUUF Community

*February 2025*

## What does it mean to be a welcoming community?

*The longer I live, the more deeply I learn that love—whether we call it friendship or family or romance—is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other’s light. Gentle work. Steadfast work. Life-saving work in those moments when life and shame and sorrow occlude our own light from our view, but there is still a clear-eyed loving person to beam it back. In our best moments, we are that person for another.—James Baldwin*

On January 18, the Program and Worship Committee gathered for a half-day retreat. Together, we identified some of the qualities we are seeking — both as individuals in search of beloved community, but also as co-creators of our weekly sacred gathering — when we step through those bold, red HUUF doors in the front of the building. Words like “Shared Purpose,” “Ritual,” and “Music” moved through the air. But the word that captured our attention that day was “*Welcoming*.” Over the course of an hour or so, we dove into that word, moving from principle to practice. How do we do this? What does *Welcoming* look like, feel like, sound like, taste like? At the end of the day, we did what might be the most important piece of our work: carrying it forward. Around the circle we went once more, each participant taking on one small, but vital action they could do to enact these practices and amplify the energy of *Welcome* in our midst.

In an era in which the incoming powers-that-be will long be known for whom they exclude, persecute and shun, we are called to live and work in humble but mighty opposition to that. Who are we welcoming? And how? What small, daily acts of courage are we committing to, in order to amplify the field of love and belonging in this world? How are we mirroring each other’s light, even in the darkest of moments? As ever, we are called to live out the changes our hearts seek; to commit to a finite, regular practice that will gradually re-pattern the world. What will yours be, I wonder? We can’t wait to see.

Yours in grace and gratitude,  
*Amy Day, Director of Spiritual Life*



## New member class February 16, 1:00 p.m.

Director of Spiritual Life Amy Day will start up a HUUF Membership series beginning Sunday, February 16, at 1:00 p.m. Grab a snack and a warm hello at the newly-reinvigorated Coffee Hour, then head over to the multi-purpose room to learn more. This is a great opportunity for new members, those considering HUUF membership, or longstanding members to explore our unique faith tradition and weave themselves more deeply into the life of this community. Drop Amy Day a line at [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org) if you’d like to know more or sign up to participate.

## Climate Action Campaign

### **Los Angeles on fire; HUUF members donate to help**

As I write this, fires rage in Los Angeles, thousands of buildings have been destroyed, and over 100,000 people have been forced from their homes. The climate crisis predicted to be coming soon is happening sooner, and we are in it now. We are our own enemy.

The devastation is creating hardship for countless residents across the region. Members of our Fellowship's Climate Action Campaign collected almost \$130 in donations after the January 19 Sunday Service to send to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund.

The Disaster Relief Fund receives donations from congregations and individuals who want to support UU congregations and their wider communities following disasters such as the fires, or the hurricane-related flooding in North Carolina last year. UUA Disaster Relief Fund staff have already distributed donations to affected congregations in Los Angeles to assist members who have lost everything or been displaced.

As UUs, we understand the connection between disaster relief and justice making. The Relief Fund will also support people in the wider Los Angeles community through existing partnerships that UU congregations have established, especially with vulnerable populations who suffer the worst in a disaster and may not be eligible for other grant programs. UU relief grants encourage congregations to build coalitions to meet the needs of their wider communities. Through aiding our UU congregations, their members, and their community partners, we are able to embody our faith and our values.

If you weren't able to donate at the January 19 service, you may still help fund disaster relief through HUUF or directly through the UUA. Checks can be sent to HUUF, and in the memo line, write: **LA fires – UUA Disaster Relief Fund**.

Donations can also be sent directly to the **UUA Disaster Relief Fund**. In the memo line, write **LA fire relief** and mail to: UUA Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210

You may also contribute online using the link: [giving.uua.org/disaster-relief](https://giving.uua.org/disaster-relief).

We will pass on further information as it comes from other organizations that are helping to provide emergency housing and relief services to displaced community members across the region.

Closer to home, here are some suggestions for Green New Year Resolutions. Remember, even February isn't too late to take up a new climate-friendly habit:

Create and utilize a compost pile; volunteer with a local climate/environmental group; turn off lights when not in use; bring your own containers for grocery items and leftovers from your restaurant meals; hang out your laundry on a sunny day; walk to destinations when you can, carpool with others, combine errands when using the car; and drive 55 to keep Earth alive.

CAC thanks Susan and Scott Allen, and Valerie Gizinski and Pat Carr for each couples' pledge of \$500 toward the new inverter that will form an essential part of HUUF's expanded solar rooftop. And a big thank you to Celestine Armenta and Chip Sharpe for their \$4,000 donation toward the installation of battery storage, the next step in bringing HUUF as close as possible to net zero energy consumption.

We also thank HUUF's Board and the Endowment Committee for supporting the installation of the new solar panels and inverter, and Margy Emerson, HUUF's Project Manager in this effort.

We acknowledge Chip Sharpe and Tom Lewis and the stalwart HUUF members who meet at the corner of V and Fourth streets every Saturday afternoon, rain or shine, with Black Lives Matter and Climate banners. You rock!

To the members and friends of HUUF: Because you are living our UU faith with hope and action, you strengthen our faith with your presence and commitment. Thank you so much.

*Sue Lee Mossman, Climate Action Campaign co-chair*

## Sunday Services

**Sunday, February 2, 11:00 a.m.**

### **All Membership Meeting 3.0—Josh Charles and Committee**

For the last few months, Fellowship members have been engaged in a process of determining what is next for our ministry. In October we looked at what we're doing well and where we might improve. In December we gathered proposals from members for how we might change. Now it is time to reach a decision. In this extended Sunday Service, we will come to a consensus around one of the proposals generated at our December meeting.

Come with open hearts and minds as we find our way together. This will be an extended service, and we are likely to run past 1:00 p.m. as we need to reach a decision on the structure of HUUF ministry in our next phase. To help keep our energy as we push to a decision, you're invited to bring a dish to share, and we also hope to have additional food available.

**Sunday, February 9, 11:00 a.m.**

### **Reflections from the UUA General Assembly—Amy Day, Josh Charles, Corazon Amada**

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Association brings together UU members from all over the continent to worship together, engage in workshops, listening circles, and other small groups to talk about how we can more deeply and radically live our faith. We explore innovations within the larger UU community and culture, and vote on issues that will shape our collective future.

Join us to hear highlights and reflections from this past year's gathering.

**Sunday, February 16, 11:00 a.m.**

### **Paula Jones, with Veronica Galiani**

Let us get together and celebrate life, love and blessings with Paula Jones who will share her energy and joy with the gift of her singing.

**Sunday, February 23, 11:00 a.m.**

### **The View From Here: Perspectives on Life's Later Chapters**

Join us for a special service celebrating the wisdom, stories, and insights of our elders. Four members of our congregation will reflect on their journeys, sharing what brings them joy, purpose, and meaning in the third stage of life. Music will include offerings from Annette Gurnee-Hull on piano and Maggie McKnight leading simple, heartfelt songs. This is a service of connection, reflection, and inspiration.



### **Letter to the Editor**

Hello, The reason for this note is the enthusiastic response to Brenda Perez's presentation at the January 19 HUUF service about preparing to help folks who may be targeted by ICE for deportation. Brenda explained Centro del Pueblo's focus, and outlined current further priorities as mainly recruiting people to fill types of jobs—for example, designated trained observers of ICE action, providers of transportation, or provider of a safe place to be for someone. Many folks there yesterday signed her list to receive more information about joining Centro del Pueblo's work, both the current ongoing work and the anticipated needs

See "Letter," page six

# the butterfly effect

by Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto

I wish the knowledge  
were easier to come by,  
that individualism is  
just a scam, that  
you are always  
the butterfly wings.  
You are always  
the storm.  
Edward Lorenz,  
a weather scientist  
from MIT, is  
sometimes misquoted  
on this, as the premise  
that the  
flap of a  
butterfly wing  
can cause  
a hurricane in a  
different part  
of the world.  
Shorthand that isn't  
all that close to  
a representation  
of the math-turned-  
weather scientist's work.  
He proposed that,  
Should we make  
even a tiny alteration  
to nature,  
we will never know what  
would have happened  
if we had not disturbed it,  
since subsequent changes  
are too complex  
and entangled  
to restore  
a previous state.  
Which is to say  
that you have an

*See next page*



**Continued from page 4**



immeasurable effect  
on the system. It  
will change and you  
will shape its DNA.  
You must not believe  
the lying lie that  
you do not matter,  
that whatever change  
you can organize is  
so insufficient as to  
not be worth your time,  
your energy,  
your life force.

You must be willing  
to dream a dream  
that carries forward  
your community. This  
is how we rise.

This day is polluted  
with a mistrust of truth,  
fertile and warm medium  
for unchecked cruelty and  
power. You must choose  
to scream the truth  
until every leaf and stone  
bears unrepentant witness  
to what happens when  
you try to cage and smash,  
to pin and frame a butterfly  
and their thousands and thousands  
of fabulous, flamboyant friends.

*In times of transition and uncertainty, we are often compelled to look to poets to help us understand both the world we live in and the one we wish to create. Unitarian Universalism has a long tradition of drawing inspiration and meaning making from poetry and so, the Unitarian Universalist Association brings to you the poem “the butterfly effect” by Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto, which is a part of their poetry collection Spilling the Light, published by Skinner House Books.*

*Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto is a Unitarian Universalist minister, activist, and organizer who currently serves as executive director of TRUUsT (Transgender Religious professional Unitarian Universalists Together). Soto’s prophetic voice reflects the shared values that UUs affirm and helps us envision a future where we understand our interdependence and uplift the dignity and worthiness of all. The HUUF Newsletter expresses appreciation to the UUA and Rev. Soto for the use of this poem.*



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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**President:** Margy Emerson

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## HUUF grounds work party, Saturday, February 8

Come help rejuvenate HUUF's beautiful grounds before Spring starts and the plants go wild. Join members of the Grounds Committee on Saturday, February 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to give the flowers, shrubs, and meadow some much-needed TLC. Refreshments provided.

### "Letter," continued from page three

in case of deportation actions. Brenda and I agreed that she will send me an update each month in time for our newsletter deadline, explaining current situation and priorities and needs, to help our readers keep informed and plan how we each might help.

I think it worthwhile to draw attention to the note on the subject in this week's California Department of Justice newsletter. The heading says "Immigrants Are the Backbone of California," and the thrust of the note is that we have state laws to protect and defend folks, and California will use them and hold the line against harmful federal action. Good to know. "When Spirit says Do," thanks for all that all of you do,

*Ann Kilby*



## Enjoy HUUF's expanded Coffee Hour after services

An expanded coffee hour will be available at HUUF after every Sunday Service. Stick around and enjoy the pleasant company and getting caffeinated (decaf is available also). Donations of coffee cups, along with shelf-stable snacks, boxes of tea and hot chocolate, and jars of juice are most welcome.

*Jeanine Pfeiffer*