

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



March 2019

A note from the minister

The Soul Matters theme for March is “Journey.” As I think of that theme, our personal journeys through life and through spiritual development come to mind. And our journey as a species comes to mind, too. There is no guarantee that we human beings will evolve away from competition and violence and toward compassion and collaboration quickly enough to avoid some very traumatic outcomes from our current way of being. But there is hope, and we can do something about it.

John Stewart is a member of the Evolution, Complexity and Cognition (ECCO) Research Group at The Free University of Brussels, Belgium. He says: “A completely new phase in the evolution of life on Earth has begun. It could change everything. In this new phase, evolution will be driven intentionally, by humanity. The collaborative worldview that emerges from an understanding of our capacity to evolve has the potential to transform the nature of human existence. Across the planet right now, individuals are emerging who are choosing to dedicate their lives to consciously advancing a new harmonious way of relationship in the world. They see that their lives are an important part of the evolutionary process that has produced the universe and life within it. They realize that they have a significant role to play in its future evolution. Redefining themselves within a wider evolutionary perspective is providing meaning and direction to their lives—they no longer see themselves as isolated, self-concerned individuals who live for a short time, then die irrelevantly in a meaningless universe. They see themselves as meaningful parts of the whole. They know that if humankind is going to survive, our evolution now must be driven intentionally, and they choose to contribute to this.”

When I think about the word “Journey” this big, evolutionary journey is part of what I think about. I am glad for research done by evolutionary theorists like John Stewart, and I am glad to be part of the practice of “intentional evolution” here at this Fellowship. What we do here to grow in compassion and justice benefits our own lives, for sure, but it also matters for the earth and for all of humankind.

Yours in the journey,

Rev. Bryan Jessup



From *Dreyer’s English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style*, “go light on exclamation points in dialogue. No, even lighter than that. Are you down to none yet? Good.”



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New Men’s Discussion Group

Thoughtful conversation about men’s identities, experience, and responsibilities in the MeToo era. What does it mean to us to be a man? HUUF Adult Religious Education is offering a new men’s group that will meet for the first time on **March 18**, at 7 p.m. at HUUF. For more information, email David Marshak at david.marshak@gmail.com or Bob Billstrom at tunesmith89@sbcglobal.net.

People

Congratulations to **Jackson Dehority** and **Darby Bronkall** who both qualified and performed in the all county junior orchestra in February.

Best wishes to **JoAnn** and **Carl Thomas** as they take time to attend to their health.

Our thoughts go out to **Annette Gurnee Hull** who shared these thoughts about her father: “**Daniel Stryker Gurnee, Jr.** died January 20 during a rain of tears from the sky. He and his wife Marilyn joined HUUF in the 1950’s with their children, David and Annette. He graced our Fellowship with music and Mark Twain readings, and kept whatever piano we had singing it’s best. There will be a memorial at HUUF on Sunday, March 24 at 3 p.m.”

We offer condolences to **Sue Lee Mossman** who lost her mother in mid-February. She shares: “**Suey Lon Lee** came to this country as a picture bride at the age of 16 to marry a man who was 25 years older. She left China never to see her mother again. She and her husband raised 7 children running a hand laundry in Schenectady, NY. She died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 97.”

Bill Thompson died on December 24, 2018. His celebration of life will be held Friday, April 26, 3 p.m. at the Bayside Community Hall.

Sylvia Shaw

Survey and Minister Application on HUUF website



A summary of the results of the October survey of the congregation regarding hiring a new minister is now on our website for you to review at: <http://huuf.org/about-us/members/our-governance/huuf-documents>. Thank you to the 127 people who filled out the questionnaire. Also, thanks to Danielle Stubblefield, Bonnie MacGregor, Cathy Hanafi and Terry Uyeki for their huge effort to put the survey together and to Danielle for analyzing the results. Also, the package of material that the Ministerial Search Committee put together for prospective ministers is on our website at: <http://huuf.org/about-us/our-minister-and-staff>.

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

Congregational meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, **March 10**, following the second service. The agenda includes, 1) Chalice Lighting, 2) Celebrating our successes, 3) Minor change to the Bylaws, 4) Nominating Committee recommendations for officer and trustee positions, 5) Nominating Committee recommendations for Endowment Committee, 6) Update on ministerial search, 7) Update on the 2019/20 canvass. We promise that the meeting will not last more than one hour. Childcare will be provided.

The proposed minor change to the Bylaws is to amend Article VI, item 4, so that instead of “there shall be two co-presidents,” to “there may be two co-presidents.” The Nominating Committee and the congregation have had a difficult time trying to recruit two co-presidents. I am on the last year of my two terms as co-president and think that it is time for new officer blood, however the Nominating Committee has not been able to find a second co-president to assist Berti; hence the proposed bylaws change.

Greg Blomstrom, Co-President



March Religious Education news

One of our focuses in RE this year was is to improve the middle grade program. I want to celebrate the growth that has occurred. In January, the 4th-8th grade group connected with the art of photography, laughing as they creatively explored how images can mean many things. Last month, they deepened that contemplation with Karen Harris through the practice of Soul Collage. When they finished their first cards, Karen asked what message they received. "Be curious," one student said quickly. "Look from new perspectives," said another. "Go to the ocean," and, "Things aren't always what they seem to be." Each student expressed a thoughtful insight. Afterwards, the three adults who witnessed their intuitive wisdom revelled in the ease of their openness. Karen shared that she had not been guided to her own intuition until much later in life. What a gift our community is offering these young people.

As we move forward into this month's theme of exploring how our journey affects the world, let us remember the incredible social and environmental activism we are doing right here, with these children and families.

Family Practice:

As a dinner time practice, contemplate the journey one piece of food took from seed to table. Thich Nhat Hanh offers a wonderful mindful eating contemplation to thank all of the people and resources that went into your food. Discuss the impacts of choosing local food vs. food from another region or continent. Consider reducing the environmental impact of your diet by making one small change as a family.

March Sunday Program Schedule:

K-2 OWL Class: continues in the Multipurpose room through 3/10.

Preschool- K:

3/3: understanding our faith, Unitarian Universalism.

3/10: — exploring our feelings.

3/13: — putting our faith into action.



1st-3rd grade:

3/3: — Responding with Love: We will learn how to return love in times of struggle and uncertainty.

3/10: — Love Builds Trust: How does trust tie into our faith.

3/17: — Love In Action: We will look at people throughout history who put their love to work, and how we can too.

4th-8th grade:

3/3: — Parent volunteer and bike mechanic Dave Larson will teach basic bike maintenance.

3/10: — Explore how our journey affects the Earth and our human community. Choose a group social and/or environmental justice project.

3/17: — Continue work on our youth chosen group project.

3/24: — All ages Service Sunday: Cook dinner for the night shelter.

3/31: — All ages Friendship Sunday: Come play or hang out with friends to make connections and have fun.

Teen Group: The teen group will be busy this month, starting with participating in the March 3 service. There will also be our usual meetings (11 a.m. on the first and third Sundays) as well as having a group retreat.



Board and Endowment Committee nominations

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee. We are also requesting a bylaw change of Section VI #4 to read: “The office of President *may* be shared by two people...” rather than the present wording of in the directory of: “The office of President *shall* be shared...”. This is necessary to allow Berti to serve as sole President.

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Board of Trustees

President: Roberta ‘Berti’ Welty – new two-year term.

Berti is currently co-president of the HUUF Board, after serving as vice-president. She has been active as a Worship Leader for the last 17 years, organized retreats, chaired the Halloween festival, taught RE, and served on other HUUF related committees. She moved to Humboldt in 2002 with her spouse, Jo Weisgerber, after retiring as a Probation Officer in San Diego. In that locale she was active in First UU Church of San Diego and served on the board of deBeneville Pines, a UU camp and conference center owned by the district. She is willing to take on the presidency, knowing she will have a full and committed Board to support her.

Trustee: Greg Blomstrom – new two-year term.

Greg has capably led the Fellowship as Board Co-President for the last four years and loves the Board so much he’d like to stay on as a Trustee.

Greg writes: “I have been a member of the Fellowship along with my wife Debby since 2001 and enjoy the company of the many people at the Fellowship who share our values. Between 2007 and 2014 I was honored to be either a trustee or Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Fellowship. Since 2014 I have been a Co-President. I am a third generation Californian, born in the same hospital as my mother (Alta Bates in Oakland). I moved to Arcata in 1969 to attend forestry school at Humboldt State College and never left. I am co-owner along with six other people of a small consulting forestry business where we practice ‘sustainable’ forestry. Prior to that I worked for 20 years as a forester for the Hoopa Valley Tribe in Hoopa, CA. Since arriving in Arcata, I have developed a set of values that I would typify as ‘liberal’ but not particularly religious. My religious leanings come more through praying to the plumbing gods for help in my many plumbing projects than from any interest in ‘organized’ religion. Nonetheless, during my 20 years at Hoopa I came to realize that my belief system is similar to the local Indians and tribes in the area, a reverence for nature and most things natural (except for deer, raccoons and slugs).”

Trustee: David Marshak – new two-year term.

David was introduced to Unitarian Universalism by the Syracuse, NY UU Church, which showed wonderful foreign films when he was in high school. He had the privilege of employment at the UUA in Boston from 1982-89, working with Elizabeth Anastos, Wayne Arnason, and Gene Navias and many UU volunteers to create religious education programs for all ages.

David has been an alternative school founder, a public high school teacher, a curriculum consultant with schools and colleges, a professor at Seattle University, and the founding President and Academic Dean of the SelfDesign Graduate Institute. David moved to Bayside last year and is having a house built in Arcata.

Trustee: Caitlin Bair – new two-year term.

Caitlin was introduced to Unitarian Universalism by the UU Fellowship, whose classes, speakers, and members inspired her search for truth. She had the privilege of employment at the Ferndale cow testing Association, Vellutini Baking Co., and Butler Valley Inc. working with Jennifer Herrick, Liana Zegart, and Catherin Matson to humbly serve the community. In other employment Caitlin has been a doula and currently works as a house cleaner for Maid in Humboldt.

Caitlin is working on a shadow puppet project to be performed in late March for her son, Theo’s birthday party. She is excited to be a founding member of the new Redwood CUUPS chapter at the Fellowship. She is looking forward to being a voice for children and families on the Board.

Continued on next page

Nominations (cont.)

Endowment Committee: Howard Stauffer – a second two-year term.

Under Howard Stauffer's leadership, the Endowment Fund has grown to where grants are now being awarded for Fellowship projects from the interest earned on the account. Howard would like to continue on the Endowment Fund for a second term.

Nomination Committee: Judy Rishel, Michele Hastings, and Tom Torma

Climate Action Campaign news

Following the two services on **March 3**, there will be a climate action fair featuring exhibits and information showing how individuals can adapt to or reduce their impact on climate change. For example, one action you can take is to go to the Redwood Coast Energy Authority table and Opt Up to REpower+ service which is:

- 100% renewable
- Costs just \$0.01 per kWh more than the standard REpower rate (usually about \$5 per month for an average family who uses 500 kWh).

Climate friendly finger foods will be served. Please also try to walk, bike, or carpool to this service.

Sue L. Mossman for CAC



Dave Troxel

Hoarding Conference – scholarships available

The Area 1 Agency on Aging (A1AA) is hosting a day long conference on hoarding on Friday, **March 8**, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. As many of you know, F. Suzanne Moore recently died and left a considerable bequest to the Fellowship. Those of us who have been sorting the belongings of this talented and generous woman keep asking ourselves, “What could we have done while she was alive to help her gain control of her numerous belongings which overwhelmed her?” We tried. When we learned of the upcoming conference on hoarding, we decided that paying the registration fee would be a responsible use of some funds. We have paid for ten registrants. Six of those slots are already filled. There are four paid registrations available.

Information about the conference is available on the A1AA website (a1aa.org). Click on Hoarding Conference in upper right. If you wish to attend the conference, contact Berti Welty at 476-0654 or bertijo@humboldt1.com.

Trans 101 discussion

Unitarian Universalists and Congregationalists are two religious bodies that welcome gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and non-binary people into their ministry. Being welcoming is not a “one and done” process, though, and both religious bodies continue to work at growing their genuine welcome. On Friday, **March 29** at 7 p.m. at HUUF, Rev. Bryan Jessup and Rev. Cindi Knox of the United Congregational Christian Church in Eureka will collaborate to lead a discussion about trans people and non-binary people in ministry and what special gifts they might bring a congregation and how congregations might continue to grow and develop as a truly welcoming communities.

Community Singing with Benjamin Mertz

Humboldt SINGS is founded on the belief that group singing is a powerful tool for building community and promoting social change. We are happy to announce two events with our 2019 visiting song leader, Benjamin Mertz. Benjamin leads community singing workshops with a specialty in black spiritual music; he's also the music director of Skyline Community Church in Oakland and the founder/director of the Joyful Noise! Gospel Singers in Sebastopol.

On Friday, **March 29**, at 7:30 p.m. Benjamin will lead a Community Sing, "Songs from the African Diaspora," at the D Street Neighborhood Center in Arcata. This event is free for students and youth under 25; a \$10-20 donation is requested otherwise, with no one turned away for lack of funds. No RSVP is necessary, nor is any singing experience. The idea behind community singing is that all voices are welcome, and as we sing together we will learn to rely on each other for support as we open our hearts and experience the joy of singing for its own sake.

On Saturday, **March 30**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship hall, Benjamin will lead a workshop, "A Long Way from Home: The Birth Story of Black Spiritual Music." This event is cosponsored by Adult Religious Education. Participants begin with the music of West Africa, and follow its development through work songs, field hollers, and the early Negro Spiritual. This workshop is designed to help all of us (not only our black neighbors) connect with our own ancestral stories, and learn to tell our stories through the power of music. It focuses on identity, resilience, empathy, honoring the gift of life, and deepening our understanding of ourselves and one another. Tickets are \$10-30; please pay the highest you can afford so we can continue to keep our sliding scale low enough to make these events accessible to people with limited incomes. No one will be turned away for lack of funds but advanced ticket purchase is recommended as this event may sell out. Tickets go on sale in early March; see facebook.com/humboldtSINGS or email humboldtSINGS@gmail.com or call me at 510-684-7676 for more information.

Maggie McKnight

Concert at the Fellowship

On **April 5**, from 7-9 p.m. singer/songwriters Tempa and Naor Nave will present a Concert at HUUF. Tickets are \$20 purchased ahead of the performance and \$25 at the door. Savory and sweet snacks, as well as beverages, will be included.

Find them online at the Tempa and Naor Project (<https://tempaandnaorproject.com/home>). Proceeds will go to College of the Redwoods Homeless Students' Fund. Sponsored by Dave and Ilene Harris, Bryan Jessup and the Adult Religious Education Committee.

Ilene Harris

New Member Welcoming

On Sunday, **March 10** at our 11 a.m. service we will welcome eleven new members into our Fellowship: Sylvia De Rooy, Cassie Brilbeck, Cena Marino, David Marshak, Todd Hoberecht, Finn Ferguson, Samuraira Suel, Laurel Busse, Mary Douglass, David Douglas and Marliese Tollner. We are so happy they have joined us!

Rev. Bryan Jessup

Auction kudos

Hats off to Auction Committee - Terry Uyeki, Ilene Harris, David Harris, Cynthi Chason, Edie Jessup, Rebekah Paez and Judy Rishel - for the wonderful Service Auction that was not only financially productive for the Fellowship, but a fantastic community builder. We so appreciate all your creativity, hard work and the positive spirit you provided in nurturing our Beloved Community.

Kate McClain



Benjamin Mertz

Deadline info

Deadline for the **April 2019** issue of the newsletter is Wednesday, **March 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

Money Updates and Reminders

The financial cluster of committees has been hard at work supporting our Fellowship. The Endowment Committee recently raised over \$14,000 for the endowment fund. They are currently reviewing grant requests; up to \$4,000 will be awarded. A *huge* thank you to our generous donors who make awarding these grants possible, as well as for building confidence in the long-term health of HUUF.

The Fundraising Committee is wrapping up another successful service auction. Final calculations are still being made, but we expect to raise over \$7,000. A list of winners is on the bulletin board in the hallway, and items for pickup are in the office. If you bid, please check the list for possible winnings. Contact the committee with questions at fund@huuf.org

The Finance Committee recently published a page on huuf.org titled, "How HUUF Works Financially," found under the "Donate" tab. In an effort to be more transparent and raise awareness, please read it. Committee chairs are now scheduled to receive an expense report via email on the fifteenth of every month. Please contact us if you don't, at fc@huuf.org. These reports should help in developing budget requests for the next fiscal year and will continue to be emailed indefinitely, so you can grow your understanding of the cost of ministry.

The time for Canvass is right around the corner. Our Stewardship Committee has plans underway for an intimate and enlightening time of sharing, understanding, and growing - not just our monetary value, but our mutual responsibility and commitment to our beloved community.

And finally, if you would like to save some money for HUUF and lessen your environmental impact, please email our administrator, Bridgette, at office@huuf.org and request to receive an online version of this newsletter in place of a mailer.

I have been so delighted to serve with kind, talented, and brilliant people here at HUUF. I am learning every day and feel empowered by the work I get to do for and with this community.

Rebekah Paez, Treasurer



Scholarships for General Assembly

The F. Suzanne Moore Trust will make up to \$20,000 available for scholarships for those wishing to attend the UUA General Assembly in Spokane, Washington, **June 19-23**.

Monies for youth attendees were also set aside from the Halloween Festival. The Board may also award some scholarships depending on the decisions of the Endowment Board. Securing a partial scholarship from your home congregation improves your chances of receiving additional funds from the UUA.

Priority will be given to those who could not afford to attend without a scholarship, have never been to a General Assembly, and are (or will commit to being) actively involved in the various committees and leadership roles of the Fellowship, including teen activities.

Average cost of attending GA is about \$2000 per person. This includes registration \$425, transportation, housing, meals, etc. Spokane is a two-three day drive away. Possible ways to reduce the cost are to rent a van and drive as a group, stopping for a night en route, or fly out of Medford. Staying at a hostel or university dormitory in Spokane might be possible. Some shared housing may be available.

Imagine a few days interacting, worshiping and exchanging ideas with thousands of Unitarian Universalists. It can be a life transforming experience. Go to the UUA website and check out what is available: <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Our Rev. Bryan Jessup will be honored as a retiring minister in the Service of the Living Tradition. Registration, UUA financial assistance and housing will open on **March 1**. Scholarship request deadline is Sunday, **March 10**. Pick up a Scholarship application from the Chalice box in the Foyer, download from the HUUF website, or contact me at 476-0654, or bertijo@humboldt1.com, to have one emailed to you.

Berti Welty



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).

Joanna's Jam, yummy low sugar jam, Quince Jam, Quince Marmalade, Pear Jam and Plum Jam. \$6 each or four for \$20. Make your day happy! jfwelch22@gmail.com

Dog walking available in Arcata. I am an HSU Alumni and avid hiker and I would love to take your dog along with me for vigorous hikes or just walking around town. \$15/hr. I can be reached by phone: (707) 616-3592 or by email: Csn69@Humboldt.edu

Spring Equinox Celebration

Join the revelry at HUUF's spring equinox (Ostara) celebration on Thursday, **March 21**, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll summon the directions, the god Pan, and the goddess Ostara. We'll cast the circle, sing, meditate, and plant our seeds of intention for the coming months. Bring finger food and drinks to share afterward, personal items to grace the altar, colorful flowers, drums, rattles, and maybe even some colored eggs. For more information, contact Margy Emerson at 822-6508.

Thursday Night Reflections will convene at the ceremony. (Editor's note: *Looking Ahead* says there is no Thursday Night Reflections. At press time I had not received clarification.)