

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



March 2020

Wisdom: Life's Living Lessons

In celebration of February's Black Liberation Month, I shared the story of William and Ellen Craft, two enslaved African Americans who escaped American slavery as first-class travelers. The Crafts were freedom lovers who eventually traveled one thousand miles to their freedom and became friends and congregants of UU Minister Theodore Parker. Their "love story," their commitment to have their children born as free human beings, is one to remember and to celebrate. Imagine my surprise to receive an email from the great, great, granddaughter of Ellen and William Craft.

In the Spirit of Wisdom: Life's Living Lessons, I share, with her permission, the letter she sent to me, which I received on the morning of my sermon at HUUF. Since that time, Lydia and I decided to do more than, as she said, sometime to maybe "just give a wave." We recently had the pleasure of meeting her in person during a dinner in Oakland.

Rev. Anthony Johnson

February 1, 2020 at 9:30:43 PM

To: minister@huuf.org

Hello Rev. Johnson,

My name is Angela Niles and I am one of the "local" descendants of William and Ellen Craft (I live in SF). I keep a Google alert on for their names and always enjoy seeing who is representing their story in a creative way. My family is very involved with our history as there are several ancestors of note in this tree. Anyway, I am sure you have a great service prepared for tomorrow and I hope it goes very well. I looked at the church webpage and it seems like a wonderful community you have there. You also have a very interesting background. Next time I drive up the coast, I'll wave.

Warmly,

Angela Niles (great, great, great granddaughter)

Retreat planning

Our Fellowship's annual retreat at Mattole Camp and Conference Center is August 7-9. Each year we gather in community for singing, playing, swimming in the river and more. Those wanting to help plan or submit items for activities or possible themes are invited to the first planning meeting set for Sunday, March 8, at 12:30. If you can't attend, email me with your ideas and willingness to be part of the planning team at bertijo@humboldt1.com or call 476-0654.

Berti Welty

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Congregational meeting

There will be a Congregational meeting on March 29 after the second service. The agenda includes approving the Nominating Committee's recommendations of new trustees to replace outgoing trustees (see article page 5), a minor change to the HUUF Bylaws which will let the Endowment Committee manage more funds than just the Endowment Fund and last, asking the Congregation to approve major changes to the Endowment Committee's operational procedures (see <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFendowment>). The Board has reviewed the latter two items and each comes with a strong recommendation to the Congregation to approve.



Berti Welty and Greg Blomstrom, Co-presidents

Changes to Endowment Committee

At the March 29 Congregational Meeting, the Board and the Endowment Committee are recommending the Congregation approve major changes to the Endowment Committee's "Endowment Fund Document" in order to enable the committee to manage multiple, principal and time limited funds. Currently, the Endowment Committee manages only the principal limited Endowment Fund – that is, the principal can never decrease. The proposal would enable the committee to manage gifts from benefactors where the benefactors have specified specific purposes to which the funds should be used and not specified that the funds be maintained in perpetuity (time limited). Examples of time limited funds are the Chaffee Fund and the soon to be disbursed Suzanne Moore Fund.

Among the proposed changes: the current three person committee would be expanded to four people (to anticipate the increased work load). Another change requires that independent financial audits be more frequent as the funds grow through additional gifts and/or through accrued interest (currently audits are required every three years). The current approach to awarding Endowment Funds would not change dramatically, that is, applications to use the accrued interest in the Endowment Fund would be accepted in January of each year and awarded in February of the same year. A similar approach is proposed for the Special Funds although applicants could apply to spend both the interest and part of the principal. The Endowment Committee would only approve grant applications to the Special Funds when they were consistent with the benefactor's wishes and any supplemental instructions that the Board approves when accepting the gift. In some circumstances, a grant application to a Special Fund might require Congregational approval if that application exceeded more than 10% of the total value of the fund.

A track changes version of the recommended changes to the Endowment Fund Document is available from me via email or is posted on the web page at <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFendowment>. Copies of the recommended changes will be provided at the Congregational meeting.



Greg Blomstrom exiting Co-President

Pledge Drive ramping up

This year's pledge drive is about to ramp up. As usual, there will be a sermon at our April 19, Sunday service that will kick off the pledge drive. We plan on an afternoon event the day before, April 18, that will be a dessert and wine tasting with activities for kids and families.

This year we plan to ask everyone to phone or contact one member of the Fellowship with a set of questions. We will then compile the results along with the pledge commitments and report on the results during the summer. We'll be looking for people to make testimonials for each service starting on March 22. We're still looking for a theme and the Board still has to set a goal. If you would like to help on this amazingly fun endeavor please contact me at gblomstrom01@gmail.com or, Rebekah Paez at rebekahpaez@gmail.com or David Marshak at david.marshak@gmail.com.



Greg Blomstrom

2020-21 Budget Development

All Committee Chairs and Cost Center Managers should be on the lookout for a mid-March email from the Finance Committee regarding the submission of budget requests for the 2020-21 budget. The Finance Committee is scheduled to submit a first draft to the Board of Trustees for their April meeting.

Dave Harris

Religious Education

This past month, Chris and Tia Peters spoke to us about the concept of “The Seventh Generation,” an idea that originally hails from the Iroquois Nation. They urged us to consider the impact of the actions we take now on our kin 140 years down the road. Indeed, the Old Testament refers to the “sins of the father” being felt far into the future as well. We know that the daily decisions we make, consciously or by rote, carry weight and substance. Each day, we plant seeds, the fruit of which we may not taste in this lifetime. As we turn our heads toward the inspiration of “Being a People of Wisdom” this month, we are called to witness: What am I planting?, What do I wish my children to reap?, and Do the two align with one another?

In a society that has largely forgotten its holy purpose, how do we re-awaken to the call to “Be a good ancestor”? How do we extend our gaze and re-attach the visceral threads of the now, to the lessons of the past and the hopes for the future? What a powerful thing it is to remember that although our presence may be but a drop in the larger ocean. We cast ripples that echo on a distant shore. With that in mind, may we continue to water the spot on which we stand.

Soul Matters Family Practice: Wisdom

Consider adding Creation Myths to your story time routine. One benefit of our UU Tradition is that we pool from many lineages to craft our narrative about important questions: Who are we? Where did we come from? Where have we gone astray? How do we make it right? What is our purpose here on Earth?

A few great resources are *Four Corners of the Sky: Creation Stories and Cosmologies from Around the World* by Steve Zeitlin or the beautiful *In the Beginning: Creation Myths from Around the World* by Carolyn North and Adrienne Robinson. After you’ve sifted through several you like, you might even try penning one with your own family, selecting the forces that speak to you and crafting a story of your lineage.

In Fellowship, Amy Day, Assistant DRE

March Calendar:

Preschool-K: with Scarlett Tripsmith

3/1: Planting Flowers Part 1: Each child will plant their own seed pod of wisdom.

3/8: Planting Flowers Part 2: Painting rocks, and locating space for a wisdom flower patch.

3/15: Planting Flowers Part 3: Transplant sprouted wisdom flowers, surround them with rocks.

1st-3rd Grade: with Trisha Saunders

3/1: Introduction to UU

3/8: Perspectives on being UU, with Rev. Anthony Johnson

3/15: Perspectives on being UU, with Allison O’Dowd

4th-8th Grade: with Caitlin Bair

3/1: Re-writing Greek and Roman misogynist Constellation Myths, Cassiopeia and Andromeda

3/8: Re-writing Greek and Roman misogynist Constellation Myths, The Pleiades, The 7 Sisters

3/15: Re-writing Greek and Roman misogynist Constellation Myths, Non-Western Stories



Teen Group:

Please contact Teen Director Kit Lynn for current offerings and outings at kitestringsflying@gmail.com

All Ages Service Sunday

3/22: Our youth and parent volunteers are invited to help us prepare a meal for the Night Shelter.

Youth Choristers:

Please join us on 3/1, 3/8 and 3/15 from 10-10:45 in the Multi-Purpose room for rehearsal. This month’s performance will be 3/15 at the 11:00 service. All ages are welcome, though we do ask that a parent stay with any children under 5.

The 2020-2021 slate for election.

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for election:

David Marshak for Co-President, two-year term, currently Vice President:

I moved to Humboldt two years ago, not knowing anyone here. I have very much appreciated the opportunity HUUF has given me to meet and get know many wonderful people, to become a part of this lively and inspired community, and to both receive and contribute. In my prior life, I taught and administered in schools, universities, and nonprofits. I also served on the Boards of seven nonprofits over the years. Now that I'm in the "no longer working for pay" phase of my life, I have considerable time and energy to contribute to HUUF and some relevant experience and skills. When I was asked if I would serve as Co-President, I felt appreciative of this invitation and willing to serve. However, I will insist on continuing to work on the grounds during the monthly grounds work sessions, so ably led by Valerie Gizinski.

Sally Williams for Vice President, two-year term:

My family moved from New England following World War II. We settled in California with a short stint in Oregon. I lived in Palo Alto graduating from high school there in 1959. Following two years at the University of Redlands, I married and moved to East Los Angeles, where my husband was about to begin medical school. Following his training I accompanied him during four and a half years of Navy service during the Vietnam War, followed by two years on the island of St Lucia. We then settled in Camarillo, California where I lived until 1993 when we decided to go our separate ways. After becoming certified in drug and alcohol abuse counseling from UC Santa Barbara, I moved to Arcata in 1994 to complete my long delayed bachelors degree with a major in studio art a minor in psychology. I have 3 adult children who are happily married and living satisfying lives. Previously I have served on boards of directors, mostly revolving around the activities of my children when they were young. I am honored to have been asked to serve on the HUUF Board of Directors and look forward to being of service in that capacity.

Rebekah Paez for Treasurer, two-year term, currently Treasurer.

Peter Gillis for Secretary, one-year term, currently Secretary.

Michele Hasting for Trustee, two-year term:

In 2001 Jamal and I came from Texas to Humboldt for a job interview. Part of our process in evaluating our decision to relocate was coming to a Sunday service. We knew we wanted to be a part of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. I took the job, we moved and have been active members ever since. I think my first time to sign up for a volunteer position was as a guiding light for the Halloween festival. This past festival I had a great time participating in a Halloween Festival skit. I have been the RE Chair and RE Co-chair, serve on the Playground Committee, and am on the DRE search Committee. I have found it to be very rewarding and fun to volunteer and support the Fellowships ministries with my time and energy. I am honored to be considered for the HUUF

Debi Cooper for Trustee, two-year term:

Debi Cooper has been a member of the Fellowship since 2010. When she followed her brother to Humboldt County from Michigan, she was fortunate enough to move next-door to one of HUUF's founders, Thea Gast.

She explored glass fusing at the Fire Arts Center, creative writing with the Eureka Writers group and enjoyed singing in HSUs University Singers as well as the HUUF choir. Before departing to San Francisco, Debi was a member of five committees: Foyer expansion, Aesthetics, the Caring Circle, Grounds and the Stewardship Education Committee. Returning to Humboldt at the end of this spring Debi looks forward to rejoining her beloved community.



Continued on page 5

CUUPS update

We will no longer have monthly CUUPS meetings, but fear not, there are other opportunities to get together regularly. Moving forward, here are some opportunities for pagans, witches, and others who practice Earth based spirituality, and any other interested folks to gather:

1. Sabbat Rituals (wheel of the year): All are welcome to attend Sabbat rituals at HUUF. If anyone is interested in leading, planning, contributing, or otherwise playing a part in these rituals please contact Yemaya at AshaNanMusic@aol.com or Margy at MargaretEmerson@att.net. We welcome your involvement. It takes a village.

2. Full Moon gatherings: The Coven of the Bay Moon Gaias has been offering a family-friendly monthly full moon potluck and bardic circle. The format may or may not change, but the gatherings will continue. Hopefully this will satisfy the need of those of us who wish to gather once a month, instead of monthly CUUPS meetings. Stay tuned for more info on this coming soon, or again, feel free to contact Yemaya for more info.

3. Opportunities to share Your Offerings: CUUPS is for all of us. If you have an offering to share that is related to Paganism, Witchcraft, Earth-Based Spirituality of any kind, or anything else related, CUUPS will help you make it happen. We can help book the space, set up childcare if needed, help recruit assistance, and help you get the word out to our community. Some ideas include (but are not limited to): Rituals, workshops, classes, book club, movie night, discussion group, gatherings of all kinds, and whatever ideas you can dream up.

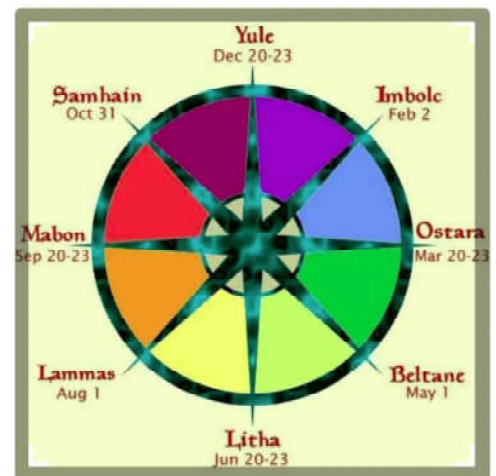
Special Note: I want to be very clear that paganism is a broad term and can include many paths. If you have a pagan tradition that you would like to celebrate with us, or offer teachings, you are encouraged to step forward. Many traditions have other holy and feast days instead of or in addition to the Sabbats and Esbats (cycles of the sun and moon) we currently celebrate at HUUF. If you have other ritual/celebration ideas you would like to see happen, please step forward. We welcome all paths of Earth based spirituality and paganism, as long as they are in line with UU values. Please contact Yemaya if you are called to contribute such an offering, or have ideas. Thank you and Blessed Be.

Yemaya Kimmel

Celebrating Ostara and Spring Equinox

Join the revelry at HUUF's spring equinox celebration on Saturday, March 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll summon the goddess Ostara, the god Pan, and the four directions. We'll cast the circle, sing, meditate, and plant our seeds of intention for the coming months. Got flowers? Bring them! Also personal items to grace the altar, drums, rattles, finger food and drinks to share afterward, and maybe even some colored eggs. Childcare will be provided.

Margy Emerson 822-6508



Candidate slate Continued:

Cynthi Chason for Endowment Fund Committee, three-year term, currently serving first term:

I am the only child of a New England, liberal, union supporting family. I grew up in Florida. I came to Humboldt County in 1978. My passion for social justice led me to work as Director of Food for People/Food Bank for twenty years. My work there brought me to an understanding of planned giving and the importance of leaving a legacy for one's charitable causes. I met my life companion and future wife, Bonnie MacGregor, through the state-wide California food bank network. She joined me here in 1988. Our desire to be part of a spiritual community brought us to HUUF in 1998. I was drawn to this congregation initially by the welcoming philosophy towards the LGBTQ community, social justice focus and HUUF's dedication to environmental causes. From 2014 to 2018 I served on the HUUF Board of Trustees and served as HUUF Treasurer. I have been a member of the Endowment Committee since 2018. I'm honored to offer my interest, experience and skills with planned giving and finances to serve a second term on the Endowment Committee.

Climate Action Campaign News

Continuing with the theme of what we can do as individuals relative to climate change, the Climate Action Campaign has launched a Drive 55 - Keep Earth Alive effort and outreach to encourage congregation members and friends to drive 55 mph on our highways. Given that we already have, and will still likely have for many years, millions of vehicles on the roads in this country that burn fossil fuel, we can reduce carbon emissions from these vehicles now by modifying our driving behavior. According to <https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp> aggressive driving such as speeding, hard acceleration, and hard braking can lower a vehicle's fuel economy. A graph on this link shows the relationship between speed and fuel economy.

Driving less aggressively is something we can do now until the time comes when everyone in this country can afford a hybrid, plug-in or electric vehicle. To promote this message, CAC has bumper stickers for distribution. Thank you, Margy Emerson, who arranged to have bumper stickers printed with the message Drive 55- Keep Earth Alive. The bumper stickers will be available at the CAC's regular fourth Sunday legislative letter writing table and at other times by arrangement.

We can give our planet a chance to catch its breath by starting out 5 minutes earlier for work, for school, for meetings, for appointments, etc. If enough of us do this, Marianne Pennekamp says driving at 55 will become normalized. And when that happens, we can get a local ordinance passed. If enough other small cities in California follow suit, a state, and then a federal highway speed limit of 55 mph might eventually be possible just as there was during the Carter administration. "If the people lead, the leaders will follow."

On March 3, we can also attend the Board of Supervisors meeting to support putting a bond measure on the November ballot which, if passed, will fund renewable energy development (e.g. solar, geothermal, wind) in Humboldt.

{It should be noted that drivers can be ticketed for impeding traffic flow by driving significantly under the speed limit. ed.}

Sue Y. Lee

Third Sunday Donations

The loose collection and Social Action Brunch proceeds on February 16th amounted to \$1124, divided equally between Centro del Pueblo and True North.

The third Sunday in March will be the 15th. We will donate the offering and brunch proceeds to our long time friend Food for People. Humboldt's amazing food bank acquires and distributes tons of good food to untold numbers of our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Richard Kossow



Introduction to Shamanic Journeying

"You create a path of your own by looking within yourself and listening to your soul, cultivating your own way of experiencing the sacred and then practicing it. Practicing until you make it a song that sings you." – Sue Monk Kidd

How can we embrace life with more heart and spirit? We each have a personal direct line to Spirit but may need some help to reawaken it. If it's ready to reawaken within you, please join us. In this class which will take place Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., we'll explore the cross-cultural roots of this ancient practice, learn how to form questions to journey on and then move into the journey itself. Participants can expect to meet a personal helping spirit and learn how to journey with them for guidance, connection, and enhanced well being. This class is intended for beginners as well as those who would like to deepen their existing journeying practice. Tuition is \$85-\$125 - self-determined sliding scale. Registration with deposit is required. Contact me at 397-0018 or heather@hearthoftheheart.org or visit www.hearthoftheheart.org for more info. Sponsored by the Humboldt Fellowship Engagement Program.

Heather O'Connell

Arcata gas ordinance

We don't usually think of our houses and apartments as causing climate change. But buildings in Humboldt contribute 12% of our local Greenhouse gases. Blame it on your furnace, hot water heater, or oven/stove. If they're fueled by gas, they play a tiny role in cooking the planet. You can convert to high efficiency electrical appliances that, with our local low-carbon grid, are much kinder to the climate. But that costs a bunch. New buildings should start off with those already installed. That's why the climate group 350 Humboldt is asking Arcata to ban natural gas in new buildings. It's a measure already passed by 23 other California cities and counties. Arcata's City Council supported the goal of climate-friendly new buildings last year, but lately several city council members have backed away.

To help, email the City Council members. Remind them that the City Council declared a climate emergency last September. To deal with an emergency, this is the very least we can do: Brett Watson at bwatson@cityofarcata.org; Sofia Pereira at spereira@cityofarcata.org; Susan Ornelas at sornelas@cityofarcata.org; Vice Mayor Paul Pitino at ppitino@cityofarcata.org; Mayor Michael Winkler at mwinkler@cityofarcata.org

March Book Group

Pat Carr

In March, the Book Group continues its discussion of *Laotse, Waldo, and Me*. Margy Emerson looks forward to your input on her conversation with the Taoist philosopher Laotse and the "American Taoist" Ralph Waldo Emerson. This book group will meet the first four Tuesdays in March, 7-8:45 p.m. in HUUF's multi-purpose room. (Except March 10th, when it will meet in the CARE Bldg.) Come to as many as you can.

The following is a tentative schedule:

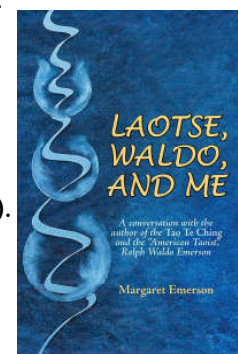
March 3: Preface and Chapters One and Two—The Tao, and Te: The Tao Incarnate (the Sage).

March 10: Chapters Three to Six—The Inner Guide, Wu Wei, Circles, and Illusions.

March 17: Chapters Seven to Ten—Are We Good?, Friendship, Three Treasures, Unlearning.

March 24: Chapter Eleven—Balance.

Let me know if you need a ride. If you need a book, two can be checked out from the HUUF library and one from the Arcata Library. You can buy a copy at Northtown Books in Arcata. In addition, several free books are available to own. Contact me at margaretemerson@att.net or 822-6508.



HUUF Fellowship Engagement Programs, March- May

March:

Laotse, Waldo and Me by Margy Emerson: A book discussion with local author, Margy Emerson-In the Fellowship Sanctuary on Tuesday evenings, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00-8:45 p.m.

Practicing Healing Dialogue: Saturday, March 7, 1-4 p.m.

MultiKulti Workshop: Saturday, March 14, 10-2 p.m.

April:

Of Water and the Spirit by Malidoma Patrice Somé: A book discussion led by Rev. Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson. An exploration into Ritual, Magic, and Initiation in the Life of an African Shaman. -In the Fellowship Sanctuary weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30- 7:00 p.m. Five Sessions; April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Practicing Healing Dialogue: Saturday, April 4, 1-4 p.m.

MultiKulti Workshop: Saturday, April 11, 10-2 p.m.

May:

Healing the Heart of Democracy by Parker Palmer: A book discussion led by Wendy Rowan, in the Sanctuary:

Monday, May 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.: Five Habits of the Heart

Saturday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.-noon: Engaging the Five Habits in Your Daily life

Please come to the second session only if you have participated in the first one.

David Marshak



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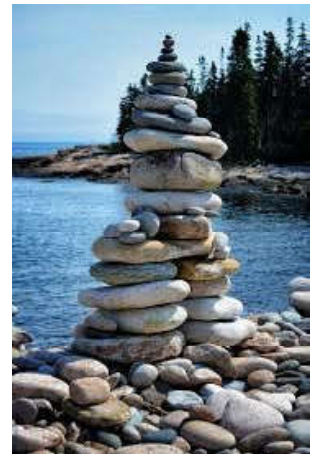
Lets Build a Cairn

Inspired by the memorial service for former member Marilyn Walker, those who attended resolved to create a cairn, to honor Marilyn and to add an interesting structure on our grounds. Marilyn showed her daughters how to gather smooth stones and stack them, each one representing a quality to aspire to, in their lives. We would like to make our similar piece in time for a memorial celebration in May. To do this we need the following:

Stackable river rocks, all sizes (see photo). Bring them to the rock pile by the east parking lot.

Helpers — for ground prep, transport and stacking.

To volunteer, or for more information, please contact bertbtaylor@gmail.com, or 826-0719



Deadline info

Deadline for the **April** issue of the newsletter is Monday, **March 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF (email only) to 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/HUUFnews>

Stephen Sottong, editor

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