

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the beloved HUUF community

On the threshold of newness

For many, there's a feeling that the New Year hasn't truly begun until we step into the first, budding, tentative days of Spring. Everything up until now has been gestation, preamble, a sort of collective Dreamtime wherein we've been seeding the future we wish to give birth to by dropping deep into the liminality that Winter brings. We have felt ourselves upon the threshold of newness, yet not quite ready to step through the door until just now. For some of us, this dark, seedling space has held great grief and loss. For others, a reckoning with the finite limits of an ailing body, a troubled mind, collapsing systems and structures that once felt so certain, eternal - now gone. (This Dreamtime is not without its rigor, we find.)

On March 8, many people in India, Hindu and non-Hindu alike, will gather to launch great bursts of color into the air and let them land upon their skin, their hair, their once-white clothing, in celebration of Holi. A sort of announcement through the rainbow panoply, to the world that, "Despite everything - whatever challenges and tragedy has befallen us inside the past year, we are still here!!"

In the Muslim and Christian traditions, respectively, we harken the arrival of Ramadan and Lent, times traditionally reserved for fasting and abstaining from certain habits, substances, foods. Grappling with the question, "What am I willing to give up in order to open to what I may yet become? What minor discomfort am I willing to sit with to gain new skills and understanding? What old, outmoded parts of my self am I willing to part with, so that I may become something new?"

It is a time of revelation. When Ostara (where we get our word for "Easter") reveals herself once more in all her splendor, upon the Spring Equinox. When the Jewish Queen Esther stands bravely before the King and declares her ancestry to him, puts her own life upon the line for the sake of her people (the observance of Purim).

In the same way, we are asked to consider: "What would it mean to put ourselves out there?" To boldly share whatever learning, whatever insights, convictions, or servant leadership has been brewing within us during the dark days of winter and to put it into full, visible, glorious usefulness inside the larger world? What shape would that take?

This past month, HUUF's Board of Trustees has been diligently meeting with members of the Ministerial Relations Committee and Bridgette and myself, beginning to articulate the nature and scope of this covenantal relationship with us, your Ministerial Team. We are excited to share some of that work with you as part of our Sunday Worship on March 12. We have been looking at the work of Covenant, and what sort of agreements we need to anchor ourselves to create and sustain a vibrant ministry together. Collectively and individually, we are emerging. Trusting the seed dreams we've nurtured in the dark to blossom into something new, vibrant and life-giving. We do as the Rev. Dawn Skjei Cooley bids us and, "let go of who we ought to be and embrace who we are," confident that together we hold everything we need to make our way.

Yours, in grace & gratitude, your Interim Ministerial Team,
Amy Day and Bridgette Garuti

March 2023

Questions about becoming a HUUF member?

Are you new to HUUF and have questions about Unitarian Universalism? Faith and ministry? Maybe you feel ready to officially join our community through membership, or perhaps you're still figuring out what's going on here and why. Maybe you're not so new to HUUF but nevertheless ask yourself some of the same questions.

If anything of this sort is the case, mark your calendar for Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Membership Committee and other Fellowship leaders will fill in the gaps on the benefits of membership in HUUF. Lunch and childcare will be provided, so please register online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4CABA72CA6FD0-areyou>

or at the greeter's table at Sunday morning services.

For any questions or concerns, email Rebekah Paez at connect@huuf.org.

Rebekah Paez

[HUUF Poetry Corner](#)

Two Senryu

by Laurel Busse

Note: Senryu are 17 syllable poems that originated in Japan. They are very similar to Haiku.

I regret the past
And fear for the future
For now I rejoice

Since the Bible says
Joy cometh with the morning
let's get up early

Climate Action Campaign

No natural gas for new Arcata buildings

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) folx have been active in February on several climate fronts. In the past month, CAC joined other climate groups to send a joint letter to the Arcata City Council. Our concern is that action has stalled on an ordinance to ban natural gas in new Arcata buildings despite strong support given the idea by the council a few years ago. Natural gas itself is a potent greenhouse gas, and when burned it releases CO₂, and often indoor pollutants that can harm people.

CAC is pleased to learn that Arcata City Councilmember Alex Stillman passed on our concerns to Councilmember Stacy Atkins-Salazar. Stacy notified us that city staff will bring a draft ordinance to ban natural gas in new buildings to the city's Energy Committee soon for its review, and hopes for the passage of an ordinance before the close of the fiscal year. CAC has sent thank you letters to Stacy and Alex for their responsiveness. We thank Pat Carr for giving us the heads up on this and for meeting with council members Stillman and Atkins-Salazar and city staff. And huge thank you's to those who contacted council members or attended meetings to speak on this matter.

CAC has also signed 350 Humboldt's response to the California Energy Commission's presentation on economic aspects and the permitting process of offshore wind development. We thank John Schaefer for his participation in

See "*Climate Campaign*," page 5

HUUF Board summary for February

The February board meeting started with public comment time. There was one member comment about recent Zoom audio issues. In response it was decided that this concern would be taken to the Program and Worship Committee for further discussion.

Instead of the usual reports from Bridgette Garuti, the Director of Congregational Operations (DCO), and Amy Day, the Director of Spiritual Life (DSL), the board reviewed the drafts of their new job descriptions, as well as a covenant for communication. There were discussions about possible revisions and revised versions of the job descriptions and covenant will be forwarded for approval to the board before the next board meeting.

The covenant is a document that was drafted at the January 28 retreat of the Shared Ministry Team and several board members. This document was created to help facilitate respectful communication between these groups, keeping our UU principles in mind.

Coming up is the Spring congregational meeting. It was decided that the board is not quite ready for a March meeting, so we will be announcing a date in April for the meeting very soon.

The discussion on mask policy for Sunday services was tabled, but continued via email and is still underway. We are still asking adult members to wear masks, while children are encouraged (but not required) to do so.

The HUUF board meets 7:00-9:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom. The first 30 minutes is open for public discussion. The Zoom link will be posted in the HUUF Weekly.

Sandy Lynn

Outreach to help the homeless

These past two months, HUUF members have been visiting the Church of the Joyful Healer to help with their Saturday Gathering event. This takes place every Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hot food and sack lunches are provided for those who are coming in from the street or from homes where the food budget doesn't provide enough to survive on. Clothing is also made available.

I have dedicated myself to helping on the third Saturday of the month, and Amy Day is leading an outreach for the fourth Saturday each month. On the third Saturday in January I brought a cauldron of chili and yellow onions to hand out with Mary's enchiladas. This past Saturday Gigi Collins came along with me. She brought her world famous homemade vegetarian burritos and I brought my baked beans. We had great conversations and laughs as we doled out platefuls of hot food to a very appreciative group of visitors. It was a blessed time well spent, a happy way to engage in an action fulfilling our promise that service is indeed our prayer.

For those who would like to participate, you can get in touch with Chris Chapin or Amy Day, or just bring food up to the Gathering at 1944 Central Avenue, McKinleyville, on any Saturday of the year. If you cannot come but wish to help, we will have a Food Outreach account in the HUUF office for helping us purchase food items. Please contact Bridgette with questions about this.

Lastly, I will also be placing a large container in the HUUF foyer in March to collect donated socks for the homeless. Anything that you can do to contribute or help will be so appreciated. Thank you.

Chris Chapin

Sunday Services

Sunday, March 5, 11:00 a.m.

Vulnerability – Laura Phelan-Shahin and Berti Welty

Laura and Berti will lead an exploration into the meaning of vulnerability. The congregation will explore this topic through music, stories, and sharing one another's wisdom and experience. The HUUF choir will be featured.

Sunday, March 12, 11:00 a.m.

A Coming Together – Bonnie MacGregor, Karen Harris, Amy Day,

In October 2022 the Congregation chose to enter into a covenantal relationship with Bridgette Garuti and Amy Day, who will serve as an interim ministerial team. Bonnie MacGregor as Ministerial Relations Committee chair, Karen as a former HUUF minister, and Amy as Director of Spiritual Life will explore what shared leadership means for the health and future of our beloved community, in the context of envisioning modes for us all to collaborate and innovate in fellowship.

Sunday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.

Ostara and Spring Equinox Celebration – Karen Harris

As we come into rising energy and renewal, Karen Harris will speak to us about this auspicious time. Bring flowers, as well as any precious items you wish to place on our shared altar. Bring drums, rattles, and tambourines to play as we honor the height of spring. We will cast the circle, call in the directions, and sing to Earth's rebirth around us.

Sunday, March 26, 11:00 a.m.

Social Action: And Service Be Our Prayer – Amy Day

We will come together at HUUF to deepen our partnership with Arcata House, which provides twice-daily hot meals, emergency shelter, and longer-term housing assistance to folks dealing with housing insecurity. Come dressed ready to help prepare meals in the HUUF kitchen. Through song, ritual, and direct action, we will embrace values we hold dear.

Children and Families Religious Education:

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Our wonderful RE staff continues to provide meaningful engagement in the form of games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories & outdoor play to our youth, grades Pre-K-5, during Sunday services. Nursery Care is also available for our babies and toddlers. Please, see this month's service descriptions for more details.

This month, we'll be exploring the topic of "Vulnerability" as part of our ongoing learning through the Soul Matters curriculum.

Fellowship Engagement:

PB & Jams!

Every fourth Friday at the Fellowship *March 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We continue our partnership with the Church of the Joyful Healer in McKinleyville. Each Saturday, they offer a warm meal, bag lunch, hot coffee, and a place to get warm for folks experiencing homelessness in that neck of the woods. Join us as we make 25 PB&Js to help their project on the fourth Saturday of the month. We'll set up for karaoke in the Sanctuary, and sandwich-making in the kitchen. Would love to have you there!

Saturday Concert with Bob and Maggie! *March 25, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

One wonderful idea that emerged from the early days of the pandemic was gathering outside in the sunshine to hear the rich musical talent that exists in our congregation. Join us for another joyous offering from Bob Billstrom, Maggie Moore, and their band as they play some classic covers and originals. Pack a picnic and your dancing shoes as we rekindle this fun, all ages tradition once more.

Amy Day

Notes from the garden

Fire and birdsong

During January's work party, Stephen and Karen Underwood reclaimed part of the wetland meadow at the far end of HUUF's property, tending a large burn that consumed woody slash from fallen branches and trimmings. A few weeks later Karen was joined by Lynne Abels, Margy Emerson, Katherine Almy, Pat Carr and me, once again weeding our refurbished RE garden bed. Lynne and I moved some rather invasive - but native! - yarrow from the bed to the Wisconsin mound, which filters HUUF's wastewater in the big meadow. This is where we'd like to see the yarrow out-compete all the nonnative weedy plants we have to dig out.

We also planted showy native shrubs, ocean spray and blue blossom, at the edge of the conifers just northwest of the main parking lot. They'll soften the transition between the trees and meadow and supply valuable food and shelter for native wildlife. We enclosed them in deer fencing to give them a good start. This completes the transformation of an eyesore of stockpiled soil, rocks, and weeds - a project that was a pleasure to participate in.

Lastly, Katherine sprayed many of our vulnerable plants with a foul-smelling deer repellent to divert them to other plants. While we worked, for the first time this season we heard the song of the orange crowned warbler - a joyful harbinger of spring!

Please join us if you can for our next work party, scheduled for Saturday March 11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. It will do your spirit good to tend our plants, enjoy some camaraderie, and listen to the chorus of birds singing their hearts out.

Valerie Gizinski



February Grounds Work Party volunteers (from left) Lynne Abels, Margy Emerson, Katherine Almy, Karen Underwood, Valerie Gizinski

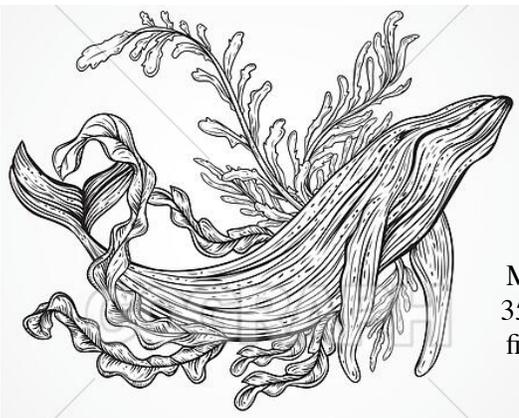
Cosponsored by our Fellowship's Climate Action Campaign

Bull Kelp Research in Humboldt: From Ocean Warming to Farming

A FreeTalk by Rafael Cuevas Uribe, Marzia Fattori and Kalani Ortiz

Monday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Register to Listen and Participate [Here](#)



Cal Poly Humboldt professor, Rafael Cuevas Uribe, and his students, Marzia Fattori and Kalani Ortiz will discuss their bull kelp research on the 350 Humboldt Speakers Series. In 2019 Cal Poly Humboldt established the first commercial licensed seaweed farm in open waters in California. They started growing Pacific dulse, a type of red seaweed. Now they are culturing bull kelp. They will describe the farming process and their research on the lethal temperature that bull kelp could resist as well as other climate implications.

Climate Action of the Month: The Scoop on Poop

It seems to me that more comes out of my cat than goes in. Maybe dog owners feel the same way. Disposing of all that waste in an eco-friendly way takes some thought.

The best way to deal with dog waste is to pick it up with a shovel and flush it down the toilet. Or—as Chip Sharpe’s son does it—shovel it directly into the sewer clean-out outside the house. You can also bury it in your back yard.



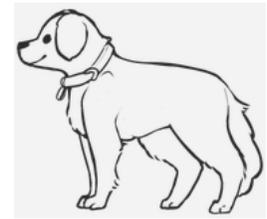
But what if you’re on a walk? Dog waste should be picked up whether you’re in the forest or in your neighborhood. Parasites and bacteria can live in dog waste including *E. coli*, salmonella, ringworm, and tapeworm. These pathogens can get into waterways and eventually the ocean.

“Biobags” sourced from plants like corn can be almost net zero carbon. They emit carbon into the atmosphere as they biodegrade, but new corn plants pull that carbon out. Check the label to see what they’re made of. Bags sourced from fossil fuels may be treated to break down, but they contribute microplastics to the environment.

Pat Carr doesn’t like the biobags because they’re too permeable and it feels like the contents are oozing out onto his hand. Joanna Welch was disappointed to find that biobags (used for kitchen scraps) didn’t break down in her compost bin, but that was a while ago, and

she thinks the bags may be better now.

Cats (other than mine) can actually be trained to use a toilet and flush. For cat litter boxes, wood pellet-based products are the most sustainable. Debby Harrison and Greg Blomstrom use a wheat hull-based clumping litter (sWheat) and burn clumps and poop in a wood fire. Clay litter is not considered sustainable because it has to be mined.



Dog poop is compostable, but should not be used on edible plants. Cat waste should never be put into home composting bins. According to Myles Stubblefield, who has a dog training and boarding business, and uses worms (vermicomposting) to compost dog waste, “Non-food waste requires extremely strict parameters of time and temperature. So we only use the compost on grasslands, shrubs, and trees.”

This is why my research keeps telling me we need a municipal composting facility that accepts pet waste. The new facility planned for Eureka will not compost waste; it will sort it and send it on to a yet unidentified composting facility. It’s an open question whether pet waste will be accepted along with green waste and food waste.

Because we do indeed live in an interdependent web of existence, environmental issues are never simple.

Margy Emerson

Climate Campaign, from page 2

drawing up 350 Humboldt’s comments to the commission.

As Arcata’s Planning Commission reviews the Gateway Plan and its accompanying zoning code, we must keep asking decision-makers to support the core features of the plan: developing dense housing in a walkable, transit-oriented, climate-friendly neighborhood. The Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP) asks that people send a brief email (two or three sentences) to the Planning Commission every few weeks expressing your support of the above-mentioned core features. Repeating the same theme is fine, and there’s no need to be detailed or unique in your emails to be impactful.

If you’re willing to do this, email colin@transportationpriorities.org, and CRTP will send a reminder when it’s time to submit a new email, along with comments they will be submitting to give inspiration for your email.

Another reminder, CAC has joined the Caring Circle Collaboration to promote car-pooling to and from HUUF services and other Fellowship events. CAC members who are available to provide rides include Chris Chapin, Cena Marino, and Joanna Welch (from Eureka). Rides from Arcata may be obtained from John Schaefer and Pat Carr (refer to the HUUF Directory or huuf.org for phone numbers). All agree to wear masks and provide ventilation in the car. Reimbursement for fuel costs may be requested.

Citigroup is the world’s second largest funder of fossil fuel development, but their CitiBank credit card is widely used as a member ID to gain access to Costco. To align our purchases with our values, several HUUF members are considering ways to stop using the CitiBank card. Some of us will pay cash, or use a different, less fossil-fuel oriented credit card for Costco purchases; or pay off our monthly bill before it accrues interest. Here’s a petition asking the Citibank CEO to drop fossil fuels: <https://tinyurl.com/yafcnz39>

Happy Spring days to everyone from CAC!

Sue Lee Mossman



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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April HUUF Newsletter deadline March 20

Don't get waylaid by spring fever! Send your valuable submissions to newsletter@huuf.org by 5:00 p.m. Monday March 20. It's easiest to simply add your submission to the text of an email, as Word and some other attachments are challenging for the editor to work with, and PDFs are often impossible to use.

Classified ads: *such a deal to get your word out!*

At only a dime per word, classified ads spread the word about what you have to offer. Send the text of your ad to newsletter@huuf.org by the 20th of each month (there is no August issue) and send your payment to the HUUF office..

Classified ads

At Back In Balance,

Energy worker **Debi Cooper** CRP, CCP, aids those suffering from low energy, fighting illness and feeling blocked. Schedule your consultation appointment today. Special discounts for HUUF members. Call 248-227-2124.

A reasonable question

How many Unitarian Universalists does it take to change a lightbulb?



Answer: We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the light bulb. However, if you have found in your own journey that lightbulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your lightbulb and present it next month at our annual lightbulb Sunday service in which we

will explore a number of lightbulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Submitted by Montana Caouette

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Loving Care for your home and pets

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