

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved HUUF Community

*March 2025*

## Together, we can open doors wide

*Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issue from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way.*

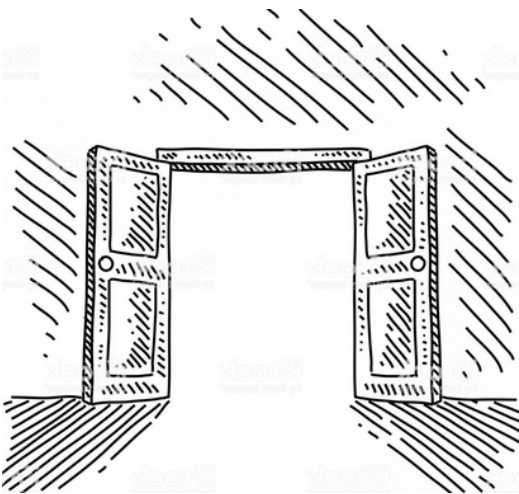
From Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Begin it now.*

W.H. Murray

On Sunday, February 2, by mid-afternoon, I was receiving texts, alerting me to what was transpiring at the Congregational Meeting. Later in the day my phone started

ringing in earnest. There was news to be had, and it was joyous. The community had come together and diligently, devotedly, and congenially made a decision about the future of leadership here at HUUF. By Monday, I noticed a shift inside my body.



An energy source formerly fettered, it felt as if something had been undammed within me. The multitude of ideas, inspirations, projects, dreams that had been blooming on the edge of my consciousness—longings for who and what we can become together—all of a sudden had a place to go. I could

*See Together, page 2*

## Adventures in volunteerism

Want to nourish our community and make friends while dipping into stimulating volunteer opportunities? We have plenty of opportunities for you to share your skills.

The Canvass Committee leads on our Pledge Drive, which starts April 1. Members will contact people, create graphics to show pledges received in the past and where we compare as we progress through the drive (thermometer? yellow brick road? color in the redwood tree?), and perhaps survey the congregation about what they'd like to see at the Fellowship and what they'd like to do.

The Pledge Drive will dovetail with the Service Auction on April 26, which will double as our Pledge Party, so the Canvass Committee can take part in that too.

Donations for the Service Auction have ranged from cleaning out someone's refrigerator to a weekend in a woodsy vacation home. (Do you have a summer home lying around somewhere?) You might take someone to the movies, buy them popcorn, offer to hold their hand if they'd like. Other past offerings include handyman services; house and/or pet sitting; a few hours of childcare; a halibut, vegan, or vegetarian dinner; a case of home-brewed beer; a massage or gift certificate for one; a workshop on T'ai Chi, Yoga, Tarot, origami, or haiku; examples of your art or craft; high quality items you're ready to get rid of, like an exercise bike or computer. People have made gift baskets of food, wine, toiletries, and books, led backpack trips. Donations have come from local businesses including Holly Yashi, Booklegger, North Town Books, Ferndale Repertory Theater, Los Bagels, Wildberries and more. (Do you have friends in high places at

*See Adventure, page 2*

## ***Together, from page one***

dust them off the shelf and hold them now fully up to the light, give them their due attention and their care. These little seeds, nestled in my being, now had real and fecund soil in which they could be planted.

When I teach the children's theatre program at my daughter's school, I let the students know right away that there is a magic word within the space we inhabit together. "Please?" some of them posit. "Action!" still others conjecture. And I tell them it's much simpler than that. "Yes," I say, "This is the word that will open doors and possibilities you didn't know existed. 'No' will close them, shut things down. 'Yes' will always open them wide."

Beloved Community, I have felt the power of your "yes" within my being. I have felt that quixotic exchange that occurs when two cogent beings make the brave decision to turn toward one another, *choose* one another, and embark upon an unknown path of co-creation. What a beautiful thing. "Now we can *build*," my soul sings. "Now we can grow this place once more and walk it into its next era of flourishing." Now we can do great things.

Thank you for your faith in me, your trust. I hold it dearer than I can say. It has been one of the great joys of my life thus far to serve this beautiful community, and I am so excited about what we can collectively bring about in the time to come. There is power and magic here. I feel it. May this serve as a powerful foundation for the years to come. May we continue to joyously step into the work of collective liberation and care to which we are called. May we be reminded, however often we have need, of the transformative shifts that occur each and every time we hear the call of Spirit, and step in whole-heartedly, broken open and fully committed to the holy labor that is uniquely ours in this world.

Yours in grace and gratitude,  
*Amy Day, your newly appointed Lay Minister*

## **All-member service reaches consensus**

Thank you to all the HUUF members who participated in the process of finding consensus in our community around the next steps for HUUF ministry. On February 2, we held our third all-member service and successfully came to consensus on the following proposal, edited into prose form. The full chart notes can be found on the HUUF website.

As Amy Day writes on the front page of this newsletter, we have asked her to be our lay minister. While the minister has an important role, all policies, positions, and collective opinions (consensus) of the congregation remain sovereign. We will seek a part time administrator to work under her supervision. Amy will be a part of the team selecting staff. In addition, we commit to developing positions of Director of Religious Education (DRE) and a Volunteer/Fundraising Coordinator. Amy will further her education in Unitarian Universalism and ministry topics with studies and potentially classes (mostly online) through Starr King or Meadville Lombard Seminaries for which the congregation would pay. Her education will include trauma-informed care, both for her benefit and for the well-being of others.

*Josh Charles*

## ***Adventure, from page one***

local businesses? Don't hesitate to avail them of this opportunity.) We already have several donations, including Amy's offer to deliver a sermon on the topic of your choice.

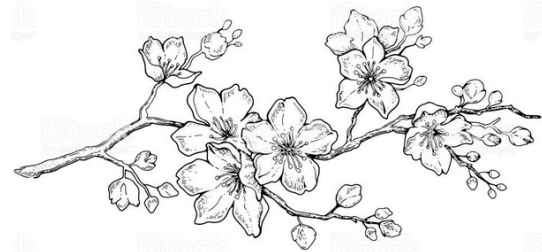
Plenty of delectable food and drinks will be provided. This is a fun event that has traditionally been our main fundraiser of the year. Be inventive! Express your talents. Think about what you can donate to our community.

After the Service Auction, our next fundraiser will be our first Summer Solstice Fair on Saturday, June 21. It will open with a solstice (Litha) ceremony. There will be booths and tables for members and non-members to sell their wares, food trucks, music, and a Kid Zone complete with Bounce House. If you've had a booth at the Halloween Festival, think about what you'd offer kids at the Summer Solstice Fair. Indoors we'll have classes in T'ai Chi, Yoga, and drumming. What would you like to teach?

Speaking of fun events, I can't forget our all-Fellowship retreat on the Mattole River, August 8-10. Join in the talent (or no-talent) show, the songs around the campfire, the swimming, activities for kids, and do-nothing time—you plan it. This is another chance to be creative. Meetings will convene in April. Berti will support the project, but we need someone to take the helm.

There's a lot to look forward to at HUUF. Let me know what you'd like to participate in and I'll connect you with people planning those events. Thank you.

*Margy Emerson, Board President*



# Sunday Services

## **Sunday, March 2, 11:00 a.m.: *HUUF hosts The Balourdet Quartet***

In this music-oriented service, the award-winning Balourdet Quartet will share their musical gifts. Come hear musical selections from Schulhoff, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven. The content of this presentation has been curated by Eureka Chamber Music Series artistic director Tom Stone, who will lead a panel discussion on the history of these composers and why this music remains relevant today. Come nourish your soul and recharge for the resistance in front of us.

## **Sunday, March 9, 11:00 a.m.: *Raise Your Voice: Gihane Hyden of Humboldt for Palestine, and Amy Day***

On the list of Actions of Immediate Witness put forth this past year by the UUA was the call to be "in solidarity with Palestinians" through acts of public witness, education, organizing and advocacy. Now more than ever, it's crucial to take meaningful action to support their lives, dignity, and future. Our service will bring forth voices from within our community who have been on the forefront of this effort: mobilizing resources, building community, and amplifying Palestinian voices in the struggle for justice and human rights.

Together we can create change. Together we can stand for freedom and justice. Join us to explore how we can mobilize for Palestinian lives—because every action counts.

## **Sunday, March 16, 11:00 a.m.: *Rebellious Love: Jeanine Pfeiffer, Amy Day, and panelists***

In solidarity with our 2SLGBTQIA\* and TGQNB\*\* communities, we will hold a special workshop service on "Rebellious Love." With support from Queer Humboldt, this service will feature a panel of invited speakers, games and stories for children and adults, educational enlightenment, and a celebratory coffee hour with special cookies.

\*Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual

\*\*Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary

## **Sunday, March 23, 11:00 a.m.: *Ostara Celebration: Yemaya Kimmel and Amy Day***

Before there was "Easter" there was Ostara: a Pagan holiday that celebrates the spring equinox. It's a time to honor the changing seasons, the renewal of life, and the awakening of nature (both within and without.) Join us for this joyful Earth-based service marking another sacred turning of the wheel of the year.

## **Sunday, March 30, 11:00 a.m.: *Inherent Mirth and Dignity: Liz James***

We are delighted to welcome internationally acclaimed Liz James to our pulpit. She has the ability to sprinkle humor into meaningful and sometimes difficult topics. What do you do when the life you've imagined is stuck in committee? Join us for the story of the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society, the practical joke that accidentally turned into a 270,000 member online UU community. It's a story of feeling lost, finding yourself and UUism—outside-the-box.

Liz James is the founder of the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society (UUHS); half of *The Cracked Cup* podcast; and is working on a book with Skinner House Press. She also runs Mirth and Dignity, an organization devoted to supporting diverse expressions of Unitarian Universalism that are filled with meaning and joy, and see change as adventure.

A potluck will immediately follow the service. Please bring your ready-to-serve potluck items to the kitchen prior to the service. The oven will be used to keep things warm during the service, but not for cooking.

## Annual congregational meeting, Sunday, March 9, following service

Traditionally at this annual meeting, the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees, and the congregation decides whether to come to consensus on them. The Nominating Committee has informed the Board that they won't be ready to propose candidates by March 9, so the Board election will come later. If you've been a member for at least a year and are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Sylvia Shaw, the Nominating Committee chair.

At this meeting the congregation will consider whether to endorse or modify the UUA's June, 2024 Action of Immediate Witness: Solidarity with Palestinians. The text is provided in the article below.

We will also decide whether to reaffirm our June, 2017 Sanctuary Movement Pledge. At that time, HUUF joined with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and pledged to resist federal targeting and deportation of undocumented immigrants, as well as the government's discrimination against marginalized communities. The text of HUUF's Sanctuary Movement Pledge is provided below, as part of a press release from Rev. Bryan Jessup. The press release includes some of HUUF's history as a Sanctuary Congregation.

This month the UUA joined a multifaith coalition in a lawsuit challenging the rollback of ICE's sensitive locations policy, which protected houses of worship, schools, and hospitals from immigration enforcement actions. The suit asserts that "faith communities must remain sanctuaries for those facing oppression, in accordance with our commitment to justice and religious freedom."

The Action of Immediate Witness and HUUF's commitment as a Sanctuary Congregation are urgent issues that our Fellowship will want to weigh in on. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, March 9, after the service.

*Margy Emerson, Board President*

### **Action of Immediate Witness: Solidarity with Palestinians:**

*Enacted by the UUA on June 22, 2024*

Our Unitarian Universalist faith draws on the moral imperative of radical love, and despite all odds, calls us to uphold a world where liberation is real and we all thrive.

Our faith community has long recognized the horrors of violent antisemitism against generations of Jewish people and we reaffirm our commitment to their safety. Our support for Jewish well-being was never meant to undermine the rights and lands of Palestinian people. We seek a world where our Palestinian and Jewish kin are safe. We believe that until Palestinians are free, none of us is free.

We decry all the violence of October 7, 2023. We further acknowledge that we cannot possibly contextualize all that led to this point, but note that Israel's occupation and repression in Gaza has been decades long.

Unitarian and/or Universalist congregations and communities around the world have issued calls for peace, justice, and reparations in the Palestinian territories for decades. In 1948, 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced, and at least 280,000 were displaced in 1967 when additional Palestinian lands were violently occupied against international law. [UUA General Assembly resolutions](#) in 1982 and 2002 called for ending the occupation of Palestinian lands and a [1982 UUA Board of Trustees resolution](#) declared that "criticism of the policies of the

*See Action of Immediate Witness, next page*

### **Press release from 2017**

#### **Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: A Sanctuary Congregation**

The Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (HUUF) affirmed Sunday, June 11, 2017, at a Congregational Meeting to become a *Sanctuary Congregation*. This declaration of a Sanctuary Congregation followed several months of congregational study and education, and listening to neighbors affected by the recent federal push to deport illegal immigrants and break up families.

The HUUF Congregation declared: As people of faith and conscience, the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship joins with the Unitarian Universalist Association, and pledges to resist the federal administration's policy to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open our congregation and community as sanctuary space for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, other faith communities and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

Therefore, HUUF's congregation covenants to:

- \*Take a public, moral stand for immigrants' rights.
- \*Reveal through education and advocacy the actual suffering of immigrant workers and families under current and proposed legislation.
- \*Protect immigrants' privacy and safety and protect them against hate, workplace discrimination, and unjust deportation.

*See Sanctuary Congregation, page 6*

## ***Action of Immediate Witness, from previous page***

government of Israel should not be equated with or confused with anti-Semitism.”

Today we recognize that Zionism is increasingly intertwined with supremacy and nationalism which our faith has consistently rejected as unjust and discriminatory. In recent years, major human rights organizations have published reports documenting the [apartheid policies and practices of the State of Israel](#).

A growing number of Unitarian Universalist communities and individuals are calling for ending unconditional military aid to the State of Israel and affirming solidarity with Palestinian safety, support, and self-determination, including Black Lives of UU, Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UU College of Social Justice, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Unitarian Universalist Association senior leadership, and thousands of UU religious professionals, lay leaders, and congregants. With the U.S. providing Israel the highest amount of military aid in the world, UUs in this country bear a responsibility to speak out against these policies.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has subjected Gaza to indiscriminate bombings with US-made weapons, resulting in civilian casualties, including journalists, aid workers delivering food and medical supplies, and healthcare workers. As of May 25, 2024, over 40,000 have been killed, including over 8,000 children, counting identified Palestinians and bodies under the rubble, 20,000 orphaned, and nearly 80,000 wounded, including thousands of amputees. Israel has blocked necessary aid delivery, depriving Palestinians of food, water, and medicines and causing famine with starvation deaths in the hundreds and 1.6 million in danger. The targeted and widespread destruction of medical, cultural, agricultural, educational, and religious sites constitutes [ethnic cleansing](#).

At the same time, Israeli settlers are conducting violent attacks on Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank and the Israeli settlement movement is being hosted in U.S. synagogues to sell illegally confiscated land in the occupied territories.

The Israeli military’s deliberate targeting of Gaza’s hospitals and healthcare infrastructure, along with the killing of health workers and the withholding of food and water, is causing a humanitarian crisis that threatens the survival and well-being of the Palestinian population. The International Court of Justice has labeled these actions as plausible genocide and has urged countries that are parties to the Genocide Convention to halt any actions that could contribute to this grave situation.

The persecution of the Palestinians is also connected to a global commitment to profits over human lives and parallels greed-fueled conflicts in Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia. While we call for the liberation of Palestinians, we also call for the liberation for all persecuted people across the globe. At the core of our Unitarian Universalist faith is the belief that life is sacred. Amidst global efforts to tamp down on speaking up for the lives of Palestinians, Congolese, and all oppressed people, we must find our courage to live and speak our beliefs into the broken, breaking world.

Solidarity with Palestinians faces escalating repression in the United States. Thousands of students are staging peaceful protests against the massacres, with universities enabling police forces to conduct hundreds of arrests. These demonstrations are also met with attacks on free speech, providing a pretext for both state and paramilitary violence. A bill declaring criticism of Israel to be antisemitic, based on a [controversial definition](#), has been approved by the House, and the Senate is expected to affirm it as well.

[Over 325 groups have signed the Apartheid-Free Communities solidarity initiative](#) of the American Friends Service Committee, including four major denominations: Alliance of Baptists, Disciples of Christ, the South Central Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and the United Church of Christ. Unitarian Universalist signatories include Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East. Now is the time for the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations to declare support for this movement.

Resolved: We, the delegates of the 2024 General Assembly, call on our UU congregations and communities to be in solidarity with Palestinians by engaging in the following actions based on the guidance of Palestinian and impacted partner organizations:

### 1. Witnessing

- Call for the liberation of Palestine and an end to the apartheid; declare our moral outrage and shared horror at Israel’s massacre, mass incarceration, torture, destruction of the land, and poisoning soil for future generations, and decimation of systems of care that support life in the region.

*See More Action of Immediate Witness, page 6*

## **More Action of Immediate Witness, from page 5**

- Call for an immediate permanent ceasefire, massive humanitarian aid, the release of all captives, and an end to genocide around the world.
2. Educating:
- Hold teach-ins about Palestine and Israel that include sacred spaces for spiritual processing.
3. Organizing and Advocating:
- Engage with Palestinian-led groups and coalitions supporting liberation.
  - Sign, amplify, and carry out the Apartheid-Free Communities Pledge.
  - Support boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel and corporate enablers, and end US military aid to Israel until it ceases its policies and practices of apartheid, military occupation, settler colonialism, and genocide.
  - Protect the freedom and safety of solidarity activists by supporting protests and opposing legislation and policies that restrict First Amendment rights.

For more information contact [socialjustice@uuu.org](mailto:socialjustice@uuu.org).

## **Sanctuary Congregation, from page 4**

\*Act in solidarity with immigrant communities to stop deportations, separation of families, racism and exploitation.

HUUF members will support local immigrants threatened by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), advocate for civil and human rights in the Humboldt community, support ordinances that assure our cities and counties do not cooperate with immigration enforcement, and support safe communities and housing.

HUUF will stand alongside other faith communities to ensure dignity and safety for our neighbors.

In 1987, HUUF also declared itself to be a Sanctuary Congregation, and supported a family fleeing El Salvador as refugees from civil disturbance. The support of HUUF led to permanent citizenship for the family, and two daughters have obtained doctoral degrees.

The public declaration of Sanctuary by the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship aligns with the national Unitarian Universalist Association's support of the Sanctuary Movement.

## **Film series worth attending**

The organization Shine A Light On Palestine will sponsor a series of films at Arcata's Minor Theatre this spring addressing the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. The first two films are *Israelism* on Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m. and *Boycott*, Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.

Released in early 2023, *Israelism* reveals a deepening divide among Jewish people about their identity. It's a personal story about two young American Jews who are raised to enthusiastically love Israel. After spending time in Israel and experiencing how Palestinians are treated by Israel, their lives change. Produced by Tikkun Olam, the film is directed by two first-time Jewish filmmakers. The Minor Theater offers a sliding scale charge, \$5 to \$15, for this film.

*Boycott* is a documentary about three Americans who are personally impacted by the influential powers that impact American politics. Unlike other films produced by Just Vision that address relationships between Palestinians and Israelis, *Boycott* focuses on American anti-boycott/divest/sanction laws. *Boycott* premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival in 2021 and Human Rights Watch Film Festival in 2022. The Minor Theater presents it at no charge, as a free event.

I encourage those who want to better understand one of our world's most heartbreaking situations to attend these showings. Register through the Minor Theatre at <https://www.minortheatre.com/>.

*Kate McClain*



## News from the Unitarian Universalist Association

### **ICE policy violates the First Amendment**

On February 11, a multifaith coalition and the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection announced a lawsuit challenging the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency's "sensitive locations policy." Churches (along with schools and hospitals) had previously been protected from ICE enforcement actions, but a Department of Homeland Security memo rescinded that protection on January 20.

"Our sacred spaces must continue to offer sanctuary to those who face oppression, violence, or alienation, including immigrant communities," reported the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The UUA is proud to announce that we are a plaintiff in this lawsuit. We join this multifaith coalition to challenge the ending of ICE's sensitive locations policy, and oppose any interpretation of law which would allow immigration raids in houses of worship and religious ceremonies.

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***"Our sacred spaces must continue to offer sanctuary to those who face oppression, violence, or alienation, including immigrant communities"***  
***Unitarian Universalist Association***

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The suit asserts that subjecting places of worship to ICE enforcement actions without a judicial warrant substantially burdens our religious exercise in violation of the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). These enforcement actions at places of worship interfere with our religious activities and our ability to fulfill our religious mandate to welcome and serve immigrants.

Of the lawsuit, UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald said, "As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), fighting for justice and liberation for all people is at the heart of our faith tradition, which recognizes the spark of the divine inherent in every person; our sacred spaces must continue to offer sanctuary to those who face oppression, violence, or alienation, including immigrant communities.

UUs are united in our commitment through a set of shared religious values, which include interdependence, pluralism, justice, equity, generosity, and transformation, all of which revolve around love at the center. Compelled by those values, we will continue to do what Unitarians and Universalists have done throughout our centuries-long history—use our voices and actions to side with love and help those who are in the greatest need."

UU congregations include members who are immigrants, both documented and undocumented. Many of our congregations provide social ministries that serve immigrant communities in church spaces, such as through food and diaper distribution, ESL classes, a migrant-focused early learning program, and other tutoring and skill-building. And a large proportion of our congregations are located near the coasts, borders, or in cities where immigration-enforcement actions have recently occurred.

For further reading:

- Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) Press Release: [More Than Two Dozen Christian and Jewish Denominations and Associations Sue to Protect Religious Freedoms \(PDF, 7 pages\)](#)
- UU World: [UUA, Other Religious Groups Sue Trump Administration to Halt Immigration Arrests at Houses of Worship](#)

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/sensitive-locations-policy-lawsuit>



Thursday, February 27, on Zoom

### **Social action at HUUF**

[Join us to talk](#) about what we can do as a collective to center the needs of the marginalized. Where can we pool together to be of service? And what communities and causes most need our love and support?

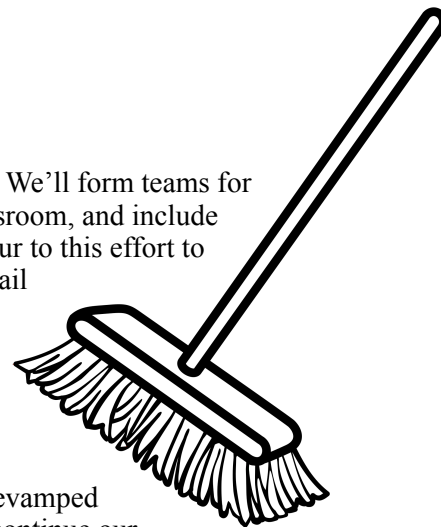
Bring your vision for the Fellowship's social justice efforts to our meeting: on Thursday, Feb. 27 @ 6 pm via Zoom. Check the HUUF calendar for more details and to access the link.

Saturday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### **All-Fellowship clean up day**

Join in a fun, all ages effort to beautify the sacred space in which we gather. We'll form teams for our Spring Cleaning effort to spruce up the sanctuary, foyer, kitchen, children's classroom, and include some outdoor care, as well. We'll have coffee and snacks on hand. Come lend an hour to this effort to help ready our space for another wonderful year together. For more information, email

Amy at [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org).



### **New member class continues in March**

Join Amy Day for the second in our four-part HUUF membership series on Sunday, March 16, at 12:30 p.m. Grab a snack and a warm hello during the newly-revamped Coffee Hour, then meet at the multi-purpose room and join the conversation. We'll continue our exploration of individual spiritual journeys and how this corresponds with the type of work and beloved community we wish to cultivate at the Fellowship. Whether you're a new member, considering membership, or a longstanding HUUF member, this is a great opportunity to build on your understanding of our unique faith tradition and weave yourself into the life and future of this community. Drop Amy a line at [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org) if you'd like to know more or sign up to participate.

### **Voices for Palestine: A community choir project devoted to Palestinian solidarity and liberation**

Facilitated by Sarah Hogan of Humboldt for Palestine, and Amy Day, we'll meet on Sunday, March 2, 2:00 p.m. in the CARE building. Join us as we continue to learn songs (all voices and levels of musicality welcome) to sing at marches, protests, and fundraisers that give voice to the struggle for Palestinian liberation. For those who have been advocating for this cause, this is also a space for collective care and a place to tend to your spirit. Let music and community be a part of your self care in what Audre Lorde called "self-preservation and an act of political warfare."

### **Cold weather supplies for our unhoused neighbors**

Through the end of March, the Fellowship will accept donations of clean socks, sleeping bags, tarps, winter coats, personal sized toiletries and first aid supplies, menstrual products, batteries, pocket hand warmers, sleeping mats, gloves, and non-perishable snacks and lighters. We'll deliver these directly to our friends and partners at Arcata House. Drop off your items at HUUF anytime during business hours - Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **Intergenerational embroidery activity**

Join Bellamy Devine after service on March 16 to embroider denim shades for the outdoor Buddhist shrine in our Memorial Garden. People of any skill level, of any age are welcome to join. I will provide supplies but extra needles and thread are very much appreciated. I hope this is a chance for all ages to come together to create something beautiful. We will be crafting in the multipurpose room or outside as weather permits. Hope to see you there! Contact Bellamy for more information at: [devine.bellamy@gmail.com](mailto:devine.bellamy@gmail.com).

## January and February Board meetings

### **Board report**

The HUUF Board meeting on January 14 was attended by Margy Emerson, Montana Caouette, Corazon Amada, Hart Mendenhall, Jason Teraoka, Amy Day, Jeanne Chapin and Berti Welty.

During the public comment period, Berti reported that George, who aggressively sought to live on HUUF's grounds in the past, has returned to the area. To Berti's knowledge, he has not been to HUUF. A restraining order legally barred George from HUUF property a few years ago, but it has since expired.

Sylvia advised that the process of nominating new Board members is still on hold and gave an update on her communications with current Board members.

The Board agreed to purchase a subscription to QuickBooks, which will cost \$300 per year and would make financial reporting much easier and more efficient.

Margy reported that she is working with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to join the UUA retirement system. There are three items needed to complete this: pass a resolution (which has been drafted), update the staff list, and sign an employer participation agreement.

The Board discussed the possibility of forming a Mediation Committee to handle intra-congregational conflict. Based on UUA guidance, the Nominating Committee will draft language for disruptive actions.

The purchase of the solar inverter was approved. Donations toward the new solar inverter were received from Scott and Susan Allen and Valerie Gizinski and Pat Carr. Each couple generously contributed \$500. Chip Sharpe and Celestine Armenta generously donated \$4,000 toward future battery purchase for the solar system.

The HUUF Board meeting on February 11 was attended by Margy Emerson, Montana Caouette, Corazon Amada, Hart Mendenhall, Josh Charles, Jason Teraoka, Amy Day, Sylvia Shaw and Berti Welty.

During the public comment period Berti requested that, at the next congregational meeting, HUUF members need to vote on whether we will support the UUA's stance regarding the Gaza issue. Berti also feels that HUUF needs to re-affirm our stance on immigration.

The Board expressed their gratitude to the Consensus Committee for the hard work they did on the recent congregational meetings. The Board welcomed Amy in her new role and will begin the process of drafting a new contract for her. The Board will also begin to define the role and assign a title of the third position (Volunteer Coordinator/Congregational Engagement Coordinator and Director of Religious Education).

Representing the Hiring Committee, Corazon updated everyone on the hiring process for the new administrator. The candidate pool was large and competitive. A selection was made and an offer will be presented to the candidate.

Amy presented her Director of Spiritual Life Report. She requested that HUUF divest itself from Facebook and Instagram social media platforms and the Board agreed. Amy will also start training for her new role at HUUF as supported by the Board.

The Board consented to making Treasurer Hart Mendenhall HUUF's QuickBooks Primary Administrator.

UUA Certification requirements have been fulfilled. This ensures our General Assembly delegates will be able to vote.

The Finance Committee will begin planning the budget for next fiscal year. It was mentioned that it has been many years since HUUF's budget has been audited and that it would be difficult to formulate a budget with a clear understanding of the current economic condition.

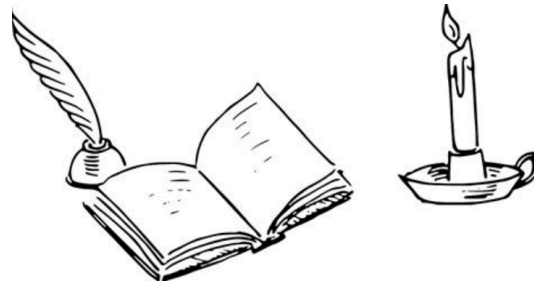
We discussed planning for emergency situations. It was suggested that we come up with a list of emergencies to be planned for (such as First Aid Kits, AED machines). We discussed staff needing to be up to date with first aid/CPR certifications and that HUUF member emergency contact information needs to be acquired.

Lastly, the Board wanted to extend deep gratitude to Bek Paez for acting in the Administrator position for the last six weeks. Bek did an amazing job with limited resources.

Our next Board meeting will be held in the HUUF Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m., March 11. The first 30 minutes of every Board meeting is reserved for HUUF members to address the Board and Amy Day.

Errata: In the December issue of the *HUUF Newsletter* the following sentence was incorrectly reported: *The December 12 Board meeting was attended by Margy Emerson, Corazon Amada, Amy Day, Hart Mendenhall, Bonnie MacGregor, and Montana Caouette.* The sentence should have read: *The December 12 Board meeting was attended by Margy Emerson, Corazon Amada, Amy Day, Hart Mendenhall, Josh Charles, Montana Caouette, Jason Teraoka, Tom Lewis, Sylvia Shaw and Laurel Busse.*

Jason Teraoka, HUUF Board Secretary



## Climate Action Campaign

### **Things to do for the climate, locally, statewide, nationally**

CAC is collaborating with the Outreach and Action Committee of 350 Humboldt to provide books on climate and the environment to local elementary school libraries. For February's monthly climate action tabling, we collected donations to help fund this project. (A list of the book titles is posted on the bulletin board at HUUF.) Four schools (Cutten, Redwood Montessori, Trillium, and Laurel Tree) have already signed up for books, and we are working to sign up additional schools interested in receiving these books for their libraries. As more sign on, we anticipate future tabling efforts for donations to this project. Additional book titles will be added and as additional schools sign up, we will also seek grants for this project.



On another note, HUUF's solar contractor, Roger, reports that finishing up the addition of more solar panels for our Fellowship awaits good weather and the arrival of the new inverter.

We are allying with other climate groups to make phone calls, sign petitions, and send letters to our legislators to support climate legislation and oppose actions that damage our climate. The big push this year in California is for a "Make Polluters Pay" bill requiring oil and gas companies to pay for reparations from climate damages that they created and profited from in this state. Last fall, New York state passed a climate superfund bill that requires major polluters to contribute \$75 billion toward climate damages. We can do it here too.

At the national level, here's a timely sample message for you to guide your phone call or email. Contact information for the legislators is on <https://huuf.org/cac-climate-action-campaign/> This is [name] from [city, state]. I'm asking [Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, or Congressman Jared Huffman] to do all you can to stop Trump and Musk's seizure of power. Please insist that money that Congress has appropriated gets spent in the way that it was intended. Block any legislation that reverses climate protections and threatens good paying clean energy jobs. We cannot allow illegal actions that threaten our democracy, and it's time to use any and all tools at your disposal to stop them. Deny a quorum, block unanimous consent, max out debate time, use all procedural methods to delay progress, and step up in unified opposition to illegal, non-constitutional actions.

As a preview for our Earth Day Sunday Service (done a little early, on April 13) HUUF will feature Hanna Nielsen, an eco-therapist who specializes in working with people who are coping with the impacts of climate change and the current administration's policies to freeze environmental funding and dismantle regulations protecting the climate and the environment.

In the face of the current administration's pro fossil fuel policies, I'm grateful for the presence of CAC. I don't feel so helpless. I can do something. And part of that something is finding support from members of CAC, and together adding our voices and efforts to those of larger climate groups who are prepared to "litigate, legislate, and agitate" on behalf of Earth's climate and life support systems.

*Sue Lee Mossman, CAC co-chair*

## Announcing OWL class for 4th–6th graders

HUUF is excited to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 4th–6th graders, a comprehensive, age-appropriate program that nurtures self-worth, healthy relationships, and respect for all people. OWL provides accurate, inclusive, and empowering education on bodies, boundaries, and values in a safe and supportive space.

Registration is open throughout March. Classes will begin in April and run until Memorial Day. We'll meet Monday afternoons, with one or two Sunday sessions.

For more details or to register, contact [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org) or visit the Youth and Family section of our website.

## Join in a Spring Cleaning Day

It's time to refresh and renew our space at HUUF. Join us for a Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, March 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., as we tackle a long list of to-do's to keep our community space clean and welcoming.

We need helping hands for organizing, scrubbing, dusting, and more.

We also need snacks to keep our hard working crew fueled. Come for an hour or stay the whole time—every bit helps! Let's make this a fun and productive day together.

Questions or want to donate snacks? Contact [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org).

## UU Hysterical Society comes to town

Liz James, co-founder of the 270,000 on-line group called the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society and leader of Mirth and Dignity, will be our presenter at the service on March 30. She also will lead two workshops that weekend. All are invited to attend. Since space may be tight for the workshops, reserve by emailing Berti Welty with your name and which (or both) workshops you plan to attend. [Bertijo@humboldt1.com](mailto:Bertijo@humboldt1.com). Here's more information:

**Saturday March 29, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Steering in a Tornado: A Field Guide** is a personal development workshop covering topics like avoiding burnout, dealing with polarization, reframing, and developing comfort with failure. You won't hear a lecture. We will watch a YouTube video or two, play a fun game called "powerpoint karaoke," listen to humorous stories, write six word memoirs, and discuss and laugh and have a good time.

**Sunday March 30, 2:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m. The Church of Our Imagination** is a congregational/community development workshop looking at strategies for congregational adaptation.. This is about changing how we think about ourselves: what it looks like to get the word out in a viral world, how to re-envision what we *really* do, what streamlined governance and a failure-friendly culture can look like, and more. This is a story-heavy workshop, with examples of how UU communities are successfully adapting—as well as jokes, discussion and a game thrown in.

## Book Group forming

In *The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul*, author Connie Sweig, Ph.D. reveals how to use inner work to explore the key thresholds of later life and emerge as an elder filled with vitality and purpose. We will take our time working through the book to complete many of the practices listed and process our discoveries. We will come together every other week to share our experiences and encourage one another.

We plan to meet at HUUF for six sessions every other Thursday, 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m., starting March 13, through May 22. (If enough people prefer Zoom, that may be an option instead of in-person meetings.) The book can be purchased online or ordered through Northtown Books in Arcata. Please read the Foreword, Prologue, Introduction and the first three chapters before the first meeting.

If you are interested or have questions, contact Berti Welty, [bertijo@humboldt1.com](mailto:bertijo@humboldt1.com).



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506  
Bayside, CA 95524

**24 Fellowship Way, Bayside (off Jacoby Creek Rd.)**

**(707) 822-3793** <https://huuf.org>, email:  
[office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org)

**Lay Minister:** Amy Day,  
on campus Tuesday and Thursday, email:  
[comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org)

**Administrator:** Bek Paez, email: [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org)

**Communications Coordinator,** Tiffany Hess, on  
campus Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00  
p.m., email: [connect@huuf.org](mailto:connect@huuf.org)

**Sunday Service Pianist:** Annette Gurnee Hull

**Newsletter Editor:** Pat Carr, email:  
[newsletter@huuf.org](mailto:newsletter@huuf.org)

**Newsletter Proofreader:** Stephen Sottong

### **Board of Trustees:**

**President:** Margy Emerson

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## **Letter to HUUF members and friends**

As many of us know, Bridgette Garuti retired as our Director of Congregational Operations at the end of December, 2024. For those who didn't have the opportunity to thank her for her eight years of service to our Fellowship, I invite you to send her a personal note or email. I trust that she would be more than grateful to know how much each of you appreciated her contribution to our community.

Letters or cards may be sent to HUUF at P.O. Box 506, Bayside, CA 95524, and will be forwarded to Bridgette, as will emails to Bridgette sent to [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org).

Best, Kate McClain

## **Grounds work party returns**

February 8 brought a small band of volunteer groundskeepers together at the Fellowship to tidy our playscape and weed the front entranceway. The sun worshippers were given a beautiful day on which to work. Montana, the organizer, would like to thank new and potential HUUF members: Natasha and Lyndon, Skyler, Rigel, Michelle, Elsa, and Jen, as well as longtime members, Tom, Margy, and Cena Marino, who is seen, working hard on weeding the parking lot edge, in the picture to the right.

