

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



April 2016

A note from the minister

When we walk in the door of the Fellowship we can't help but notice—this Fellowship is expanding! Thanks to a generous financial donation from Debi Cooper and a generous donation of time, energy and skill by Scott Allen and others, our foyer is going to be larger and more welcoming than ever.

This visible, external work is indicative of internal work as well. All around this Fellowship people are extending themselves to make room for one another and newcomers. In classes like Thursday Reflections and Sources of Our Faith, we are intentionally listening to one another. We are intentionally making real the statement in our UUA affirmation that says, “The living tradition we share draws from many sources.”

Our UU approach to religion is a grand experiment. Our thesis is that if we commit ourselves to growing as bearers of love and justice (as articulated in our UU Principles), we can learn to accept one another and form supportive community with one another, even though our pathways to feeding our minds and hearts may vary. Learning to genuinely embody this kind of acceptance requires lots of work from each of us. It requires that we each “expand our foyers.”

I am so glad to be part of a congregation that is putting this kind of expansion into practice, both literally and figuratively.

Yours in the building—

Rev. Bryan Jessup



Parenting Together

Please join us for Parenting Together on Sunday, **April 17**, from 1-3 p.m. in the Redwood Roots meeting room. Rev. Bryan Jessup will lead a discussion on parenting UU style and incorporating spiritual practices into everyday life with children. Have lunch at the Social Action Committee potluck after the service, then come to the meeting room by 1 p.m. If you have general questions, contact me at alison.odowd@humboldt.edu. If you would like childcare during the meeting, please RSVP to our Childcare Coordinator, Jen Mager, at jen9510021@hotmail.com by April 10. Our last meeting will be on **May 22** (1-3 p.m.) when we'll have a fun, end-of-the-year outing.

Alison O'Dowd

Stephen Sottong

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In living color

All of the pictures and clip art in the newsletter are in color. To see the newsletter in all its glory, go to our website and look for the newsletter link.

People

Please take time to greet and get to know new members **Andreina** and **Tom Torma**.

Rick Kossow, oldest son of Ginger and Richard, is recovering from surgery and has been given a clean bill of health by his doctors.

Beverly Allen says she has the illusion that she is kicking the infection that kept her home from Ashland.

During this month of Earth Day, I am celebrating a couple of our HUUF warriors for the planet. Please honor the work of members **Andrea Pickart** and **John Schaefer**.

Andrea says: I grew up in a family of nine. Vacations were spent camping in a crowded, dark Army Surplus canvas tent. I slept outside where I could see stars and hear the night sounds. My vast Eastern U.S. camping experience led me to start a Camping and Hiking Club with a good friend in high school. I joined the Explorers, adding caving to my list of outdoor loves, which led to a degree in geology. Along the way I realized ecology was my passion, and the west coast was my home. I got my Master's in Botany at HSU, and became the first full-time preserve manager for the Lanphere Dunes (then owned by The Nature Conservancy). I've spent 30 years working with partners to protect and restore the incredibly complex and diverse dune ecosystems of Humboldt County and beyond, and I've been constantly learning.

My kids grew up jumping off the edge of slipfaces, wading in clear ephemeral pools in the spring, and wandering in the fairy forest of dwarf trees and lichens. In the last decade my attention has been focused on climate change, especially sea level rise. The effects of climate change are already evident on our beaches. The possibility that this rich ecosystem could be completely transformed in my daughter's lifetime is heartbreaking. I am working now with other scientists and dune managers conducting research to understand how our sandy coasts will respond to sea level rise and extreme events and to find ways to increase resilience and adaptation. Working towards a small positive difference helps me cope with the overwhelming nature of the changes that are coming to our beloved planet.

John says: My history in solar energy evolved from mere interest in the technology, to awareness of how important it is for our future, to the further realization that if we don't implement more solar soon our grandchildren's future will be bleak.

With a fascinating job managing research projects in 1985, I tracked early solar and wind installations. I followed how they operated and why they did or didn't work properly. The people working in wind and solar were equally interesting because they all loved their work and knew it mattered.

A Sierra Club article written around 1988 revealed what a threat climate change would be, and how important clean energy could be. At the time I had no idea of its importance. In those days only a very few U. S. utilities and more in Europe recognized solar's bright future. Most fossil interests viewed renewable energy as unimportant, too expensive and too small to matter, or a threat to be opposed. For the most part their opposition has grown over the decades.

My perception of the climate threat has grown, and so has my political activity in reducing fossil fuel usage. After 30 years in this business I'm convinced the only way to arrest climate change is to charge higher prices for fossil fuels. It'll be inconvenient to save the planet, which I now think of as the Garden of Eden, but we can do it.

Sylvia Shaw

Board minutes

Your Board of Trustees met on March 8 to continue the review of the expanded governance system adopted almost two years ago. Other items included approving two truckloads of gravel for the driveway and parking lot as well as budget requests and event planning for the next Fellowship year. Scott Allen received the thumbs up to obtain and spread gravel, which was done within days of the Board meeting.

After a very productive and creative Joint Operations Teams session focused on improving governance in late February, the Board had much to process. Katherine Almy kickstarted that project with an online matrix design for Board members to choose their priorities. A progress report will be presented at the Team meetings in late March.

Budget funds were allocated for members to attend the UU Pacific Coast District conference this Spring and for the Choir Director to attend the General Assembly this summer. The Board applauded the suggestion that there be an all-Fellowship retreat in August.

Religious Education

April 3: Exploration Sunday

Preschool:

We will read the story, "Make Way for Ducklings," discuss being responsible, and create paper clocks to help us manage our chores and daily tasks.

Kdg-2:

We will revisit previously scheduled activities. What does the Earth give us? What do we do to affect it? We will make tornadoes and explore materials from the Earth itself. If it's nice weather we will play a game about ecosystems. How many mosquitoes can you eat?

3-5:

We don't use saddlebags much in everyday life anymore, but we have modern ones such as bike panniers or backpacks. We will discuss how these relate to the concept of courage. What does it mean to be courageous? We don't have to fight pirates or dragons to be courageous. Sometimes it means just saying, "That's not ok!" to a classmate who is saying hurtful things to someone.

April 10: All Worship Sunday, all children gather together

How do you worship our Earth? Shall we drum and dance as pagans before us did? Shall we plant seedlings and whisper good wishes to help them grow? Could we take our binoculars outside and look at how much we can see standing in one place? How about we do all of the above? Please bring something that you have from the Earth that is special to you so we can put it on our altar of natural wonders in honor of all the Earth shares with us.

April 17: Exploration Sunday

Preschool:

We will review the story, "Make Way for Ducklings" that we read last week. We will continue our discussion about being responsible, and work on our paper clocks.

Kdg-2:

Last day to finish activities before the Earth Day Fair next week. Bring your recycled art back for display if you took it home and wish to share your inventions/creations with our congregation.

3-5:

Have you ever used a listening tool, such as an auto mechanic's listening tool, a stethoscope, large seashells, or even a spy listening toy? Have you ever made a telephone with two cans and a string? We will explore how listening is an important everyday skill, not just for spies.

April 24: Social Action Sunday, Earth Day Fair

We will help set up for the Earth day Fair and help as needed. Come find out our surprise Social Action project for the day. At the end of our year we talked about what our favorite things are to do in RE. Three of your top votes are cooking, selling things and helping animals. We will be doing two of these today; which ones do you think they will be? Come find out.



Spring is arriving! I think Bryan put it succinctly for many of us last month about how we were feeling. But the beauty of nature, for me, is that it does call me to its warmth and to renewal of life. It's no wonder that we as humans celebrate rebirth and renewal as our part of the Earth wakes up again. Birds are returning, flowers are blooming and yes, there is sun. It's easier to feel sunny when it is sunny. Sometimes it's the sunny smile on someone who greets me at church even when it's raining. Let's turn toward the warmth of nature and each other as we join the earth in renewal of life.

Stewardship visiting campaign

Last year, as our congregation approached April Fools' Day, we geared up for our canvass dinner extravaganza—costumes and skits, camaraderie and exuberance, and beautifully decorated tables laden with good home-cooked food. We had a great time as we kicked off a very productive financial campaign. And a lot of us were pretty tired and felt we would think for a while before organizing another such event.

At the same time, many of us missed our former practice of conducting one-on-one visits with everyone in our UU community. Your Stewardship Education Committee determined to take a break from throwing a big party and put that energy into reaching out to our people for a conversation about each person's experience of the Fellowship, including an opportunity to discuss and turn in this year's financial commitment to our collective mission.

Twenty-five or so of our members agreed to devote themselves to these visits and have received training. They are now calling for appointments. Lots of visits have already occurred. Please welcome your stewardship visitor when they call and take this opportunity to freely discuss your feeling about HUUF. Notes will be taken and compiled to help the leadership of our congregation better determine the course of our journey together.

Please reserve Saturday, **May 7**, for a congregational party to celebrate our Stewardship Campaign—our mutual efforts to finance the ongoing mission of our Fellowship. Planning is just underway, but expect a barbecue supper (if the weather's dry), in addition to a fun-filled evening.

Richard Kossow

Make a joyful noise on Music Day

The HUUF Choir and special guests will lead a music service on **April 17** at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Come and add your voice as we worship together through music. If you have a special musical act that you would like to share on Music Day, please contact me directly by Friday, **April 1**. We already have a lot of solo, small group and large ensemble singing, but we are short on instrumental numbers. All musical genres are welcome.

On other fronts, we are so proud of Levi Walls and his acceptance into the Masters of Music Theory program at the University of Texas. We will miss him as he embarks on his new journey this June. We will be seeking a replacement accompanist for the choir beginning this August. Please refer applicants to me for additional information.

Elisabeth Harrington

Earth Day Festival

HUUF will hold its Earth Day Festival on **Sunday, April 24**. The following is a schedule of events:

Outdoors

- 12:30 Lunch provided. Start the solar cooker
- 1:00 Elf and solar car demonstration — Jack Schaefer
Walk to the creek — Alison O'Dowd
- 1:30 Plant seedlings — Jack Schaefer, Chris Chapin
- 2:00 Solar train — Jack Schaefer
- 2:30 Walk to the creek — Alison O'Dowd
- 3:00 Solar cooker demonstration — Jack Schaefer



Indoors, main sanctuary

YouTube presentations of Annie Leonard's *Story of Stuff*, *Story of Water Bottles*, *Story of Change* — Joanna Welch
Plant-based diet documentary — Martha Devine

Indoors, foyer

"How to transition to a new story" — Joanna Welch, Marianne Pennekamp, Rochelle Frankel
Craft project: Mom T-shirts — Judy Rishel
Craft project: Zero-waste zebras — Kate McClain
Craft project: Making nature collages — Eve Anderson

Joanna Welch Lasken

HUUF epic movie nights

April 10: **Out of Africa** – PG, 2 hours 41 minutes. Starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford. Directed by Sydney Pollack. In 20th-century colonial Kenya, a Danish baroness and plantation owner has a passionate love affair with a free-spirited big-game hunter.

April 24: **The Abyss** – PG, 2 hours 25 minutes. Starring Ed Harris, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Michael Biehn. Directed by James Cameron. A civilian diving team is enlisted to search for a lost nuclear submarine and faces danger when they encounter an alien aquatic species.

Debi Cooper



Ode to our CARE Building

We are bursting at the seams with activities, support groups and religious education. Our CARE building is being used almost every evening and all day Sunday, not to mention rentals. Bob Botley, a member of our congregation, in his retirement from UU ministry, took up the leadership reins to get the CARE building built. With the sweat, both physically and financially, of this congregation's members, we built our CARE building. It was much like how we built our Sanctuary, in that it didn't look like we could financially do it, but Bob knew us better. We may not adhere to one faith, but we do have faith in each other in this congregation. We jump forward and do it! Bob didn't want the building to be named after him. His idea was that we have a contest to name it with his final decision. Trevor Lynn won the contest (he is now living in Chico and going to college, and is still an active UU). He and Bob agreed on Children and Adults Religious Education. It has truly become the hub of all he aspired it to be. Thank you, Bob Botley, for your vision and leadership and to all of those who made it happen with him.

One of the ways we can continue to honor him is by caring for the building we use and love so much. Kate McClain took it upon herself to clean up when she saw the need and had the time last month. Thank you so much. We are using the building at so often, it's hard to keep track of who is getting what done. Please return chairs and tables where you found them, take dishes and cups back to the kitchen. Please leave items of worship in the building. Has anyone seen our Nativity set? Only one wise man is left of the whole group; even the Inn is gone. Please remember that it may be used as a meeting room, but for our children, our classrooms are where we worship. Please be mindful of how you leave the rooms for them.

Jillian Mooney

Deadline info

Deadline for the **May** issue of the newsletter is Wednesday, **April 20**, 5:00 p.m. Send your committee reports and articles to newsletter@huuf.org. Acceptable file formats are .doc, .docx, .rtf and text **only**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Crisp, clear graphics should be sent as a separate file, not embedded in your article.

Stephen Sottong, editor

Becoming a member

If you are ready to become a member of HUUF, please talk to a greeter and we will schedule a time during the week for you to sign the Membership Book. There is a pamphlet available in the lobby which explains some of the details of becoming a member. We'd love to have you join us when you're ready.

Awanna Kalal



CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are 10¢ per word. Send your check to the HUUF office and the text of your ad to newsletter@huuf.org.

AFS students

Embrace the world and become a global citizen. Host an AFS international student or go abroad on a two-week Global Prep program. AFS works with international students from more than 90 countries and offers full and partial scholarships for American students to study abroad.

AFS students arriving in August include Harris, from Thailand, who likes sports and cooking. His teachers describe him as self-disciplined and eager to learn. David, from Germany, and Ella, from Switzerland, hope to play in the orchestra. Yuka, from Japan, likes calligraphy and plays the Koto (Japanese Guitar).

Find out more at AFS- USA, 800-876-2376 or afsusa.org, or contact me at abby.munroproulx@afsusa.org.

Abby Munro-Proulx

All Fellowship retreat

August 5-7 will be our first all-fellowship retreat in a long time. It'll be at the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center, which is family friendly and boasts handicap access. Bryan Jessup will be our spiritual guru. There will be swimming in the Mattole River (assuming the water is high enough), and a multitude of activities for all ages. If enough teens sign up, they will have a special teen space. It will be a weekend to remember.

We'll keep the costs low by cooking our own food. Sue Mossman will be heading up the food detail.

All these wonderful things take planning. We will have a short initial retreat meeting at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, **May 15** between services in the teen room. We'll decide when and where to meet. I've volunteered to chair the planning but need lots of help. I'll be gone in April, but look forward to hearing your ideas upon my return.

Berti Welty

Folie Douce fundraiser a success

Thanks to all the participants who made this fundraiser a lovely fun-filled evening that netted the Fellowship \$1000. It was such a great feeling to walk into the restaurant and see the faces and hear the laughter of my friends from the Fellowship. The food was excellent, and we had 53 dinner guests.

Berti Welty

Fortuna men's group

HUUF has two Men's Groups. One meets every other Saturday at the Fellowship. The other meets every other Saturday in Fortuna. For information about the Fortuna Men's Group, contact Stephen Underwood at 823unde1942@suddenlink.net or me at chipsharpe@sbcglobal.net.

Chip Sharpe

Aesthetics and art

The April show is the work of HUUF members that create art by assembling images from tangible smaller pieces. These are quilters, mosaicist, stitchers, knitters and more. For May we will again have the Children's Art Exhibit. I am hoping to get some teen art as well. For June and July I am looking for an artist or two with flat, framed work that can be moved and re-hung easily.

The Aesthetics committee is in need of members. We have meetings only as needed, and we do have a budget. We need new eyes and thoughts. Call me at 826-7107.

Cheryl Rau

Ingathering Ceremony

Our annual Ingathering Ceremony will be held on April 3 during the 11:00 service. This is a special time when we will formally welcome the 16 new members who have joined HUUF during the previous year.

Awanna Kalal

Board member bios

The next few months' bios will be of Fellowship leaders in the hope that you will better know who to contact with concerns or feedback. This month, meet the Board's co-presidents.

It has been an honor serving as co-president of the Fellowship. Four and a half years ago a priority became a reality: moving to Eureka. The first Sunday we were in our home we came back to our spiritual home. Eric and I attended HUUF, trying to make it once or twice a month, when our son, Asher, was a baby. At that time we were living in Southern Humboldt. Then our daughter, Lilith, came home, and her homecoming was announced at the Fellowship. Asher lit a candle in RE while Eric and I made the announcement in the sanctuary. Between Saturday excursions to HSU for Music Academy and driving an hour plus each direction, coming to Fellowship fell off the radar.

On our return to HUUF I jumped into service, joining the RE and Worship Leaders committees.

By being a part of committees, I learned HUUF's institutional history. I enjoyed working closely with others. The connections and friendships cultivated continue to enrich my life.

As I pass the baton, I look forward to getting back into committee work, developing cross-generational and diverse cultural activities as HUUF continues to grow. And yes, I already know which committees I will be putting my energy towards.

Jana Kirk-Levine



I am a third-generation Californian, born in the same hospital as my mother (Alta Bates in Oakland). I moved to Arcata in 1969 to attend forestry school at Humboldt State College and never left. I am co-owner, along with six other people, in our small consulting forestry business, where we all practice sustainable forestry. Prior to that I worked for 20 years as a forester for the Hoopa Valley Tribe in Hoopa, CA.

Since arriving in Arcata, I have developed a set of values that I would typify as "liberal" but not particularly religious. My religious leanings come more through praying to the plumbing gods for help in my many plumbing projects than from any interest in "organized" religion. Nonetheless, during my 20 years at Hoopa I came to realize that my belief system is similar to the local Indians and tribes in the area: a reverence for nature and most things natural (except for deer, raccoons and slugs).

Along with my wife, Debby, I have been a member of the Fellowship since 2001 and enjoy the company of the many people at the Fellowship who share our values. Between 2007 and 2014 I was honored to be either a trustee or Vice President of the board of trustees of the Fellowship.

Greg Blomstrom





Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted

I need someone for hand-weeding in my Eureka flower garden. The pay is \$15 an hour. Awanna Kalal 442-4539 or awanna@aol.com

Debi Cooper is offering free Reiki healing sessions to the HUUF community. Please call for more info at 633-6365

SAC April Brunch

This month's SAC Brunch will be April 17, shortly following the second service. This Springtime Brunch will feature a variety of scrumptious entrees, salads, and desserts, blossoming with flavor. Please allow time for getting all food out onto the tables before queuing up. Suggested donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child. Proceeds from April Brunch will support the Rape Crisis Team of Humboldt. Their services to the community include 24-hour crisis counseling, follow-up support and accompaniment through reporting process and court proceedings. They also focus on prevention.

Eve Anderson