

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



May 2019

A note from the minister

As I think of the flow of life and the changes that are in store for Edie and me and for the Fellowship, I think of the word “acceptance.” I think of it because in our third UU Principle we declare our intention to accept one another, and I think of it because for spiritual health we also need to accept ourselves and the flow of life. Like the poet, Robert Frost says: *Nothing gold can stay.*

As individual beings we exist in a continuous process of growth and change. To accept ourselves, we must let go of attachment to rigid notions of how we are “supposed” to be. *Forever young?* Not a chance. Neither we ourselves, nor our friends are “still shots.” We’re “movies,” and like Old Man River, we just keep rolling along.

When we accept the change and flow that is part of our lives, our compassion for ourselves and each other, and our gratitude for life have an opportunity to grow. On May 18 here at HUUF we’re co-sponsoring a workshop about change, and flow, and acceptance. It’s called “Life’s Last Gift.” The focus of the workshop will be on each of us coming to terms with our own mortality and the mortality of those we love. As we accept the truth that our lives all will end, we can often find ourselves touched by what a gift life is in the first place.

The poet William Oliver says: *Life is the greatest gift of all the riches of this earth. Life and its creatures large and small of high and lowly birth. So treasure it and measure it with deeds of shining worth.*

I like that approach, and Edie and I will surely “treasure and measure” our last days with you as part of your great community here at the UU Fellowship in Humboldt.

Yours in the ever-evolving faith



Rev. Bryan Jessup

Council of Chairs

On the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. our HUUF Council of Chairs meets to discuss our collaborative work together and to deepen our leadership abilities. In addition to discussion of our regular work, the Council has engaged such topics as the importance of focusing on the Fellowship’s Covenant and Purpose, and on the notion that participating in community and learning how to work together is actually a powerful spiritual practice. All are welcome on Tuesday, May 28, at 6:30.

Rev. Bryan Jessup

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Services Summer schedule

Beginning May 26, there will be only one service on Sundays at 10 a.m.

People

Anne Weiss, the HUUF “flower girl”, is our volunteer of the month. Please contact her at anwe33@yahoo.com to book your Sunday to bring flowers.

Congratulations to **Patricia Kovner** and to **Steve Sottong** on completing cataract surgery.

Laura, Dan and **Maxine Phelan-Shahin** welcomed Penelope (Penny) Rose Shahin on March 16 at 11:37 am. She’s now over a month old. Baby and family are all healthy, happy and in love!

Welcome back from travels to **Kate McClain, Jackie Wales** and **Shawn Nichols**, and **Terry Uyeki**.

Kathy Layton had a mild stroke in mid-April. She left the hospital for St. Joseph’s Acute Inpatient Rehab facility recently. Please send cards to her home, 1449 Hidden Springs Court, McKinleyville, CA 95519.

Thea Gast is at home recovering and getting stronger every day following treatment for heart issues in Napa. Thank you to **Wendy Rowan** for keeping us informed about Thea. Send cards to her home address, 40 E. 15th St., Arcata, CA 95521.

Beverly Allen died on April 1; her Celebration of Life will be on August 10. Our hearts go out to all of her family and her many friends here at HUUF.

Our hearts are also with all members dealing with challenging times, I am aware of **John McAlinn, Jeff Thomas, Deb Denham** and **Lynn Macbeth**, and **JoAnn Howell**, but no doubt, there are others. We are with you!

People column writer needed

Sylvia Shaw

This position is available, and a great way to get know the HUUF community. The People column writer, Sylvia, is retiring and seeking a replacement. I especially encourage new participants in the HUUF community to dive in and learn about fellow travelers in our universe. The job consists of asking those in the know to feed you information. Seeking to enhance that information with personal interviews and stories is the added treat. Please contact me by text, email or phone, 599-1563, sls500@yahoo.com.

Art & Aesthetics

Sylvia Shaw

Attention HUUF artists: Suzanne Moore had a virtual art store of materials to create in various media including paints, brushes, paper and more. There is also glass and lead for stained glass. The committee charged with following Suzanne’s wishes will open “The Art Legacy Store” at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. You are invited to choose some materials. The store will be at Suzanne’s home, 3759 Chestnut Way in The Lazy J Ranch Mobile Home Park. The park is across the street from Mad River Gardens. Chestnut is the first right upon entering the park. To make reservations for this event please call or email Cheryl Rau at 826-7107, cpetersonrau@gmail.com, Berti Welty at 476-0654 or bertijo@humboldt1.com.

In other HUUF art news, art and words that are various members’ answers to the Climate Action Committee’s Big Think and Challenge are displayed on the walls of the foyer. Also this year the Annual Children’s Art Exhibit also explores The Challenge. The various age groups made art pieces out of re-purposed materials.



Cheryl Rau

RE positions

We are seeking two teachers for the RE program to plan and teach Preschool-K class or the 4th-8th grade group, eight hours per month, for the first three Sundays from September through May, plus the first June Sunday. Compensation is \$15 per hour. Desirable qualifications include a passion for UU principles, a calling to nurture and transform the lives of children, and experience working with youth group dynamics. Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed to apply.

We are also seeking a Childcare Worker, who will: assist the RE teachers, prep snacks, tend the little ones in the nursery, monitor outdoor play, and help clean up. A minimum of two Sundays a month for continuity. Compensation is \$11-\$13 an hour. Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed to apply.

Religious Education

Be Curious. This month's theme invites us to join our youth in practicing curiosity. Many of us are curious about who our new minister will be. The gratitude I feel for Bryan's leadership and loving presence is immense. I will miss him dearly. Celebrate the joy and inspiration he has offered us, while I invite open curiosity about the new gifts this next season will bring.

This season is filled with abundance. Please take time to enjoy the youth art show on display in the Sanctuary. Thank you Dave Woody, Cheryl Rau and HSU volunteers for making this happen. On May 4, CUUPS has invited families to participate in the Beltane Maypole Dance. On May 18, families are encouraged to explore end-of-life issues through watching the film *Coco*, then engaging in discussions and activities.

On June 2, the RE youth will share highlights of their year and participate in a flower communion. I do hope you can attend. It will be a magical and celebratory day.

Family Practice:

One of the cornerstones of the UU faith is asking questions and seeking our own answers. What big questions have you asked your children? I am always struck by their insights. If you do not have a UU hymnal, consider checking one out from the library, selecting daily or weekly readings at dinner or bedtime, then ask your children big questions and listen generously to nurture their curiosity.

April Sunday Program Schedule:

Youth Choristers: final rehearsal and Performance will be on 5/4.

Preschool- K:

5/5: exploring the interdependent web of life through the plant cycle.

5/12: exploring families; the individual characteristics and differences that make us unique.

5/19: celebrate that we are UUs.

1st-3rd grade:

5/5: HSU Religious Studies Major Conner Austin will offer a beautiful contemplation of Race & Diversity in America.

5/12 - Love In Action – We will learn about Harriet Tubman, and how her pursuit of love and justice changed the world around her.

5/19 - Love Is the Golden Rule – Reflecting on all of the love sessions throughout our year, we will assemble a Golden Rule collage board together to embody our love education.

4th-8th grade:

5/5: Explore and practice the qualities of compassionate leadership as we prepare our contribution to the Flower Communion on June 2.

5/12: Practice curiosity through collaborative challenges.

5/19: Practice our segment for the Flower Communion.

Teen Group:

5/5: Explore the themes of transitions and endings with curiosity.

5/19: YRUUP conference in the Bay Area. Teens not attending the conference are invited to help our other youth group classes or enjoy an adult service.

All Ages:

5/26 Service Sunday: Cook dinner for the night shelter.

6/2: End of the year celebration and Flower Communion.



The young adult group is gaining momentum. We meet every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. To stay in the loop, please email Kit Lynn at kitestringsflying@gmail.com. Child care can be arranged, email Kit for details.

Ministerial Search Committee update

The MSC has made our recommendation to the Board of Trustees about hiring a new minister; however, we can't tell you who it is at this time because of confidentiality agreements with UUA and the candidates. Likely you will get an email from the office before the newsletter comes out, naming the candidate. The MSC is comprised of Danielle Stubblefield, Cathy Hanafi, Wendy Rowan, Bonnie MacGregor and Greg Blomstrom.

We started the process with a relatively diverse set of five candidates. Three of the five candidates applied through the UUA web portal and two submitted applications directly to the MSC. One person withdrew after a phone conversation in which the candidate determined that HUUF was probably not the right fit. We dismissed two candidates, one for not being qualified and the other because that candidate proposed commuting from the San Francisco Bay Area.

The remaining two candidates were highly qualified and either one would be a great fit at HUUF. We conducted an hour-long phone and hour-long Zoom interview with each. We also interviewed three references each, in phone calls that lasted from half to as long as an hour, and we collectively spent hours reviewing their sermons. No candidate had all of the qualities the congregation was looking for; however, the candidate we're recommending is very appropriate for HUUF and speaks to many of the qualities the congregation asked us to look for. Regardless, the MSC is excited to make this recommendation and excited for the future of the Fellowship.



Pledge Drive and Budget Development Status

The 2019-20 pledge drive and budget development are in full swing. We are grateful to those of you who have already entered your pledges for July 2019-June 2020 and to the various cost center managers for their budget request information. However, every year the Stewardship Committee and the Finance Committee get nervous about completing their work before June 1. More than a dozen Fellowship members are working to fashion a comprehensive and realistic financial plan for next year. They need your help.

As of April 10, 2018, the Fellowship had received pledges totaling more than \$150,000. With pledges that came in after that date, the Finance Committee and Board prepared a balanced budget based on an estimated pledge amount of \$190,000. This year the Board set a pledge goal of \$220,000. As of this writing, pledges received for 2019-20 are well below \$100,000. You can appreciate our concern. At the same time, we are building several balanced budget scenarios. You can help complete the pledge drive and budget development by submitting your pledge form as soon as possible.

Why did the Board set a pledge goal of \$220,000?

Our Fellowship continues to grow, and with that growth there are increasingly more requests for worthwhile initiatives and programs. This Fellowship is financially solvent. It is owned and generously supported by its members and friends. We are a vital component of our community and intend to build a future responsive to the continuing and ever expanding needs of our membership and community. The Board has always asked us to reach for the future.

Why should I pledge and what is my fair share?

As part of our HUUF Covenant "We commit ourselves to provide spiritual, emotional and material support for these endeavors." A pledge is each person's (or pledging unit's) best estimate of how much they plan to contribute. If circumstances change, so can your pledge. Pledging is a personal commitment to your values. Every pledge, no matter the amount, is an affirmation that we can and will act on our values. Your fair share is whatever you can manage. Every structure starts with a single brick.

Assuming that we have 175 active members, each member's fair share of \$220,000 is about \$1,260 per year or \$105 per month. Remember that this is an average. Some will pledge less due to financial constraints, and others with greater assets will contribute more. It takes the whole village. We hope that all members and friends will pledge at least some amount, in addition to their volunteer hours.

What can you do?

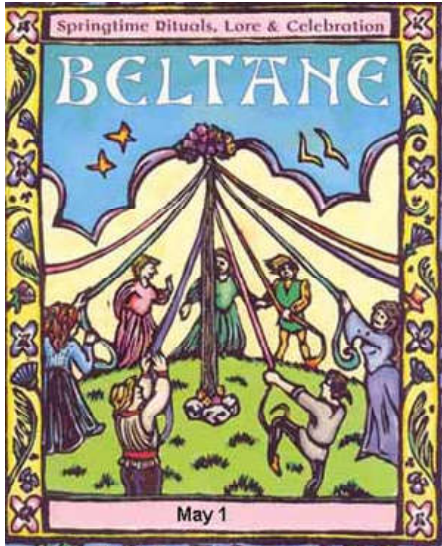
Submit your pledge as soon as possible. Either use a pledge form (several in chalice box in foyer) or go online to <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFpledge>. If you would like assistance in making your pledge online, someone will be available with a computer after Sunday service to assist. Thank you.

Berti Welty for your grateful Stewardship and Finance Committees.

Life's Last Gift

This workshop on May 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be an interfaith multi-generational conversation focused on death as part of life. It will offer an opportunity for individuals and families to talk about their values, attitudes and beliefs about death. The movie *Coco* will be viewed and discussed. Advanced care planning will be explored. In the morning and at lunch all ages will be together. In the afternoon adults and youth will have separate activities. A \$25 donation per family is requested, but no one will be turned away. All are welcome. Dr. Charles Garfield will be the featured presenter. Email me for more information at minister@huuf.org.

Rev. Bryan Jessup



Beltane

Come celebrate Beltane, the Gaelic fire festival marking the halfway point between Spring Equinox and Summer Solstice, on Saturday, May 4, from 5-8 p.m. There will be a ritual and Maypole dance from 5:00-6:30. Bring finger foods and/or flowers. There will be time to eat, sing and drum by the fire afterwards. This is a family friendly event and childcare will be available during the ritual. Children will be invited to dance the Maypole. Blessed be!

Caitlin Bair

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

On Sunday, June 9, at our 10 a.m. service we will welcome new members into the Fellowship. Come celebrate and welcome the latest people to join this beloved community.

Rev. Bryan Jessup

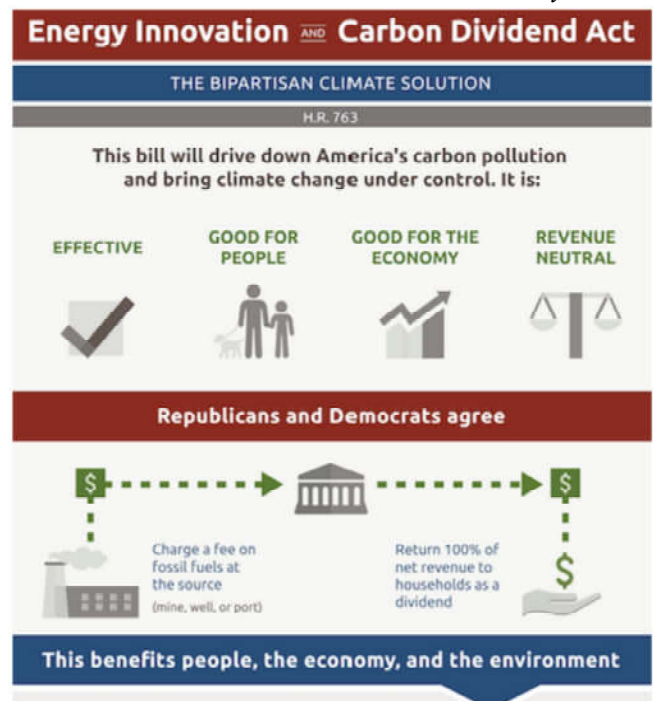
Carbon Dividend Act action

Unitarians from all over the country with an interest in climate have joined with Citizens Climate Lobby. With 139 members, Unitarians form the largest of the many faith groups in CCL. Other UU congregations have endorsed CCL's legislation, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, HR763. Have you ever endorsed legislation? Do you want to? One way is to send a letter to the CCL lobbying group in DC, which they'll bring to members of Congress in May. We'll have postcards to send on Sunday, April 28.

John Schaeffer

Practicing Healing Dialogue

Practicing Healing Dialogue is a workshop for being seen and heard. Couples, individuals (partnered and single), and curious adults of all walks of life are invited to join Yaj, Relationship Coach since 2001, for a learning gathering about Conscious Communication: what it is, what it isn't, and how to do it. Yaj will give information, handouts, demonstrations and facilitated practice of real skills. This workshop is free, open to the public, and designed for anyone who desires a higher level of skill in connecting with others and themselves. The May workshop will be on Saturday, May 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. Email Yaj Jay for more information. yaj@heartmindpartners.com



Steps towards inclusiveness

As a result of the Trans 101 Workshop held Friday, March 29, at HUUF, we are aware that our bathroom signage is not welcoming to all. So we are beginning a conversation to determine what signs would make us truly welcoming.

We are considering signs like the one to the side of the bathroom in the CARE building. At the Pacific Regional Conference in Portland in 2018, bathrooms were designated all-gender. Board members are seeking input from the congregation on this issue. Please let them know your thoughts. Their names and contact numbers are in your directory. The Board meetings, on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30, are open to all.

A helpful link for further information is www.glaad.org/transgender/allies.

Pat McCutcheon for the Board

Poetry reading

Pat McCutcheon, Lori Cole and other local poets will be reading their work at the Fellowship on Sunday, May 5, starting at 2:30. The reading will be in memory of local lesbian poets Suzanne Moore and Jacqueline Letalien, who died last year. The event is free, but a donation for building use will be requested.

May SAC brunch

We are celebrating the diversity of salad this month with vegetable salad, fruit salad, tofu salad, potato salad, pasta salad, chicken salad, and whatever other types of salad our creative cooks can dream up. There may even be some warm varieties of salad. And be sure to expect some scrumptious surprises following the second service on Sunday, May 19. Please allow at least 10 to 15 minutes for food to be brought from kitchen and arranged on tables.

Recommended donation is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child. This will be a combined fund-raiser with proceeds going to both Humboldt Domestic Violence Services and the Rape Crisis Team.

Eve Anderson



An invitation to Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners are a fun, casual opportunity to socialize with other HUUF Members and Friends to get to know each other. These occur once a month at the convenience of hosts and guests.

One or two people host a dinner in their home or appropriate place of their choosing. They decide how many participate. The host usually prepares the main dish and contacts guests, asking them to bring side dishes, salad, appetizer, dessert, beverages, etc. Different people attend each dinner, allowing guests to vary each time.

For those not currently on the Circle Dinner list, please add your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet available in the foyer on Sunday mornings, or contact me at 444-8220. Also please indicate if you are willing and able to host, and what month(s) would be best.

Deadline info

Eve Anderson

Deadline for the **June** issue of the newsletter is Monday, **May 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF to newsletter@huuf.org (email only).

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 are available at:

<http://huuf.org/upcoming-events/newsletter-2/newsletter-guidelines/>

Stephen Sottong, editor

CLASSIFIED ADS

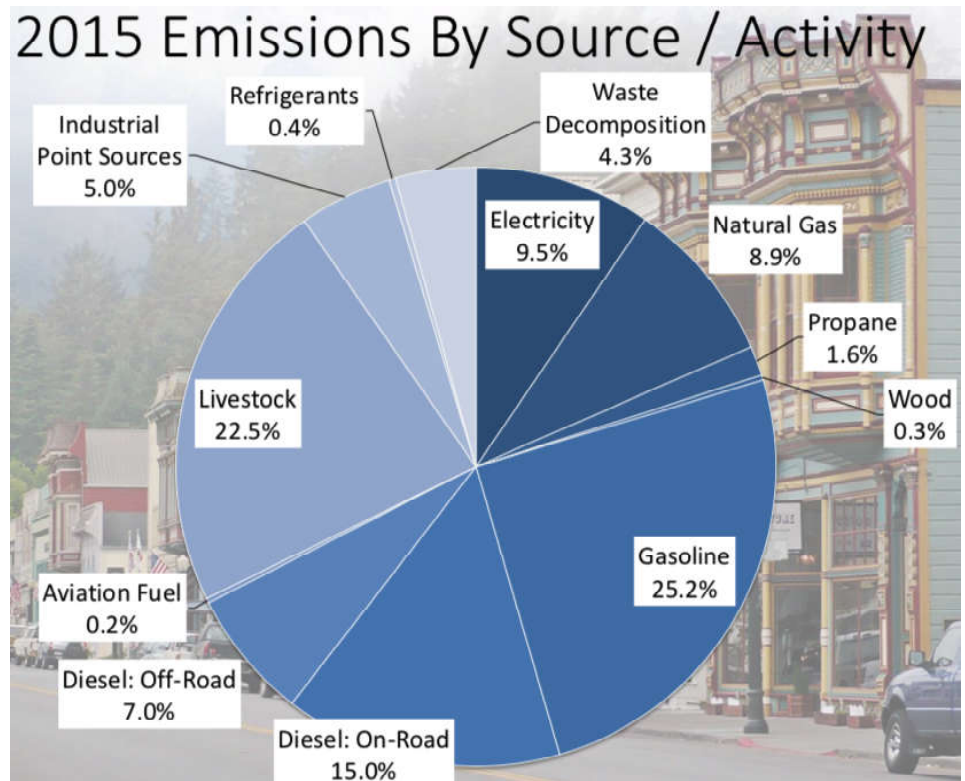
Classified ads are 10¢ per word. Send your check to the HUUF office and the text of your ad to newsletter@huuf.org (email only).

How does Humboldt add to climate change?

If you've ever wondered how our little piece of the planet adds to Climate Change, the graph here will show you. Our county Planning Department prepared this as they start developing a Climate Action Plan, a step toward reducing our Greenhouse emissions.

As you can see, transportation ranks number one in this far-flung county. Surprising to some is that livestock, mainly beef, comes in at number two. Time to start digging into the tofu and veggies?

Pat Carr



Personal climate action opportunities and recognitions

The Board has endorsed a green policy for HUUF events and fundraisers, thanks to the efforts of Sylvia Shaw.

The Climate Action Campaign has endorsed HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. John Schaefer will ask the board to endorse it also. Please visit the CAC's Legislative Table on Sunday, May 26 (note: only one service at 10:00) so you can write to your state and federal legislators in support of HR 763. A sample message, postage paid postcards, and names and addresses of key legislators will be available.

Everyone is invited to stay for the monthly SAC Brunch on May 19. Enjoy a hearty climate-friendly lunch, and help us honor all artists (performance, visual and written) who have submissions in the CAC's Big Think and Challenge, which are on exhibit in the sanctuary and foyer.

Avoid the use of single use plastics. The Bright and Green dishes are available for use by HUUF or community groups. Volunteers are needed to help with the tasks of loaning, washing and sanitizing of dishes through the HUUF sanitizer. Contact JoAnne McGarry if you can help.

See the bulletin board in the hallway for info on the climate and health benefits of veganism.

If you would like to explore the possibility of a HUUF garden, please see Eve Anderson regarding possible coordination with Redwood Roots.

Sue Lee Mossman

Ecology 101: All vertebrate animals produce some methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Both are greenhouse gases that promote global warming. In addition, their feces continue to do so for a while after they are deposited. This is true of ourselves and other monogastric species like pigs as well as the ruminants, the rear gut fermenters like horses, the coprophagous species like rabbits, and also birds.

Animals that eat other animals have inhabited earth for ages. What is new is our use of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. If we are to stop global warming so that humans can survive, we must very quickly stop our use of fossil fuels. That is the only way to prevent catastrophe.

Archie Mossman



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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7th and 8th grade OWL class

Debbie Harrison and Shawn Nichols will again offer a 7-8th grade OWL (Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education) class during the 2019-20 school year. The class will meet on Mondays after school from mid-September through mid-May with some sizable breaks. Check out the OWL page on the website for more details and to register. Space is limited to 12 students.



Go paperless

In a green effort to conserve paper, the Board has determined that our monthly newsletter should go out as usual in May, but a link for it will also be sent to everyone electronically this month. This article is to let you know that you can opt out of the paper version, starting in June, by emailing Bridgette about your choice at office@huuf.org. That way you can access just the electronic copy in the future. It looks exactly the same, but in color, and is posted on the website. The newsletter will continue to be sent to all who do not choose to go paperless. Thank you for your cooperation.

Your Board

Editor's Note: The newsletter has been available online since at least 2009 and has had very low usage. The current newsletter is always available at: <http://huuf.org/Steve/Archives/newsletter.pdf>. Please try using the online version *before* you opt out. In the past, we tried paperless and people found they didn't read the newsletter online, which was why we returned to the paper version.

Steve Sottong