

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



May 2022

Tales of the Transrational

Part of my March 6 sermon contrasted three developmental stages or levels of religious/spiritual consciousness. In ascending order these are:

1) The “pre-rational” or “traditional” stage, where believers commonly deny rational scientific findings to uphold their reading of myth and symbol as historical fact.

2) The “rational” modernist stage, which the late author M. Scott Peck also calls the Skeptic, or Individual, orientation to reality. He writes, “People in this stage are usually scientific-minded, rational, moral, and humane. . . . They tend to be not only skeptical of the spiritual but uninterested in anything that cannot be proven.”

3) The “transrational” post-modern stage, which Peck calls “Mystical/Communal.” Here “people are rational but do not make a fetish of rationalism. . . . They feel deeply connected to an unseen order of things, although they cannot fully define it. They are comfortable with the mystery of the sacred.”

I then stated there are Uus – many of whom came to this faith partly to escape the far-fetched claims and exclusivism of pre-rational religions – who remain largely in the rational stage, while others feel connected to the transrational. Both stages are named in the Six Sources that UUism’s Living (i.e., not fixed but evolving) Tradition explicitly draws upon.

The fifth Source is “Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.” This Secular Humanism is an understandable and necessary corrective to the pre-rational stage. The first Source affirms the transrational (or Transcendent, or Mystical/Communal) stage: “Direct experience of the transcending mystery and wonder . . . which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.”

With this as context, I hope you’ll save Saturday, June 4, from 2-5 p.m. for “Tales of the Transrational” at HUUF. I’ll share examples of transrational experiences in my own life, offer other accounts I’ve found captivating – and mainly invite you to share yours.

Gathering in person is subject to Covid conditions at the time. I’ll also explore the feasibility of simultaneously using Zoom, but that’s uncertain. Though if Covid dictates, we’ll move the whole event to Zoom. Updated information and registration will appear in future Weekly’s and on huuf.org, so please keep an eye out.

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Marianne Pennekamp



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Religious Eploration

To our beloved HUUF families. *“Do not lose heart. We were made for these times.”* Clarrisa Pinkola Estes

Years ago, my friend Therese Fitzmaurice, explained the work of ministry, as she had come to understand it serving alongside Rev. Bryan Jessup and Bridgette Garuti: That it involved the work of relationship, of providing a healing, supportive, engaging and listening presence. That it involved service and care and devotion, wisdom, and a dash or two of charisma couldn't hurt, either.

In recent months, as we have struggled as a congregation to discern our next steps, I have had several people approach me and ask if I would like to step forward and be considered for this work. And I have privately, quietly, stated to them, “Yes. I would.” I am here, and I am devoted to this community, and to all we can become. I have said this quietly, humbly, in hushed tones in private phone calls and meetings, and I realize, now is the time to publicly declare this to you all.

If you desire to have a strong, devoted, skillful spiritual leader at the helm of this organization, I would like to be that person. But more than that, I would like to be a *part of a team* – a thriving, connected, cohesive and diverse cohort of committed leaders – both lay and professional, who hold the combined wisdom, commitment and heart to carry this congregation forward.

I would like us to step away from this fabled notion that a singular, charismatic leader holds the key to our collective destiny. For during my brief tenure here, I have seen that myth thoroughly imploded. Every time I sit inside the sacred circle of a Soul Matters gathering and take in the wisdom and reflections of those gathered there, I know the work of ministry is not done by one. Every time I sit down in inspired conversation and collaboration with my fellow staffmates, and our hearts and ideas come together to create new possibilities and pathways forward, I know the work of ministry is not done by one. Every time I watch a committee come together to craft something rich and substantive with a synergistic blend of commitment, heart and elbow grease, I know the work of ministry is done by the many. Those of us who have felt a calling somewhere deep within us to be a piece of the healing that is needed in this world. Who have summoned what resources we have – of time, vision, money, effort, care – to lean into the possibility of the world we wish to inhabit.

I know it has been difficult for us all these past two years. With the loss of not one, but two appointed Ministers, the far-ranging impact of Covid-19, the deaths of some of our most beloved elders, and all the other infinitesimal conflicts and sorrows that have dominated our awareness at this time. But I would like to imagine our combined losses have not weakened us, but rather created an opportunity for us to find and tap deep reservoirs of strength we did not previously know we possessed.

Inside our very walls, we have a skilled and giant-hearted Administrator, who performs her tasks with great love and deft understanding. A woman who keeps us going in so many ways. We have a Board which does their utmost to guide us and levy decisions on our behalf, who take time away from their own lives and families and precious downtime, so that the larger life of the Fellowship may flourish. We have dedicated, hearty, dependable lay leaders who consistently show up to do what is needed and infuse this organization with wisdom and grit. And perhaps, most importantly, we have a shared understanding and appreciation of, *“the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”*. We know that web can tear and sunder, and has many times before.

Again, from Clarissa Pinkola-Estes:

“We all have a heritage and history of being gutted, and yet remember this especially ... we have also, of necessity, perfected the knack of resurrection.... Look out over the prow; there are [many] boats of righteous souls on the waters with you. In your deepest bones, you have always known this is so.”

Whatever decisions are to be made moving forward, I know they must be made as a whole. A living, breathing, relational organism whose parts are given the opportunity to come together once more, rejoice in one another's long-absent company, grieve what is lost, and steadily, mindfully, compassionately plot the way toward all we've yet to find.

yours in grace & gratitude,

Amy Day (she/her) Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

RE Schedule

Sunday RE, 11 a.m.:

Please join us, in person, as our dedicated team of Youth Religious Educators continue to offer a multi-age, inclusive and deeply nourishing space for our children to gather while adults enjoy the service time. This month, we explore the theme of “Nurturing Beauty” through crafts, songs, stories and outdoor activities.

We welcome youth - from infancy to 12-years-old - to join us in this fun, collaborative and curiosity-led space.

May 1 - Happy Beltane! Make sure to join us after the service for the dedication of our Nature-Based Playscape.

May 8 - Honoring the energy and presence of the Mother.

May 15 - Journeying through the senses.

May 22 - Please join us for our next All Ages Social Action Sunday service. Please note: this event will take place off campus as we partner with Community United of North Arcata (CUNA) in their monthly park and street cleanup of Carlson Park in Valley West in Arcata.

May 29 - Finding Beauty in the Margins.

Teen Council -

We are sad to say goodbye to our beloved Teen Coordinator Sabrina Miller. Sabrina has worked vigilantly with us this past year to create ways to center the wants, needs, and passions of our youth. She has also been a wonderful connector for our teens and the congregation at large – in her work with Cooperation Humboldt, particularly among those experiencing homelessness. At this time, she is experiencing some significant burnout from the many obligations she’s taken on, and needs to step down from her work with us to replenish herself. We will plan a farewell and outgoing Q&A time with Sabrina within the next month or so, for those who would like to chat with her more about her insights and ideas for our youth moving forward.

Contact Amy Day, if you would like to be a part of that discussion at comm@huuf.org.

Teen Council will continue to meet for the months of May and June, with help from our Teen Leadership team, as well as support from DLRE, Amy Day. Specific dates, times and details still to be determined. We encourage participants, 13 and older, who wish to join us, to be vaccinated, to encourage safe and comfortable space for all.

Through our Fellowship Engagement & Lifespan program:

Day of Peace at HUUF, Saturday, May 7, 2-5 p.m.: Please join us for this outdoor, all ages gathering designed to bring peace and joy to our beloved community. Invite your friends and neighbors. Among the activities on offer, we’ll have a meditation guided by members of our Buddhist Sangha, a puppet show, ukulele sing-along circle with Sandy Lynn, and a collective grief ritual offered up by Laura Phelan-Shahin. More offerings and details soon to be announced. Check the HUUF Weekly (sent each Friday to your inbox) for more information.

In Person Soul Matters group: Facilitator Alison O’Dowd returns this month to host this drop-in friendly, multi-generational group at HUUF, the second Saturday of the month. This month’s group will be on May 14, 2-4 p.m. Please contact Amy at comm@huuf.org if you would like to join us. Also, please let us know if you need childcare so that you can attend.

Tales of the Transrational (cont.)

Our May Soul Matters theme is Nurturing Beauty. To me, sharing stories of our spiritual lives is one fine way to do that. And even if you feel the transrational hasn’t been a part of your “direct experience,” hearing others’ tales is still likely to be fascinating and enriching. It’s also in keeping with part of the closing to UUism’s Six Sources: “Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.”

I hope to see you on June 4 to deepen and expand together.

Many Blessings,

Rev. Peter Farriday (he/him)

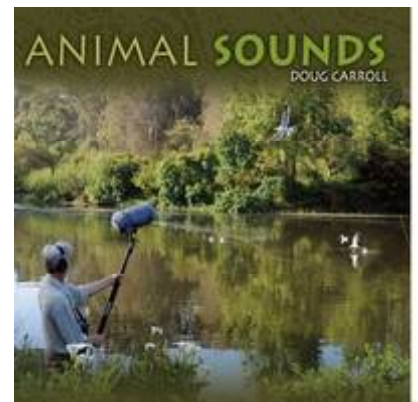
Doug Carroll presentation – Birdsong is Music

On Friday, May 13, from 6:30-8 p.m. on the HUUF patio, join the Redwood Region Audubon Society for a program entitled “Why Birdsong is Music - the Theory and Application.” Dr. Doug Carroll will discuss his theory of defining music to include birdsong and not just human artistic creation. The talk will focus on the songs and sounds of birds but also will feature those of insects and mammals, and additionally he will cover natural sound recording techniques. The program will conclude with an interspecies musical piece performed live by Carroll on cello and accompanied by recorded birdsong. This will be the first in-person program hosted by Redwood Region Audubon Society since the pandemic, and weather permitting, it will be held outdoors, so it may also incorporate live bird melodies.

Reservations are required – please call or text 707-267-4055. Provide your name and number of attendees. In case of rain, the program will be held inside the Fellowship, where attendees must be masked and only 45 people can be accommodated.

Doug is a cellist, composer and audio engineer whose work has spanned decades. He has performed in Europe and North America at major music festivals, and with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in the world premiere of “Ocean.” He taught audio and radio production at San Francisco State University and Menlo College. He studied composition at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague, the International Musicians Institute in the Netherlands, and Mills College in Oakland. He holds a BA in Music Composition from the University of Alabama, an MFA in Electronic Music and Recording Media from Mills College and an EdD from the University of San Francisco.

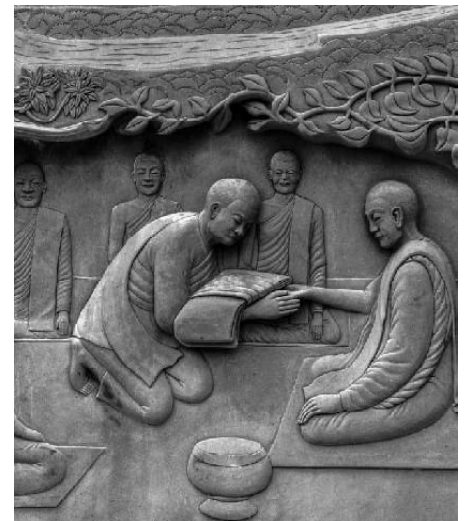
Doug has recorded three CDs featuring animal sounds including “Music for Cello and Wild Animals” and has received over 1 million streams and downloads on Spotify, iTunes, and Apple Music. He is originally from Birmingham, Alabama.



Day of Mindfulness

Twice a year, the Ancient Forest Sangha hosts a Day of Mindfulness at HUUF. The next one is being planned for Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will be a nourishing day of mindful meditation practices, including deep relaxation, led by our Dharma Teacher Alexa Singer-Telles. Stay tuned for more information.

Valerie Gizinski



Kitchen use policy

Approved December 14, 2021

HUUF's kitchen has the appropriate space and equipment to cook and serve food on a quantity basis. It has never been certified by Humboldt Environmental Health, but has the potential to meet certification. Kitchen use will take two tracks: rental to small scale, local food producers, or to provide space on a donation basis in solidarity and support with social justice groups feeding their target population. Slightly different policies apply to each.

Community groups feeding low-income, special needs and homeless people are seeking quality facilities to prepare food. With HUUF's commitment to devote its resources to humanitarian purposes and to foster cooperation and openness in our community, our kitchen can be of service. This will also provide a direct pathway for HUUF members and friends to be actively involved in Social Action initiatives and volunteerism inside our building once more.

HUUF members have expressed concerns about the following key issues:

If income is realized will it have taxation implications? *It is suggested that we develop "Community Partnership Contracts" rather than "Rental Agreements" with non profit agencies that are requesting kitchen use; they would be welcome to "donate" to HUUF for the use of the kitchen. Donations are different from rental income. If the use is an out and out "Rental" but not a regularly scheduled recurring event, that would also be a non taxable situation.*

- If the space is used more will it impact the equipment? *There will be reasonable wear and tear with certain pieces of equipment but not all. Ex: the refrigerator = no additional impact, but the wolf range maybe a little. Some inquiries are strictly for prep space and will have very low equipment use. Users will be given use and care guidelines.*
- Do outside community groups preparing food need to get food permit certification? *Yes if it's Food for Sale they must obtain individual permits that certifies the food prep area qualifies. This is the responsibility of the for-profit renter and part of their individual biz lic. food plan.*
- At some point do we want to consider renting to for-profit food vendors? *Nothing should be off the table. A slow and prudent approach is good - building into our new way and owning what comes with each choice of action. Investigating the implications of each choice and weighing them.*
- Are there insurance liability issues? *Each outside entity must have insurance that covers their individual liability around producing a food product. Our insurer, Church and Casualty, requests that each group have an insurance certificate covering them.*
- How will the space calendar and sanitation be managed? *The calendar will be managed through the Congregational Administrator— same as other use/rentals. Certain sensibilities will always apply ie: Don't rent the space on Sundays (during service hours) or during other HUUF high need times like Holiday potlucks, etc. First come First serve otherwise, with some additional needed compromise and priority given to high earning potential, which is how weddings are currently handled.*
- Do we seek to cover kitchen costs (gas, etc.) with fees to groups or do we consider the costs a donation to the social justice community? *We will look to what other rentable kitchen spaces charge and developing hourly and day use rates with differentials for -for profit vs non profit- and -for sale vs fundraising vs free or community donation (ex: food for the homeless).*

The Board of Trustees approves use of the kitchen by select, small scale, for-profit food vendors (vetted and approved by our Congregational Administrator and the Kitchen Committee) for occasional food prep needs, with the provisions and considerations listed above.

The Board of Trustees approves allowing select non-profit groups (again, that have been vetted and approved by our Congregational Administrator and the Kitchen Committee) on a donation basis for social justice efforts, both independent of our organization and in partnership with us, as specific needs allow.

The Congregational Administrator and the Kitchen Committee will supervise kitchen use by external parties and report to the Board on a regular basis regarding kitchen use. The Board may revisit this policy as needed.

Sunday Services

Sunday, May 1 – 11 a.m. – The Heart Has Its Reasons – Rev. Peter Farriday and other HUUF leaders

In many cultures, May Day is celebrated on May 1 as a festive day of togetherness and rebirth. In that spirit, several Fellowship leaders and Rev. Farriday will share some of the heartfelt reasons they support and celebrate this open-minded, open-hearted Unitarian Universalist community.

Sunday, May 8 – 11 a.m. – The Many Modes of Millennium Mothering – Rev. Tom Lewis and Rev. Peter Farriday

In our newborn millennium, many aspects of personal mothering (and fathering) are practically the same as in ancient times, while others are totally new. Also new is the collective need to protect and care for Mother Earth and all her offspring in holistic, sustainable ways – and thus birth a new civilization.

Sunday, May 15 – 11 a.m. – HUUF in Transition: Special Congregational Meeting to Discuss the Path Forward – Margy Emerson and Rev. Peter Farriday

Members of the Fellowship have requested that the Board of Trustees call this meeting to start the process of discovery of who we are now and where we want to go. We will look at myriad creative, out-of-the-box ideas generated by the ministerial survey, consider setting up small-group discussions for the future, decide if we want to search for a local spiritual/community leader or leaders to help us navigate, and consider engaging a professional facilitator to assist in guiding us harmoniously through a rethinking and reshaping of our Fellowship.

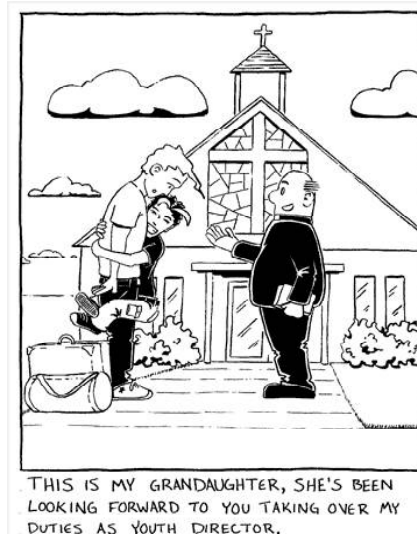
Sunday, May 22 – 11 a.m. – Let Service Be Our Prayer – Amy Day

For our monthly in-person Social Action Sunday effort we will partner with members of Community United of North Arcata (CUNA) in their monthly park and street cleanup at Carlson Park in Valley West. This will be an excellent chance to witness our seventh principle in action, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” as we seek to reclaim the commons as a space for mutual benefit and well-being.

Zoom participants will have the opportunity to engage with this month’s initiative from the relative safety and comfort of their own homes, as we talk about ways to care for the spaces which we collectively inhabit for the long term.

Sunday, May 29 – 11 a.m. – Poets Back by Popular Demand – Pat McCutcheon

By popular demand, Humboldt’s Fellowship Poets will return for a third close encounter with fans and with friends. We are told that the limelight becomes us, but only you, beloved audience, can verify that claim. Come! Listen! Behold! Snap those fine fingers and wrinkle that nose. One show only on Sunday coming in Spring. Jot down the date for your poetry fling.



Board of Trustees Minutes

The regular meeting of the HUUF Board of Trustees was called to order at 7 p.m. by Rebekah Paez.

Present: David Marshak, Chris West, Montana Caoutte, Peter Farriday, Rebekah Paez, Cassie Brillbeck, Sandy Lynn, Chip Sharpe, Todd Hoberecht, Bert Taylor, Margy Emmerson, Bonnie MacGregor, Amy Day, Cena Marino, Cynthi Chason, Debi Cooper, Jaime Flowers.

Via Zoom: Cheryl Rau, Pat McCutcheon, Chris Chapin, Laura Phelan, Sally Williams, Jenny Hanson, Marlene West, Debby Harrison, Greg Blomstrom, Kate McClain, Judy Rishel, Richard Kossow, Diane, Anna Bressers.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

Agenda Items:

Continued discussion of Board's action regarding Ministerial Survey: There was a special board meeting on April 4 to discuss the Ministerial Survey. David gave a recap of that meeting and presented the Board's proposal: to begin a search for a minister within the UUA ministerial search auspices; at the same time to develop a job description for a local "Worship and Community Leader" and advertise this position locally; and to engage the HUUF community in a communal process of self-reflection and self-discovery when we had re-engaged a critical mass of our RE families.

Clarifying questions of the above discussion: Several questions were raised, and most addressed. These included: Who would supervise the staff while we look for a minister? How the job description would be changed? The cost of a new minister? Whether or not we already posted the job with the UUA? A comment about interim ministers, and whether the job description mentioned a ½ or ¾ time position?

Discussion rounds – Each person present was given the opportunity to speak, in turn.

Round 1 – After seeing the survey, speak on how you feel about it, and what you would like to say. There were many comments made, including: the survey was helpful and the responses informative; the process for finding a new minister should slow down; the pandemic has greatly affected our processes and the way our HUUF community functions; it would have been nice to have had this discussion before the survey; we can't do this by email; concern about Program and Worship burnout; concern that not all of the comments were printed; the Board felt like we needed to start the process to find a minister right away, otherwise that window would close; concern that when the minister goes, we won't have anyone who the congregants can talk to and to get counseling.

Round 2 – Responding to what was heard, and also voicing any solutions. We could go to 2 services/month when we don't have a minister. We should consider the "in between" options that have been mentioned on the survey comments. We should figure out what we want in a new minister before we start a search. We need to figure out how to take the burden off of the Program and Worship committee. We need a consultant/mediator/facilitator from the outside, to help us rethink things. We need someone to help us heal, and to find what we want going forward. We could have 2 services/month on what do we want in a minister; perhaps ask people for a service commitment. We need younger people, but it is very difficult to get people to step up. We need a special congregational meeting (or two) to discuss these topics. Three members expressed opposition to the Board's proposal. Since consensus was not achieved, The Board's proposal was withdrawn.

Several participants, including Peter Farriday, suggested that we could benefit from an external mediator/facilitator to work through our disagreements in a constructive manner. Margy Emerson, Chris Chapin, and Cena Marino volunteered to identify such a mediator/facilitator and engage that person to lead us in a Congregational Meeting. Program and Worship will go forward with their plans for setting up discussions within the congregation regarding what we want for services, and perhaps also with a new minister.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm by Rebekah Paez. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 7-9 p.m.

Sandy Lynn

Playscape dedication

The long awaited dedication of our new playscape will occur following the Sunday morning service on May 1. Come listen to how it came to be, meet some of the people who have worked on the project, and try out some of the features. One of the youngsters in attendance will have the honor of 'cutting the ribbon' to formally open the completed portion of the playscape. Pat McCutcheon will bless us with a poem, and there will be music plus refreshments.

When is the last time *you* rolled down a slope or slid down a slide? Maybe a tunnel intrigues you or some of your family. The climbing wall might actually be ready, as might the incredible spider. Looking forward to seeing *you* at our celebration.

Berti Welty for the Playscape Committee

Meeting

Playscape pictures



This poem was written in response to the HUUF Board of Trustees meeting on April 12 at which there was a passionate exchange of opinions and concerns about the future of the ministry at the Fellowship. Debby Harrison

I only become articulate
After a night's sleep
Days of pondering
Pulling out the threads
examining each one
replacing it
in situ, in relationship.

I see, sense, feel, integrate
and hopefully, understand
after unremembered dreams
unconscious vibrations
emerge as thoughts.

I see a group
loving the same ideals
trying so hard to
tread the best path.

Some responding to pressures
acting in service to
their responsibilities
understanding of
what is needed.
losing sight of history, process.

Some aware that without
taking the steps
building the support
the ideals feel lost
the group flounders.

Both are in pain.
Feeling overworked,
misunderstood.
Trying so hard not to feel
slighted, angry.
Reaching for that
common thread.
Hoping for a union of
necessity and ideals,
urgency and history.

May we all meet again
after sleep, dreams
tracing those threads.
Come together in love
for the community, for
our commonality.



Dear HUUF Board of Trustees,

Some of the members attending the April 12 Board of Trustees meeting expressed concern that the Board acted too quickly in applying for a new UUA minister. We understand that the Board was up against an April deadline for applications and you were trying to hold this option open for us. We appreciate your good intentions and hard work.

However, the application put forth a “Congregational Profile and Job Description” written by the Ministerial Search Team three years ago when HUUF was in a very different place. It also offered a 3/4-time salary which, given this year’s \$30,000 shortfall in pledges, is unlikely we can now afford. We are grateful to the Board for responding to our concerns by withdrawing its application from the UUA Minister Search website. This gives us all (members, Board and staff) a chance to work together going forward.

In order to be in accordance with our Bylaws, we Fellowship members are submitting our request to you, in writing, for a special congregational meeting.

At the April 12 Board meeting, an ad hoc committee was formed to call this meeting. That committee (Margy Emerson, Chris Chapin, and Cena Marino) is planning an initial hybrid congregational meeting in person and on Zoom to initiate HUUF’s self-reflection and renewal. As a concrete place to start, the agenda will center on the written responses to the Ministerial Survey as source material and a springboard for discussion about the future of the Fellowship.

In the interest of having this meeting as soon as possible, members of the Program and Worship Committee and Rev. Peter Farriday were approached about devoting an entire Sunday service to the congregational meeting. They’re agreed that May 15 is available, beginning at 11:00 as usual. This is indeed sacred work.

We feel it’s essential that the whole congregation be informed and engaged as we look with clarity at our current circumstances and decide on our next steps. We not only need to decide whether and what kind of ministry we want, we also need to address the aging of much of our leadership, the overburdening of the Program and Worship Committee, and the decline in membership and pledges. At the same time, we can be encouraged that new families and individuals are expressing interest in the Fellowship.

With the help of the Program and Worship Committee’s research, small-group meetings, and more full congregational meetings as needed, we can use this time of deep reflection to build cohesiveness, energy, and direction. Our task must be approached thoughtfully, imaginatively, and without feeling rushed. Coming to consensus takes time.

To assist in planning, please provide the following documents to the 3 members of the ad hoc committee by May 1:

- The entire results of the Ministerial Survey, including all written responses
- The Job Description developed for the Worship/HUUF Community Leader that was included in the Board’s proposal

We’re eagerly looking forward to beginning this process as a joint effort with members, the Board of Trustees, and staff.

Sincerely,

Chris Chapin, Jeanne Chapin, Cynthia Chason, Margy Emerson, Bonnie MacGregor, Cena Marino, Kate McClain, Sue Lee Mossman, Chip Sharpe, Sylvia Shaw, Bert Taylor, Berti Welty

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) news

This year's Earth Day Rallies and Events across the US are focused on the theme of Fight for Our Future (FFOF) that involve 30 national environmental/climate groups who plan to pressure our legislators and the President to pass the climate parts of the Build Back Better (BBB) initiative, starting with Earth Day art, letter writing, and demonstrations.

President Biden has proposed over \$500 billion in incentives for clean energy and other climate actions as part of the larger BBB initiative. He proposes a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030. But currently, BBB is stalled in Congress.

CAC has been participating in the FFOF campaign by working with other local climate groups such as 350 Humboldt to hold the Earth Day Rally at the Courthouse on April 22 and to table at the Farmers Market Earth Day Event on April 23. Because the deadline for this newsletter comes before these two big Earth Day events happen on April 22 and 23, we send our early thank yous to the following HUUF member/friends who have signed up to help with the Earth Day Rally at the Courthouse and at the Farmers Market Earth Day Event. For the Earth Day Rally, we extend early heartfelt thanks to Jo Weisberger for making the paddles for the 12 smaller CAC climate signs for individuals to carry; and to the Rev. Peter Farriday whose presence reaffirms why we in CAC are there, not only because of the science that tells us we're going to hell in a handbasket, but that we're also there as UUs as part of our spiritual and moral values.

For the Farmers Market Earth Day Event, we're grateful to the following: Joanne McGreta McGarry for sharing info that she has learned about home composting and home composters; Dana Utman and Pat Carr for transporting the tables and chairs to the Plaza from HUUF and back; Chip Sharpe for transporting the CAC banner and smaller signs to the Plaza from the HUUF and back; Margy Emerson, Cena Marino, Joanna Welch, Tracy Jordan French, Kate McClain, and Harriet Hill for helping to table and provide info about key climate related legislative issues. Postage paid postcards and stationery for writing to the President and legislators about passing the BBB initiative and others will be provided. Also Drive 55 Keep Earth Alive bumper stickers and info will be available.

CAC will also host an art-themed table for children and adults to create art that will be photographed and be part of the national effort for people to express their concerns about the climate, and their support for the BBB initiative. The photos will be sent with others from all over the country to state legislatures, the White House, and to Congress as part of the national FFOF Campaign of 30 national environmental/climate groups to put pressure on our elected Federal officials to pass the BBB initiative. CAC also thanks Cena Marino for donating art supplies for the art table.

For those who were not able to attend any of these events, here's a letter writing opportunity for you to consider. You can support the Budget Reconciliation Bill or Build Back Better Act by writing to President Biden, and to our US Senators Feinstein and Padilla and to Rep. Jared Huffman.

You can email the President at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Letters and postcards to the President can be mailed to:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The addresses for Feinstein, Padilla, and Huffman can be found at <https://huuf.org/cac-climate-action-campaign/>

The following is sample language that you can use and modify in your own words:

Dear President Biden or Legislator,

We are in a climate crisis. Please work with Congress to prioritize, in whatever reconciliation package moves forward, strong climate provisions that quickly transition the U.S. away from fossil energy and also achieve your emission reduction goals.

We have a moral and sacred duty to protect our planet, its life support systems, to protect our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and seven generations forward to build back fossil fuel free.

Signature and address

Finally, thank you to Margy Emerson for May's Climate Action of the Month. See her column which is elsewhere in

this newsletter.

I'm finding myself overwhelmed at times by all that is happening around us, but Clarissa Pinkola Estes reminds me, "Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach."

Let's help each other stay within those parts of the world that are within our reach, not only for smending, but also those parts within our reach that also renew.

Sue Lee Mossman

Climate action of the month: composting

Organic waste in landfills is a major source of methane (a greenhouse gas) and composting drastically reduces it. With the passage of SB 1383 in California, counties are required to take the lead collaborating with local jurisdictions in planning organic waste recycling and food recovery needed to divert organic waste from landfills into recycling activities and food recovery organizations. Working regionally and with a contractor, the City of Arcata intends to devise a plan in the next couple months to comply with the new bill.

As individuals, we already have a number of options:

- Arcata has compost bins available to city residents for \$25. A new regulation requires renters to get permission from their landlord due a potential rat problem. The city has 30 bins on hand.
- Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) in Eureka has composters available for \$35. Anyone can buy them—not just Eureka residents.
- Take your compost to the Co-op. See their Website for details. You buy a 3 ½ gallon bucket for \$9 and a "compost card" that allows you to drop off 6 times for \$20.
- Support these local, innovative businesses: Full Cycle Compost (707-633-9192 and on the web) and The Worm Guy (707-385-9676 and on the web).

Some composting tips: Put wire mesh under your composter to deter rats; chop everything fine; alternate wet and dry layers; get a good stirring tool (Hensel's Ace has a compost fork for \$41.99). Cena Marino saves yard waste from the dry season in big soil or pet food bags and uses it for her dry layer in the rainy season when everything's wet.

Tell your representatives that—under SB 1383—we want to continue to do backyard composting and use local composting businesses. Transporting compost wastes gasoline and emits greenhouse gases.

Collaboration with the Universe

"Collaboration with the Universe", is a poem made by the congregation in attendance of the April 10th service "Answering the Aesthetic Call: Awakening the Artist Within". We spent time during the service noticing our environment around us and then shared what we noticed together. Brave Pat McCuteon then took those words and put them together to form a beautiful poem. The poem below captures the feeling and moment of the day so beautifully. We wanted to share with everyone that could not be present. The poem is below:

Collaboration With The Universe

Balance warm chirping laughter
flickering bright as a sunny butterfly
waving purple wings
with family pictures rustling in you memory—
some heavy, some light, some sun, some rain.
Balance a sunflower blessing a breezy hello,
chatter wafting to your ears,
with children's green voices at play.
Your soft breath, your fresh life—whole.





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Remembering Marianne Pennekamp

Three events remembering the life of Marianne Pennekamp will take place in May. On Saturday, May 7, at 1 p.m. at The Freshwater Grange, 49 Grange Rd. in Eureka, there will be a special showing of "Marianne: One Immigrant's Journey," followed by a question and answer session with filmmakers Amy Uyeki and Joy Hardin. The film is also available online at Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/267052113>. Password: Marianne.

On Saturday, May 14, a Celebration of Life will take place at the Fellowship at 2 p.m. There will be limited seating. To RSVP and for Zoom access see our website. In-person attendees, please dress for indoors or outdoors.

Also on Saturday, May 14, at 7 p.m. at Arcata Veterans' Hall, 1425 J Street, will be Memories & Music. All are invited to share stories, reflections, poems, songs and photos. Zoom access at: <https://tinyurl.com/MPennZoom>

Masks required for all indoor events. Carpooling recommended.

Deadline information

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

Many file formats are acceptable, but .doc, .docx, .rtf and text are preferred, and .pdf and .pages cannot be used. Late submissions are not accepted without prior approval. Full guidelines at:

<https://tinyurl.com/HUUFNewsGuide>

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Stephen Sottong, editor