

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the beloved community

Seeking the Good Place

There's a cheeky, little show online that takes place in the afterlife. In the final season, the main characters, whom we have grown to love over the past episodes, finally arrive inside *The Good Place*. In it, they get to remain as they are: same healthy, young, fit bodies and capable minds. They also get to live inside their dream house and dream neighborhood with self-tending roses and trees that provide the perfect ratio of sunshine and shade, eat unlimited quantities of ice cream or their treat of choice, drink bottomless margaritas without fear of consequence, and spend their days in leisure conversation with people like Einstein, Plato, or Marie Curie. It's not just good, it's perfect. Yet along the arc of the final season, there develops a common desire expressed among the citizenry of this heavenly realm to *transcend* this place. People begin asking for something "beyond." A place where they relinquish their bodies, the thick holds they have over their individual personalities and preferences, paltry likes and dislikes, and become Spirit once more. A merging from the narrow confines of the individuated self to a joyful, acquiescent, holy-drop-in-an-infinite-ocean once again.

This resonates. For one of our great hopes, as people who have consistently sought out contemplative and spiritual practice for most of our lives, is that these practices will not simply help us to be a slightly spit-polished version of the tiny selves we've come to identify with, but rather provide us opportunities to move beyond. When we roll out our little sticky mat, or set the timer for meditation, or send up a daily litany of prayers to the Ether, there is always a secret aspiration woven into the ritual: "Please, Sacred Hand of Life, Source of Being and Love, *don't leave me as you found me.*"

Kahlil Gibran spoke of it this way:

Like sheaves of corn he gathers you unto himself.

He threshes you to make you naked.

He sifts you to free you from your husks.

He grinds you to whiteness.

He kneads you until you are pliant;

*And then he assigns you to his sacred fire,
that you may become sacred bread for God's sacred feast.*

An ambitious project such as ours: To build the Beloved Community here among us, all these diverse and disparate humans here, come together for

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May 2023

UUA proposes revised principles

While we have been in our own little world behind the Redwood Curtain and reimagining the structure of our ministry, the larger Unitarian Universalist Association has been contemplating a major revision of our UU principles (Article II of the UUA Charter). When the Unitarians and Universalists merged in the 1960s, they adopted a simple list of shared principles. While it is strongly recommended that any covenant be revisited at least every 15 years, no major reevaluation of this central covenant has been undertaken since 1985.

The push for the adoption of the eighth principle, regarding building a diverse multicultural community by dismantling racism and other oppressions, combined with other calls to modify the principles, led the UUA Board in June 2020 to establish a Study Commission to thoroughly examine and suggest

See *UUA*, page 7

Two ways to practice respect for the interdependent web of existence

Climate Action of the Month: Hang up your dryer

In many households, the dryer is the third-most energy-hungry appliance—after the fridge and the washer. Project Laundry List says you can save 10-20% on utility bills and reduce the average household's carbon footprint by 2,400 pounds per year by air-drying laundry. Green Living estimates you can save 7-8% on utility bills. (It all depends on how many loads of laundry you do.)

There are plenty of other advantages to air-drying your clothes:

It prolongs their life. (I can testify that the elastic in underwear can last years longer.)



It eliminates the risk of house fires caused by lint igniting.

Sunlight is a good bleach and disinfectant. (Preserve colors by turning clothes inside out.)

You can save on exfoliating products by drying yourself with rough, air-dried towels. (The positive spin.)

One of the simplest methods is to use a collapsible rack with multiple dowel rods. Hensel's Ace sells them for \$31-\$40. Ace also sells an umbrella-style outdoor dryer with a central post and radiating arms for \$80, which has to be solidly planted in the ground. I like

See Laundry, next page

Good Place, from page 1

a common purpose of magnifying the presence of Love (which, let's remember, looks like "Justice" when enacted in the public arena, according to the venerable Dr. Cornel West), is not a task to be taken up by the meek. "What would Love ask of me?" becomes our litmus test, from everything to a heavy conversation to enacting issues of policy or choosing how to work with the limited resources we possess. And the answer, almost always comes: Love will not leave us now. It found us. Rather, She will ask us to move beyond the narrow confines of our tiny selves in order to glimpse our connection to the Whole. She will ask us to do hard things, uncomfortable, inconvenient things. in order that we may grow the capacity to care for this ailing and beautiful world.

In the show, the citizens of the Good Place are offered a portal, a humble earthen walkway they can choose to go through, at any time, so they may leave the trappings of their mortal beings, and the perfection that surrounds them behind, and become One with All. In this life, one might argue, we are gifted similar portals, though not immediately visible to the eye. But doorways, nonetheless, that call us to shed some tiny particle of our limited, comfortable selves, and merge with Spirit to do the work we are called to. May our practices avail us these thresholds, and when we find ourselves at one, may we be willing to walk through to where Love beckons. May we not be so enamored of the "Good" that we lose our capacity to merge with the Transcendent.

Yours in grace and gratitude, Your Shared Ministry Team, *Amy Day and Bridgette Garuti*

Celebrate Earth Day every day: take the HUUF plastic challenge

To help continue the spirit of Earth Day, consider taking the month-long HUUF Plastic Challenge. I bet most of us are already trying to cut back on using plastic and be good stewards of the Earth. But do you ever wonder how much plastic you and your family actually use and throw away each month? That's the challenge.

On Sunday April 29, we'll ask you to estimate the amount of plastic you might generate over the course of 30 days. We'll give you paper bags to store your plastic trash for the next month. On May 28, bring your accumulated plastic trash to HUUF for a photo opportunity, and see how the amount you predicted you'd produce compared to what you actually produced.

You will be on the honor system about the plastic you collect and store. Some of it will be obvious, such as plastic milk jugs, bags of tortillas, produce bags. Less obvious, but still plastic, includes plastic tops to glass milk bottles, medicine bottles and caps, tofu containers and their lids, tabs on bread bags, paper bags with plastic liners (e.g. paper tortilla chip bags). It's up to you to decide what to keep and store, but it's an opportunity to take stock of how much plastic enters and exits your home on a regular basis and consider where you can make a shift.

We'll also be looking for people to offer "Plastimonials" each week during May at Sunday services: one minute offerings on how you've cut back on plastic, or the most pernicious use of plastic you've encountered that week.

Sign up for the great HUUF Plastic Challenge on Sunday, April 29. Maybe next year we'll provide a cash prize for the least amount of plastic consumed per person.

Greg Blomstrom

Climate Action Campaign report

The local 3.21.23 rally was a day of connection, hope, song, and art at the Arcata branches of Wells Fargo and Chase banks as many rallied to tell their corporate leaders to divest from fossil fuels or face losing accounts. Wells Fargo and Chase, along with Citi and Bank of America, are the top four banks investing in fossil fuels. About 60 people attended the rally, including members of the Raging Grannies, HUUF, Third Act, 350 Humboldt, Quaker and Arcata Presbyterian churches. A group of us (Valerie Gizinski, Julie Neander, Annette Holland, Laurel Busse and I) made placards for the rally.

The event had good coverage from the media who interviewed Valerie and Annette. See <https://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/third-act-%20protest-march-28/Slideshow/26317100>

Thanks to all who joined us. It was a powerful experience, and some of us have pledged to continue writing letters to the banks and to local and statewide jurisdictions to request divesting their funds from fossil fuels.

Join us on Sunday, May 14, for CAC's monthly Zoom meeting at 1:00 p.m. Scott Allen will join us to discuss HUUF's future energy needs. You'll find the Zoom link in the HUUF Weekly.

On Sunday, May 21, CAC will resume monthly climate action tabling at HUUF after the 11:00 a.m. service. We'll provide information about climate activities as well as sample letters, stationery, and postage for folks who want to voice their opinion to decision makers.

The Heat Pumps 101 webinar was held in late March. Homeowners told their stories about installing heat pumps, and professionals explained the basics of the technology and how to get started on this alternative to fossil fuel space and water heating. If you were unable to view the webinar or want a second look, check out the recording and article at: <https://environmentamerica.org/resources/recording-heat-pumps-101-efficiently-heat-and-cool-your-home-while-saving-money/>.

CAC is one of over 200 organizations nationally that endorsed the Climate Education Resolution and the Youth Mental Health/Climate Change House Resolution. Both resolutions were co-authored by high school climate advocates. Rep. Barbara Lee (CA) and Rep. Maxwell Frost (FL) are leading the Climate Education Resolution; Rep. Mike Thompson and Rep. Kathy Castor are leading the Climate/Mental Health Resolution. Both resolutions were (re)introduced via a press conference on Capitol Hill on March 28 with more than 60 high school climate advocates from twelve states in attendance.

We have the solutions to build a world beyond fossil fuels. We know how to secure an equitable, distributed, and resilient clean energy economy. We know how to scale up natural climate solutions to replenish natural carbon stores, protect biodiversity, ensure clean water and air, food security, and community health. What holds us back is lack of political will. In our shared ministry, we support Earth, all life, and each other.

Sue Lee Mossman, Chair

Endowment Committee awards grants for 2023

The Endowment Committee received request for \$13,800 to fund projects for 2023. Using a combination of funding from the General Endowment, Moore Bequest and the Prange Fund the committee funded \$12,300 for the following projects:

General Assembly scholarships \$1,500; pastoral care \$1,000; office furniture \$2,000; replacement of tables and bookcases \$1,500; women affirming and transgender supporting art installation \$700; playscape area completion \$2,000; three new doors for RE Building \$3,600.

These projects are made possible by members' generous support of our Endowment Funds. Please consider supporting HUUF in your will as a gift for your legacy to the Fellowship. For more information contact Cynthia Chason at cynthiachason@gmail.com or phone (707) 601-6136.

Laundry, from page 2

Maggie Moore's method. For \$35, you can purchase (also at Ace) a retractable clothes dryer. The housing is a disc only about 10" in diameter and can be mounted on an indoor wall or on the outside of a house. The 40-foot line reels out and can be attached to a tree or fence or opposing wall indoors and can return to a hook on the same wall as the housing. When not in use, it tucks discreetly into its den.

If you're drying clothes indoors, placing them close to a heating vent or turning a fan on speeds the process. You can also put your laundry on an extra spin cycle.

Joe Wachunas, writing for *Green Living Magazine*, does two loads of laundry a day (!). He has timed himself at eight minutes to hang one load, thus he has 16 minutes of extra work per day, which earns him 20% off his utility bill. It also makes him feel he's making the world better for his daughters with just a little rope and some clothespins.

Margy Emerson

HUUF Covid policy discussion on May 19

Like it or not, COVID-19 just will not go away. Recently state and federal governments ended COVID-19 emergency declarations and much of society is taking off their masks and embracing unmasked in-person events. While some are celebrating this return to a semblance of normalcy and more social connectedness, others are feeling vulnerable and unsafe because COVID-19 is still around and continues to place them at high risk. This is especially true for our beloved elders and those who are immunocompromised. This has left a number of us in the Fellowship contemplating our own way forward and questioning how we can build community and connectedness while keeping everyone safe.

Using information put out by the CDC, EPA, and NIH, we are looking at the following options to decrease risk when we share space:

1. Ventilation: A ceiling exhaust fan would draw the air up and out. (The cross-draft we get from opening windows can dilute the viral load, but also moves pathogens from one person to another.)
2. Air purification: Portable units with HEPA filters or HEPA filters installed in our two furnaces and one heat pump could capture 99.97% of Covid particles.
3. N95 masks worn properly provide effective protection for the wearer. N95s are available at the Fellowship door on Sundays.

We are contacting people who can advise us on ventilation and air purification. Once those factors are in place, we could possibly relax the masking policy and vulnerable people could feel safe as long as they're wearing N95s.

For the short term, our masking policy will remain the same, asking all adults to be masked in the Sanctuary for Sunday services in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We are planning a town hall meeting on Friday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. in order to share what we have learned and have a conversation about the concerns and desires of Fellowship members and friends as we think about how to move forward. The meeting will be on Zoom as well as in-person (Zoom link to be shared in the HUUF Weekly), and child care will be provided.

HUUF Covid Taskforce: Chris West, Margy Emerson, Chris Chapin, Amy Day, and Pat McCutcheon

Board report

The April 11 Board meeting^h started with a lively discussion in the public comment period. Richard Kossow, Debby Harrison, Berti Welty, Bonnie MacGregor, and Margy Emerson all voiced concerns regarding the HUUF Covid and masking policy. The main concern was that even though in the community at large many people have given up wearing masks, the HUUF community has many people who are older and have risk factors that make coming to indoor activities dangerous to their health. It was decided to hold a town hall type meeting to get input and inform people about the plans being considered for an updated masking policy and a ventilation/filtration system for the Sanctuary.

The Director of Congregational Operations (DCO) Report was discussed including these topics:

A "Rule of Three" for the minimum number of committee members, since we currently have many committees with only one member.

The Nature Playscape should not include a firepit.

Using HUUF as an emergency shelter is not really feasible since the Fellowship is not located in a convenient location.

The Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate table should be brought back.

Other topics included the planning for a pledge drive with entertainment, the 2023-24 budget proposal, and the June 11 congregational meeting about the budget and new board officers.

Board meetings are on the second Tuesdays of the month on Zoom from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The first 30 minutes are for public input. The Zoom link will be posted in the *HUUF Weekly*.

Sandy Lynn



Sunday Services

Sunday, May 7, 11:00 a.m.:

To Nurture Life Jodie DiMinno

Join us for a pre-Mother's Day celebration and exploration of what it means to nurture, support and uplift the creative and life-giving spirit in each of us. Longtime doula and prenatal yoga expert Jodie DiMinno and worship leader Amy Day will lead a visceral exploration of ways we can tend the Divine Feminine principle that permeates all. We will explore mothering as an archetypal energy and imprint in this world, acting beyond biology, and look at ways minute, yet profound, in which all can embrace the critical threshold moments of this life – birth, tragedy, transformation and beyond – with grace, fully present.

Sunday, May 14 and Sunday, May 21:

The next two programs, on May 14 and May 21, come as a pair: **Reimagining the Seven UU Principles**. Details for each are below. Together they will provide a look at the proposed revision of the UU Principles. While this congregation has been reimagining our ministry, the larger Unitarian Universalist Association is discussing a proposal to transform the conceptual language of what we share as UU's from the notion of shared principles to one of shared values.

Whether you were raised a Unitarian Universalist or recently started exploring this living tradition, the proposed changes will impact how you think about yourself and how you live in the world. Come join us as we review and discuss the proposals.

Sunday, May 14, 11:00 a.m.

Reimagining the Seven UU Principles: Love is the Power That Holds us Together: Debi Cooper, Berti Welty, Bonnie MacGregor

Learn about the history of the current Unitarian Universalist principles, the context for proposed changes, and a colorful presentation of the vision of love as the force inspiring us to live these values. Participants will go away with a comparison of language to consider in preparation for next Sunday's service.

Sunday, May 21, 11:00 a.m.

Reimagining the Seven UU Principles: Engaging the Future of Unitarian Universalism: Debi Cooper, Berti Welty, Bonnie MacGregor

What do you think of the proposed changes to the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association? View how members of another UU congregation wrestled with their thinking, and share how you might like to amend the UUA's proposal.

Sunday, May 28, 11:00 a.m.

Stone Soup Sunday

On this Social Action Sunday we will reimagine this much-loved story and put our hands to work in service of our hearts' values. Though we may not hold all the solutions to the world's troubles, we are called to stretch to mend that which is within our reach. In partnership with Arcata House Partnership, we will prepare meals for those experiencing homelessness in our region. Come feel the sacred embedded within the seemingly mundane tasks of chopping vegetables, packing lunches, and embodying our values through this communal act of serving others. Let service be our prayer.

Children and families religious education

Chalice Camp is coming to HUUF

We are delighted to announce that this year we will offer our inaugural week-long Day Camp experience for grades Pre-K through 5, Monday, July 24 - Friday, July 28. Our devoted RE staff will offer an experience full of crafts, games, songs and explorations, interwoven with our heartfelt UU values. If you ever enjoyed the experience of vacation Bible school or similar during your own childhood, and wished there was something more expansive and inclusive available today, now is the chance to experience it.

Opportunities will also be available for middle school aged youth to serve as Junior Counselors, with training to take place the week prior, July 17-21.

Specific times and registration fees to be decided. Contact Amy for more information at comm@huuf.org.

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. - Our wonderful RE staff continues to provide meaningful engagement in the form of games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories and outdoor play to our youth, grades Pre-K through 5, during Sunday services. Nursery Care is also available for babies and toddlers. See this month's service descriptions for more details.

This month we'll explore the topic of "Creativity" as part of our ongoing learning through the Soul Matters curriculum.

Fellowship engagement activities

Show yoUU care with a card

Join us each Wednesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. All needed materials will be provided. Contact Amy Day for more information or just show up. Share in the ministry of card writing by sending a note to a Fellowship friend or member. Send encouragement, love and support to those who may still feel isolated.

PB and Jams! Every third Friday at the Fellowship: May 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We continue our partnership with the Church of the Joyful Healer in McKinleyville. Each Saturday they offer a warm meal, bag lunch, hot coffee, and a place to get warm for folks experiencing homelessness in that neck of the woods. Join us as we make 25 pb&j's for the third Saturday of each month. We'll set up for karaoke in the Sanctuary, and sandwich-making in the kitchen. We'd love to have you there.

Mark your calendars for a night of celebration Saturday, May 27

The first annual Huufies are coming up. This will be a night to gather and commemorate the many wonderful folks who have helped make the Fellowship the wonderful place it is. Wear your swanky speakeasy best for this Roaring 20's themed pledge drive and awards soiree.

Food, drink, music and awards will be shared. More info to follow. We hope to see UU there.

Visions of Peace, an offering from the Humboldt Interfaith Fellowship

Sunday, May 21, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

United Congregational Church of Christ, Hodgson and J Sts., Eureka.

Come for an afternoon of music, and sacred reflections from many of our local beloved faith leaders including:

Rabbi Bob Rottenberg

Rev. Molly Cate

Rev. Deborah Haffner Hubbard and others.

Amy Day will speak on behalf of the Fellowship and share words on what it means to be a people of peace from our UU perspective.

UUA, from page 1

revisions to Article II of the UUA, which contains the UUA's purpose, principles and sources.

The study commission has networked with many involved congregations, met numerous times and became very creative in tackling a complex issue. Their final recommendations were submitted to the UUA Board in January 2023. Congregations and individuals are now reading, processing, commenting on, and suggesting amendments to this new paradigm.

The recommendations are included below. If you read carefully, I think you'll find that the old principles are included in a new way. This is value based, with love at the center of all that we do as UU members. You are encouraged to read this through many times. Sit with it. Ponder. The proposed revisions will be the topic of the May 14 and May 21 Sunday services (see page for details).

The detailed information about the process for amendments and the link to the full 26-page report can be found at: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

Unitarian Universalist Association: Bylaws and Rules Article II Purposes and Covenant

Section C-2.1. Purposes

The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

If you read carefully, you'll find the old principles included in a new way

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

Section C-2.3. Inspirations

As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us to live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced.

See UUA, next page

HUUF budgeting underway

The building process for HUUF's 2023-24 budget is underway. The Finance Committee has already accumulated a lot of input to the personnel portion of the budget. Committee chairs will see those numbers in the first draft distributed via email. Although the development process is dominated by the Board and the Council of Chairs, everyone is invited to contribute their thoughts to the Finance Committee (Dave Harris, Cass Brillbeck, Rebekah Paez, Cynthi Chason, Chip Sharpe). Our goal is to present a preliminary budget to the Board by mid-May.

Dave Harris

All Fellowship retreat planning on April 30

Come help plan the super intergenerational All-Fellowship Retreat happening this summer. Join us at HUUF on April 30 for a potluck following the Beltane service. Fill your plate and come find our meeting (probably at the Care building). The retreat itself will be at the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center, August 18-20. There is a swimming hole on the river, lots of activities, and great food. It's a wonderful way to get to know other HUUF people.

Berti Welty



Notes from the garden

Changing of the gard(en)

My service as the Grounds Committee chairperson came about as a complete fluke. I had no intention of taking it on. I was trained as a botanist and I occasionally volunteered at work parties, but I had virtually no experience gardening.

Our chair person was Virginia Chatfield, a professional landscape architect. She built on the work Barbara Barratt had done before her, and streamlined our grounds to make them as easily maintained as possible. When Virginia had to leave the area she had no luck finding a replacement, and I felt sorry for her. I invited her to lunch to thank her for all she did. Before I knew it, she spread her drawings over my dining room table, and we were talking about how to bring more native plants into the margins.

And that's how I became the Grounds chairperson. I felt so overwhelmed it was scary, but I had Karen Underwood as my co-pilot. Karen had volunteered for many years with Barbara and Virginia and knew what needed to be done and when. Everyone needs a person like Karen. And as our aging bodies start to wear out, we know it is time for us to find replacements, too. As Karen did for me, we will not leave anyone adrift without support. So if you love to be in nature and want to serve the Fellowship, but you don't feel you have the skills, we will help you acquire them. And you'll have fun in the process. Please contact me at (707)-825-7446, or Bridgette, and let us know you are interested.

Our next work party will be on Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We'll plant native shrubs and trees, and swoon over the blossoms of spring as we weed and tend our grounds.

Valerie Gizinski

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These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Section C-2.4. Inclusion.

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage.

Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

Berti Welty

HUUF poetry corner

Star Stuff, by Pat McCutcheon

Webb telescope images grant
a new way to gaze
deep into our unseen universe:
glittering landscapes of star birth,
cosmic cliffs,
the Carina nebula, a vast stellar nursery—
seize my breath.
Infrared images cover
a patch of sky smaller than a grain of sand,
revealing thousands of galaxies
in their tiny sliver of vastness.
No blank sky—gorgeous blackness
teems with galaxies, kaleidoscopes of color
three hundred million light years away
when Earth itself was being born.
Every dot of light a star
not unlike our sun—
with planets like our own?
Bursts, jets, and stellar winds
radiate from hot young stars.
Cloaked in dust,
the Southern Ring nebula hosts
a dying star's final performance.
The image of a binary star, split,
discloses both hidden in the nebula's heart.
Thirteen point four billion years
for its light to get to us.
Five shimmering galaxies
form Stephan's Quintet—
in a cosmic dance, sweeping tails
of gas, dust and stars are pulled
from some of the five by gravity.
Small red dots are strewn like rubies
across the velvet blackness.
Bumps and wiggles indicate
water vapor in the steamy
atmosphere of exoplanet WASP 46-b.
Astrophysicists giddy, then sobbing
to know this revolutionary telescope really works.
One speaks of "people in a broken world
managing to do something right,
to see some of the majesty that is out there."
A huge eight-pointed star gleams forth,
not unlike that of Bethlehem.



IN THE BELOVED COMMUNITY EVERYONE IS ALLOWED TO SPEAK

A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council

UUMUAC.org

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 11:00am-12:30pm
Central time

(Starts at Noon Eastern, 10:00am Mountain,
9:00am Pacific)

To register send an email to

UUMUAC@gmail.com;

Zoom codes will be sent the day before

Session 1. **MLK'S 'Beloved Community'**

Dr. Matthew Shear

Session 2. **My Aunt Emma's Vision of the Beloved Community**

Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell

Session 3. **The Meaning of 'Love' in the Judeo-Christian Tradition**

Rev. Richard Trudeau

Session 4. **The Importance of Open Discussion and Honest Sharing**

Rev. Richard Trudeau

Session 5. **Frederick Douglass' 'Plea for Freedom of Speech in Boston'**

Rev. Beverly Seese



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Ann Kilby, Pat McCutcheon

Newsletter deadline and classified advertising in the HUUF Newsletter

The flowers are blooming and we expect words will soon come blossoming to fill our June issue. We look forward to your contributions for the HUUF Newsletter. Please send them to newsletter@huuf.org by May 20.

Classified ads are a dime per word (a great deal). Please send to the HUUF office.

Thank you!

Classified ad

Toyota car for sale \$ 4,750

2004 sporty sedan, Lexus, 129,700 miles.
Automatic, moonroof, leather interior, just detailed. Call Peggy (510) 551-4924.

An evening with Mary Oliver

Selected poems of Mary Oliver will be read with music inspired by her poetry on May 13, 7:00 p.m. at HUUF. Admission is free. An American poet loved by people of all ages and backgrounds, Oliver's poetry speaks with a sense of place in the natural world and an awareness of the interconnectedness of all living things. Over Oliver's long career, she received many awards including the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and the National Book Award. She passed away in January, 2019. The program will be an opportunity to reflect upon the beauty of the world and our experience within it. At the same time, we'll hear the beautiful music of the performers: Linda Holland, Annette Gurnee Hull, Wendy Rowan, and Fiona Gadd-Ryder.

Wendy Rowan