

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved Community

May, 2024

Power belongs to the many

Deepa Iyer defines a Visionary as someone who can “*imagine and generate our boldest possibilities, hopes and dreams, and remind us of our direction.*” Similarly, she tells us that a Disruptor is one who is willing and able to “*take uncomfortable and risky actions to shake up the status quo, to raise awareness, and to build power.*” A Caregiver is able to “*nurture and nourish the people around [them] by creating and sustaining a community of care, joy, and connection.*”

In total, there are ten roles which Ms. Iyer sets forth in her work with the **Social Change Ecosystem Map**: a framework designed to help us understand our unique place in the diverse network that is needed to come together (centered around common values) to create lasting and systemic change. (If your interest is piqued and you want to know more, you can type in this link: <https://bit.ly/3JrvbAp> to dig a bit deeper. It’s a great resource.)

As we’ve been gathering to discuss our shared ministry this past month, it’s been a beautiful reminder that, as Clarissa Pinkola Estés writes, “*We are [all] needed, that is all we can know...What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing.*” As we embrace this mode of working, worshiping, gathering, change-making and culture-building here at HUUF, it is a powerful reminder of the strength we have in diversity, in pluralism, in a space where everyone’s gifts (and experiences, viewpoints and backgrounds) are far-ranging and uniquely honored.

So, a challenge for us all, beloveds, as we move into the whirl of spring and the many calls upon our time and attention: take time to reflect upon the unique role(s) you carry in your own systems for leveraging change. What is the unique See “*Beloved,*” page 8

“Town Hall Meeting” on gender neutral bathrooms at HUUF

On Friday, May 24, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., in person and on Zoom, HUUF members and friends will have an opportunity to listen and speak about the possibility of altering our bathroom signage so that people of any gender have a welcoming bathroom in our main building.

The Town Hall will start with a screening of *Toilet Training*, a 30-minute documentary recommended by the UUA that “addresses the persistent discrimination, harassment, and violence that people who transgress gender norms face in gender segregated bathrooms. Using stories of people who have been harassed, arrested or beaten for trying to use bathrooms, *Toilet Training* focuses on bathroom access in public space, in schools, and at work.”

Currently we have one restroom that has always been a de facto gender-neutral space—the one in the CARE Building, which is a single stall and has a lockable door. People attending events in the main building who don’t identify as either male or female have to go outside and brave the winter wind, rain, and cold to use a restroom where they can feel comfortable. There can also be See “*Bathrooms,*” page 4

Saturday, May 18, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

May Pledge Party—A Picnic for All Ages

It's Fellowship Pledge Season! Save the date for a Rock'n Good Time!

Join us for a lovely afternoon of food, fun and fellowship as we come together to celebrate another year of belonging to and co-creating this beloved community. We'll have lawn games and activities set up to enjoy, a full two hour set of live music from Jason Klingonsmith and his fabulous cover band, and delicious food available for purchase (\$7 for kids, \$15 for adults) from Chef Colleen Betts. Stick around for our yummy sundae bar at the end.



Check the HUUF website and the upcoming Weekly email to RSVP. We look forward to seeing you there!

Board Report for April

Our meeting on Tuesday, April 7 was attended by Pat McCutcheon, Margy Emerson, Jason Teraoka, Chris Chapin, Montana Caouette, and Corazon Amada.

We continue fund-raising on the UUA platform Faithify, <https://www.faithify.org/campaign/312/care-force-free-dental-clinic> where we hope to raise \$8,000 in support of Rev. Tom Lewis's California CareForce free dental and vision clinic. As of April 11, we have raised \$4,705 with 19 more days to go.

***Please save some time on July 12-13 to
help the free vision/dental clinic
Tom Lewis is setting up***

We have reached 59% of our ultimate goal. Please save some time on July 12-13, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to help this humanitarian project. It's a great chance to put our UU principles into action.

The Board listened carefully to the many comments concerning non-gendered restrooms offered by the congregation at the March 24 Congregational Meeting. We discussed a possible proposal to be considered by members at our June 2 Congregational Meeting, but we remain open to further input.

Bridgette and helpers have sent Pledge letters and forms in the mail. She will post the online pledge form link in the upcoming *HUUF Weekly* emails.

Pledge Party Picnic Highlights:

Saturday, May 18, 4pm-9pm

Live music provided by Jason Klingonsmith's band

Food Catered by Colleen Betts at \$10-15 per plate

Kids Zone

Membership committee's "make a lei" craft table, and more...

Our next Board meeting will be on May 14 at 7:00 p.m., in person in the HUUF Sanctuary. The first 30 minutes are for members to share their ideas/concerns with the Board.

Chris Chapin, Board Secretary

Sunday Services and Religious Education

Sunday, May 5, 11:00 a.m.

Celebrating Beltane — Yemaya Kimmel, Bridgette Garuti, Amy Day

Join us for this all ages, multi-sensory celebration and observance of the fecund energies of Spring! We'll work with Earth-based rituals and songs as well as a community art experience and offering. Weather permitting, we'll host this joyous experience outside to take in the full delights this dawning of the season provides.

Sunday, May 12, 11:00 a.m.

The Spirit of Motherhood —Josh Charles

Moms are magical. They are our first connection to another human being, and they have an impact on the rest of our lives. Many of the gifts they bring to the world are not limited to mothers, though, and when we find ways to answer the call, we can all bring healing and nurturing to the world. Let us all learn new ways to step up and pay it forward.



Sunday, May 19, 11:00 a.m.

Choral Service with Guests *A Company of Voices*, directed by Elisabeth Harrington -- Ann Kilby

Through a program of radiant musical offering, we are invited to ponder and celebrate! All present will be invited to sing UU favorites and some new songs together in this interactive celebration of Word and Song. A Company of Voices, co-directed by Elisabeth Harrington and Stacy Young, will share songs from their spring concert "Poetry Into Music." Singers will read the poems aloud and talk about how words and music together have a special power to engage our senses and awaken our hearts.

Sunday, May 26, 11:00 a.m.

Stone Soup Sunday —Josh Charles and Rebekah Paez

Join us for this multigenerational celebration of community and all the gifts we each bring to the collective. In partnership with Arcata House, we will prepare meals for those experiencing homelessness in our region. We will send them off with a burbling and delicious pot of "stone soup" made from the ingredients that we bring forth. Bring an offering of chopped vegetables —from your garden, farm-share, or your neighborhood market – to contribute to this sacred and communal feast. We will share stories and songs and sit down to break bread together. Let service be our prayer.

Children and Families Religious Education

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Our wonderful RE staff provide meaningful engagement in the form of games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories and outdoor play to our youth, grades Pre-K through five, during Sunday services. Nursery Care is also available for our babies and toddlers. See this month's service descriptions for more details. ***Pssst! We're hiring!** If you know of anyone who loves working with youth, and has a few hours a month to share on Sundays, send 'em our way! Contact Amy at comm@huuf.org for more information.

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

Please Note: Our Teen Coordinator, Bellamy Devine, will leave for summer break after May 20 (but will be returning in the fall —hooray!).

Bathrooms, from page one

mobility issues with the added distance.

The two restrooms in the main building are currently labeled “Men” and “Women.” Following the discussion at our Annual Meeting on March 24, and after looking into how this issue is handled elsewhere, the HUUF Board crafted a proposal to leave the women’s room labeled as is, adding a sign advising people that it contains a changing table; change the men’s room into an all-gender restroom with a sign indicating there is a urinal inside; and add a sign to the CARE Building restroom indicating there’s a changing table inside (it’s already labeled “All-Gender”). The Board is looking for feedback on this proposal.

The UUA urges all groups who support gender equity to offer gender neutral bathrooms. Quoting from their website:

“Who Benefits from Gender Neutral Bathrooms?”

- People who are uncomfortable in men’s or women’s rooms for many reasons; for example, people who are not women or men and/or people who are gender nonconforming.
- Parents/caregivers whose children are a different gender from them.
- People with caregivers or personal attendants who are a different gender from them."

Please come to the Town Hall and let the Board know what you think about this issue. If there’s a coalescing around a proposal as a result of the Town Hall, the Board will bring it up at the Congregational Meeting on June 2 and, after further discussion, possibly ask for consensus. **(See the HUUF statement on consensus below.)**

Margy Emerson, Co-President, Board of Trustees

HUUF consensus policy for deciding challenging issues

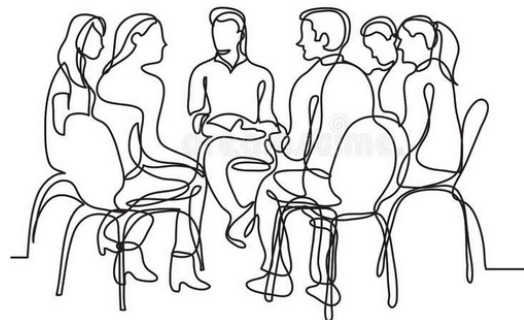
Definition of Consensus

A group reaches consensus when all members agree upon a given response and each group member can honestly say: “I believe that you understand my point of view and that I understand yours. Whether or not I prefer this decision, I support it because:

1. It was reached fairly and openly, and
2. It is a workable solution for us at this time.”

Guidelines for Reaching Consensus

- Listen: Pay attention to others.
- Encourage participation.
- Share information.
- Take your time in coming to an agreement.
- Stick to your determination to reach consensus.
- Treat differences as a strength.
- Create a response that meets as many needs as possible and can be supported.
- Speak in “I” statements for yourself.
- Be aware of the multiple views and insights in your group as well as your own.
- Seek a win-win response when there are multiple needs.



Article IV, Section 1, HUUF Bylaws

“Each member shall have one vote in the conduct of the affairs of the Fellowship. The Congregation shall strive to make decisions by consensus. If, after much discussion, it appears that consensus will not be reached, 90% of those present may agree by ballot, to vote by ballot, upon the matter being decided. A simple majority will then carry the vote on the issue.”

Climate Action Campaign

Lots of ways you can help our climate

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. —Helen Keller

In March, CAC and several HUUF members attended meetings of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) Community Advisory Committee and RCEA's Board of Directors to oppose RCEA's contract with Humboldt Sawmill Co. for biomass energy. Others wrote letters about the health and climate impacts of burning biomass. A huge thank you to all who did that!

More Ways to Take Climate Action this Month

Dr. Wendy Ring heads up the Humboldt Coalition for Clean Energy (CAC is one of sixteen member groups). Dr. Ring urges us to write letters to the editor of local publications expressing concern about the climate and health impacts of biomass energy.

CAC supports SB 252, a bill requiring California retirement funds, CalPERS and CalSTRS, to divest from fossil fuel investments. The bill has passed the State Senate but it faces a test in the Assembly's Public Employment and Retirement Committee, whose chairwoman has opposed the legislation. On the third Sundays of May and June, we will have letters available to sign after the service urging support for SB 252.

Relative to HUUF's energy use and carbon footprint, CAC and other HUUF members are reviewing an RCEA-produced report analysing HUUF's energy use and how well our rooftop solar system covers our electrical needs. We will also review Interfaith Power and Light's webinar on sources of federal grants for houses of worship. If you are interested in helping evaluate HUUF's energy needs and whether we should expand our solar array or install batteries for energy storage, contact me to obtain copies of the reports.

E-bike vouchers are now available from both RCEA and the State of California. Visit <https://redwoodenergy.org/e-bikes-information/> to see if you're eligible for both vouchers.

Are you ready to make a positive impact with your personal finances? On Thursday, May 2, 4:00 p.m., Climate Action California presents a webinar, [Green Finance: Investing in a Greener Tomorrow](https://tinyurl.com/GreenFinanceWebinar), (https://tinyurl.com/GreenFinanceWebinar) to help you align your investments with your climate goals. The webinar will provide information to demystify the concept of ESG (environmental/social/governance) investing, discuss sustainable banking, investment and retirement options, and provide resources on how to switch to greener, carbon-free investments.

Thanks for all you do for our climate!

Sue Lee Mossman, Co-chair

HUUF Women's Retreat June 7-9

Get ready to pamper yourself and connect deeply with other women.

Imagine a mix of stimulating workshops, fun crafts, inspiring worship, hikes, peaceful time relaxing by the river or under a tree, and great fellowship. Open to all female-identified persons over age 16. All meals are included; everyone will be asked to pitch in to help with chores and cooking.

Taking a vacation from our children, pets, and men will allow us to recharge in each other's company. Our private swimming hole on the Mattole awaits you, along with good food and great company.

Cost: \$155/person (arrive Thursday, June 6, for an extra day of unstructured time, for an additional \$50).

Registration Form can be found on the website or by going here: <https://bit.ly/4ayRi3T>

Scholarship deadline: Sunday, May 19

Registration Deadline: Saturday, June 1

Questions? Berti Welty. 707 382-1472 bertijo@humboldt1.com.



Blessings and burritos: Help us make food for the unhoused

Every first and third Friday at the Fellowship , May 3 and 17 this month, we meet from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. as part of our ongoing partnership with McKinleyville's Church of the Joyful Healer. Each Saturday, they offer a warm meal, bag lunch, hot coffee, and a place to get warm for folks experiencing homelessness. Join us as we make sandwiches and a yummy tray of burritos as part of this important community ministry. Come early (at 4:00) and join in the

singalong fun happening in the HUUF Sanctuary with Maggie McKnight. We'd love to have you there. For more information, contact Amy at comm@huuf.org

The Power of Presence:

A monthly Circle with Karen Harris beginning Sunday, May 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Every week when we recite our aspiration, we commit ourselves to helping one another in fellowship. But what does this actually mean? What could this look like in *this* Fellowship? How can we deepen our capacity to show up for ourselves and each other, especially during challenging times? Facilitated by Karen Harris and assisted by other local mentors, we will gather monthly from May to December. Our intention will be to deepen our self-understanding, our connection to each other, and our ability to show up for the benefit of all. Whether you are seeking support or would like to offer it, if you are interested in exploring how HUUF members can deepen our mutual connection and support, this group is for you.

Day of Mindfulness meditation retreat at HUUF

Treat yourself to a nourishing Day of Mindfulness in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh on Saturday May 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's event, put on by the Ancient Forest Sangha, will focus on the theme *Spacious Mind, Inclusive Heart*. If you've wondered about meditation, this is an opportunity for a deep dive. There will be guided meditations, including a period of deep relaxation, a Dharma talk by Alexa Singer-Telles, and time for creative expression. To register, and for more information, go to <https://ancientforestsangha.org/>.

Questions? Contact Valerie Gizinski, polkaqueen@gmail.com



Take some time to show you care

The Caring Circle has put together a survey to gain understanding of current needs within HUUF. If you have things you'd like to share (or things that you could use), take a moment to fill out the form included here:

HUUF Caring Circle Survey

Please fill out this form if you are looking for or can offer help/support/connection to fellow HUUF members and friends. The Caring Circle Committee will review our Congregation's needs/offering and work together to connect people for mutual support.

What are you needing and/or able to offer?

- Pick up prepaid items and deliver. Offer _____ Need _____ Both _____
- Donate (and/or deliver) food or supplies. Offer _____ Need _____ Both _____
- Walk or feed my pet. Offer _____ Need _____ Both _____
- Chat/check in once a week via text, phone, zoom or email. Offer _____
Need _____ Both _____
- Visit and maybe play a board game. Offer _____ Need _____ Both _____
- Small physical labor around my house or property. Offer _____ Need _____ Both _____
- A ride to Sunday services. Donate (and/or deliver) food or supplies. Offer _____ Need _____
Both _____
from Eureka _____ Arcata _____ McKinleyville _____ Other _____
- Help with child care. Offer _____ Need _____ Both _____

Other, or details you'd like to share:

Contact information

Name(s): _____

Please provide an email, phone number or Facebook URL where neighbors/HUUF can reach you:

Location Please share your general location to help people who live close to each other connect:

Do you consent to this information being shared in a roster? Yes ___ No ___

*Please place the completed form in the Caring Circle box in the foyer. This form is also available online on the HUUF's website. You may also mail this form to HUUF at p.o. box 506 Bayside, CA 95524
Thank you for your input, if you have a more immediate need we recommend you call the office at 707-822-3793.*



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Some news about HUUF people ...

Congratulations to Susan and Scott Allen on becoming grandparents again with the arrival of Alder James Gerhard on April 12. All's well. Alder and his mother, Maggie (who was previously active in HUUF's Religious Education program), are doing well, and the grandparents are beaming.

Thanks to Sue Mossman for sending this in. If you have other news about HUUF people (that they're happy to have publicized), send it to newsletter@huuf.org by the 20th of the month.

Classified Ad

Three bedroom, two bath house for sale, great kids neighborhood, walk to CPH and Arcata High. Call John Schaefer (707) 825-9533

Beloved, from page 1

place you occupy within the web? And, just as important, what are you doing to foster meaningful connections inside of it? The vision of a healthy community, of Shared Ministry (and one might even extrapolate: a healthy democratic society) is the acknowledgement that never does the power to determine the future lie with an elite circle of privileged individuals. Rather, the power belongs to the many.

May this be a time for us all to reawaken to this knowing, and move actively, wholeheartedly, into the spaces that align us with our own agency and connection to the whole.

In grace gratitude, your Shared Ministry Team,

Amy Day and Bridgette Garuti