

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



June 2016

## A note from the minister

I had a challenging visit recently from a man who asked, “Why aren’t you housing some of the homeless on your property here at the Fellowship? You challenge the Eureka City Council to do better. Why don’t you do better yourself?”

His question burned in me. I know we as a Fellowship have done a lot about the painful reality that our system too often destroys vulnerable people. But I know we need to keep doing better, too. We need to keep growing in our outreach to those who are crushed and broken by our social and economic system, and we need to become effective in changing the system. None of us are totally “righteous.” We all (including our Fellowship and the Eureka City Council) have done some things to care for those our larger system has mangled. Many of us have worked to try to change the system itself, but we are not nearly done yet.

Some say that because none of us are perfect none of us should say anything when the system takes away the hand-made homes of 140 people and leaves 100 of them with no home at all. I don’t think that’s right. I think that, even though our call to do better will echo back and challenge us too, we need to speak up and speak out when we see the larger system again wreaking havoc on people who the system no longer protects.

I do not think we should allow ourselves to be silenced by forces that would like to shame us into silence. Let us continue to shout “Stop this!” when we see our systems destroying the dignity of those for whom they have no room. Let us dare to feel the discomfort of knowing that we in this Fellowship, along with the Eureka City Council, are obliged to do better in the face of the carnage our system produces. Let us respond by building on the good work we have done and by continuing to create new responses.

And let us relentlessly work to change the parts of our economic and social system that destroy people in the first place. I know this will make us feel uncomfortable. It sure makes me feel uncomfortable. But I have a roof over my head and I don’t think I can stop feeling uncomfortable until everyone does.

Yours in the journey,

*Rev. Bryan Jessup*

## Single service

The summer schedule begins in June. From **June 5** through **September 4** there will be only one service at 11:00 a.m.

*Bryan Jessup*

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## People

Welcome to new member, **Anna Gaines**, whose photo will soon be posted in the foyer.

Welcome back, pledging friend, **Fred Mazie**.

Congratulations to **Justin Knapp** who is graduating from high school in June.

Congratulations to **Lucera Love** on her graduation from HSU Education Specialist Teacher Credential Program with preliminary credentials in Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Severe Disabilities at HSU on May 14. She is currently finishing her fieldwork and seeking a teaching position for next school year. Her health is in stable condition, and she is feeling well. She will go for another neck ultrasound in late June, and hopes to be able to report being cancer-free after that test.

Our thoughts are with **Susan** and **Scott Allen** following Scott's brother's death.

**Anne Weiss** is headed for ankle surgery in Santa Rosa on June 5 and a month or so of rehabilitation before coming back to Humboldt. She asks that we keep her in our thoughts.

**Judith Barry** is requesting visitors at Granada Rehabilitation in Eureka.

Thank you and congratulations to **Karen Knapp** for an incredibly successful season of circle dinners that brought us closer to each other.

**Bill Thompson** is recovering at home from a fall resulting in hip discomfort.

**Andy Anderson** is moving into Veterans housing in Redding in June.

**Beverly Allen** received the 2016 Distinguished Citizen Award from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Macalester is Beverly's and her granddaughter, Hannah's alma mater. (Picture below)

Thank you to the many of you who responded to the Caring Circle survey on Valentine's Day about your willingness to assist others in the Fellowship. The Caring Circle realizes we have been amiss in acknowledging your outpouring of generosity. The Caring Circle has a spreadsheet of responses and will be calling you as needed. In the meantime the pioneers of the Caring Circle have gone into honored retirement and we are searching for volunteers to refresh the ranks. Please consider joining us. We meet at 10:30, the third Tuesday of each month or you can call **Nancy Engel** at 839-5789.



*Sylvia Shaw*

## Board minutes

The May 10 Board of Trustees meeting addressed temporary changes to the policy of requiring stewards be present during all outside rental events, put final touches on the 2016-2017 budget in preparation for the May 22 Congregational meeting and heard 2 excellent reports from the Minister's Contract and Governance ad hoc committees.

The Administrator suggested trying alternatives to having event stewards at outside rental events during the entire event as a means of reducing costs to HUUF of these events. In the last year, since eliminating Sunday stewards, we have not had a pool of trained stewards to draw from for events, which has been an added issue.

The Board requested minor changes to the upcoming budget and planned for information and discussion sessions the next two Sundays. The Board thanked the Finance Committee under the guidance of David Harris for gracious and efficient work.

The Board accepted the Ad Hoc Committee report on the minister's contract.

The Board heard a summary of recommendations for governance system adjustments from another ad hoc committee and will discuss further at the Board Workshop on **June 3-4**.

*Sylvia Shaw*

## Religious Education

Come celebrate our last day of Religious Education on **June 5** at the 11 a.m. service with our Milestone ceremony. New this year, we all cross over the bridge. Traditionally, we have used it to signify moving to a new class, but we have all worked and explored our spiritual paths together. We should all walk over the bridge together. Our paths are all different, yet we travel together in our journey to love, both ourselves and one another in this place, our beloved community of lifelong learners. Celebrate afterwards with another tradition that has not changed, sundae Sunday! Bring a topping to share for ice cream sundaes together.

This has been a year of growth in our Religious Education Cooperative. We have grown in numbers by 49%. We are bursting at our seams with enthusiastic energy. We are looking to change how we structure our Sunday experience to provide better continuity between parents' and children's spiritual experience and our whole congregational experience.

Many thanks to our fabulous RE committee, led by Danielle Stubblefield for the last two years. The committee saw us through many positive additions to our program as we grew in what we offered to families and in numbers. We welcome Jana Kirk-Levine as our incoming chair. We encourage all families to be a part of our upcoming all congregation retreat and campout. Save your August for some fun with all of us.

*Jillian Mooney*



## Art and Aesthetics

The Art on the wall will switch in the third week of June and will be announced later. As the addition and renewal of the Foyer is completed the Aesthetics Committee will entertain ideas and suggestions about what will be in this space to best meet the needs of the various parts of our community. Remember as you consider, we expanded this space so that there would be more room for people to interact not for more stuff. However we will take your thoughts seriously. We will also have a "Little Questionnaire."



*Cheryl Rau*

## Streamlining Transportation for the Beloved Community

The Caring Circle wants to make it easier for those who need a ride to a HUUF event to connect with a driver. Here's how it works:

1 If someone needs a ride they can call Caring Circle member Debi Cooper at 633-6355. If Debi is unavailable, call Jeanne Chapin at 444-9337.

2 Debi or Jeanne will contact a driver and set up the ride. We will also call the rider back to let her/him know if the ride was obtained and who to expect.

3 If riders wish to make a donation to the Transportation Fund, they can do so through the HUUF office. People other than riders are also encouraged to donate to this fund.

4 Those people who give rides and need gas money help can request it from the fund by submitting a note to the office listing the people, dates and rides for which they are asking reimbursement.

Reimbursement is set at \$5 per ride.

Please understand that we are just starting this system. We cannot absolutely guarantee a ride, but we will certainly do our best. We also want to encourage those who are attending HUUF events, classes, etc. to use a few minutes of the first class to set up ride sharing.

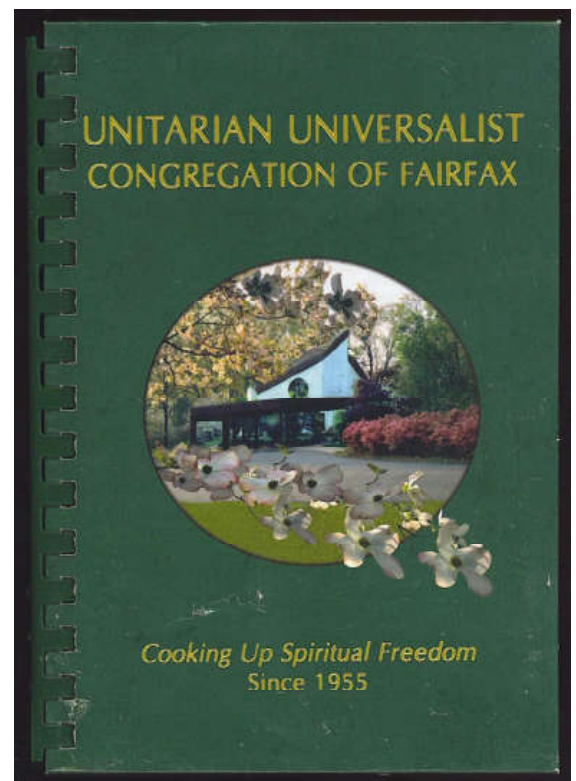
*Jeanne Chapin*



## Cookbook redux

I recently had the opportunity to view a cookbook composed in the 90's by HUUF members of their favorite recipes. Ed and Aiko and their daughter Amy had a hand in it. Every page had my mouth watering and I got the idea for a fundraiser: Let's reproduce it with new additions by current members. Now, I am the **most** unlikely person to take on this project due to my lack of computer skills but is someone interested? Maybe we could have it ready in November for holiday gifts? I would purchase a few as gifts. Feedback: How many of you have copies of the original? There truly are some great memories of some of our members who have moved on in it and that makes them extra special. Maybe form a cookbook committee and let's get started.

*Jan Rowen*



## ***Circulo de Amigas* report**

Genderling, the girl we sponsor through *Circulo de Amigas*, is now 10 years old and in fifth grade. HUUF's Social Action Committee (SAC) has supported her education since she started first grade. Our contribution of \$578 per year covers her annual tuition and a Christmas basket for the family. She sends us quarterly school reports and letters in her native Spanish language, expressing her affection and gratitude. She is advancing diligently.

The school she attends is in Jinotega in the mountains of Nicaragua. She lives in a dirt-floor house with her mother and older brother, Duvan. The mother sells baked goods in town.

SAC has been supporting her through the sponsoring organization, *Circulo de Amigas*, which means "circle of female friends," since 2008. Our efforts received encouragement when Pat McCully, founder of *Circulo de Amigas*, came to HUUF to speak in 2009. As a teacher of Spanish in Huntington Beach, Pat founded the organization in 1983 after a trip to Nicaragua with some of her pupils. Witnessing girls with inadequate clothing, her first project involved sending sewing machines to Jinotega. She purchased a house there and in its parlor set up a sewing classroom. Later a free clinic was built and a preschool was adopted. Computers were provided for the school.

Encouraging schooling for girls has become a primary emphasis. In her way, Pat chose, and we have chosen, to become a part of the movement now known worldwide as "Let Girls Learn."

Three years ago the Stubblefield family of HUUF spent part of the year in Nicaragua for Andrew's sabbatical. They visited Jinotega and were warmly received as guests by *Circulo de Amigas*. They met Genderling, Duvan and their mother. While the girls were drawing together, the mom told Danielle with tears in her eyes of how much HUUF's support to her daughter meant. Without our help only one or the other of her children could be in school.

In a nearby old growth forest reserve, Duvan pointed out to the visiting family vines that could be cut for drinking water and he named the various trees. The girls pretended to be forest fairies and had fun "flying" away from the rest of the group up the trail. Danielle wrote, "Genderling will always hold a place in our hearts. We found her to be fun-loving, big hearted and opinionated. (Hmm. She'd make a good UU!)"

*Danielle Stubblefield*



## All Fellowship picnic

The picnic will take place Saturday, **June 11** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Big Lagoon. Come play in the water, walk the beach, or boat. Meet at the day use area of Big Lagoon County Park. Bring any boats you might have. We'll have burgers (beef, turkey and garden) and hot dogs. Bring a salad, fruit, chips etc. to share. If anyone is willing to bring a plate of lettuce, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions or sliced avocados for the burgers, please let me know. A few lawn chairs might come in handy. Jo and I will bring a canoe and 2 kayaks. Children of all ages are encouraged to bring their parents to a fun filled gathering. Let's be intergenerational.

*Roberta Welty*

## All Fellowship retreat

**August 5-7** the Fellowship will have a fun-filled weekend at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center. This intergenerational gathering on the banks of the Mattole River could be just the ticket for a get-away weekend at a reasonable cost. The limit will be 65 participants. Registration forms should be available on the HUUF website the first weekend of June. Hard copies will be at HUUF.

Sleeping will be in cabins or tent if you wish. Six meals. Hiking. Crafts. Games. Singing. Campfire. Tai Chi. Meditation. Maybe a talent show. Nature study. Swimming in the river. Outdoor Sunday worship with Bryan. Quiet conversation. Things to do and plenty of free time for those who'd rather just veg-out. Costs: \$105 for adults, \$60 for children (under 18). Maximum \$300 for immediate family. Partial scholarships will depend on how much we receive in donations.

Willing to help with the planning or have suggestions for activities, contact me at 476-0654 or bertijo@humboldt1.com and/or come to our planning meetings (usually at 9:45 a.m. several Sunday mornings during the summer).

*Berti Welty*



## Deadline info

Deadline for the **July/August** issue of the newsletter is Monday, **June 20**, 5:00 p.m. Send your committee reports and articles to [newsletter@huuf.org](mailto:newsletter@huuf.org). While many file formats are acceptable, .doc, .docx, .rtf and text are preferred, and .pdf and pages cannot be used. Late submissions can not be accepted.

*Stephen Sottong, editor*

## Becoming a member

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

*Awanna Kalal*

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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

## Member bios

I was born in Montana and we moved to Southern California when I was 5, but Montana is a big part of my identity.

I moved here in 1973 to attend HSU, graduating in zoology. After several temporary jobs, and wondering what I was going to do when I grew up, I got a job as a medical assistant at United Indian Health Services. After obtaining my Physician Assistant training at U.C. Davis I worked at every clinic in Humboldt County. Ultimately I spent nearly 30 years at UIHS while also working at Open Door Clinic and then at Planned Parenthood.

Greg Blomstrom, my husband, and I met working on political campaigns and environmental issues. I grow native plants and forage for mushrooms, and have a large vegetable garden. Other hobbies include playing Renaissance music, reading and knitting.

I started attending HUUF with a friend and felt a kinship with the members. The philosophy of openness and questioning has kept me returning. I participated in the Welcoming Committee and a HUUF women's group for several years. I love being part of the choir. Co-facilitating the OWL curriculum has been a great way for me to give back to this community using my experience in medicine to advocate for and educate our teens.

*Debby Harrison*

I grew up the middle of three sisters in the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated from Skyline High in Oakland CA in 1971. That fall I went to Sonoma State University but left in 1974. I moved to the hills of Cazadero where I lived for 13 years. Both of my children were born at home, my son, Jared, in 1978 and my daughter, Joscelyn, in 1981.

Later I went back to school, first getting my AA at Santa Rosa Junior College in 1993 and then went to Sonoma State University in 1994, graduating with a degree in Environmental Studies in 1997.

My first job was as a Horticulturist at North Cascades National Park. From 1998 to 2009 I worked for the National Park Service, US Forest Service, USGS, BLM, USFWS and The Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians.

When I was working at Zion National Park in 2000 I discovered a plant species, *Cirsium joannae*. While working for the USGS in Corvallis, Oregon in 2001, I became acquainted with a UU congregation and loved it. While working at Redwood National Park 2002, I bought a house in Crescent City. In 2008 I moved to Valley Center, California, to take a job with the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians as their Natural Resource Coordinator. A few months after starting the job I met Roger Lasken and we moved in together and got married. We joined Chalice UU congregation in Escondido, California. In 2013, following a divorce, I moved back to Northern California, bought a house in Eureka and joined Humboldt UU Fellowship.

*Joanna Welch*





# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506  
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way (off Jacoby Creek Road)

(707) 822-3793

www.huuf.org

e-mail: office@huuf.org

Administrator: Roxana Stengl

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Minister: Rev. Bryan Jessup

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

822-3793 minister@huuf.org

Director of Religious Education: Jillian Mooney

## Board of Trustees:

Co-Presidents Jana Kirk-Levine

Greg Blomstrom

Vice-President vacant

Secretary Sylvia Shaw

Trustees Joanna Welch

Katherine Almy

Treasurer Cynthia Chason

Newsletter Editor Stephen Sottong

newsletter@huuf.org

Calendar Editor Roxana Stengl

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### Help Wanted

I need someone for hand-weeding in my Eureka flower garden. The pay is \$15 an hour. Awanna Kalal 442-4530 or awanna@aol.com

## Summer newsletter

The next newsletter covers both July and August, so have your articles ready by Monday, **June 20**. The number of submissions has been low recently and I'm hoping to have a big summer issue. But, please don't send articles to my personal email. I can't accept them there because there are several people who are involved in the process of creating the newsletter and all of them must have access to the articles. That's why we instituted the **newsletter@huuf.org** email so everyone has access.

*Stephen Sottong*