

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



In preparation for our new Minister

June 2021

HUUF's Tech wizard, Scarlett Trippsmith, is putting together a Video Diary of HUUF's members, to present to our new minister, Peter Farriday, when he arrives, so he can get to know HUUF and its members, matching names and faces to stories. There are 3 options to participate:

Option #1. Please send Scarlett Trippsmith, it@huuf.org, a 2-5 minute recorded sharing answering the following questions? (by **June 27**)

- What is your name/pronoun?
- When is your birthday?
- Where did you grow up?
- What brings you immense joy?

Option #2. Come to the Fellowship to be recorded by Scarlett Trippsmith

- Tuesday **June 15**, 12-3 p.m.
- Thursday **June 17**, 12-3 p.m.

Option #3. Attend Virtual Coffee Hour (<https://tinyurl.com/MinisterPrep>) on June 27 after the Service (12 p.m.) to be virtually recorded.

Scarlett Trippsmith

To the Graduating Class of 2021

On **June 13**, we will be virtually honoring those of the Graduating Class of 2021. If you know of someone in our congregation that is graduating, please get in touch with Scarlett Trippsmith, it@huuf.org, by **June 6** with the following:

- 1 Baby Picture
- 1 Silly Picture (Any Age)
- 1 Recent Happy Picture

Please note that if you do not intend to join us live, we ask that you please also send a 2-4 minute recording of yourself speaking to what it feels like to be in this magic time of transition.

Newsletter, summer and more

Next month's newsletter will be the traditional summer edition that covers July and August, so have announcements, reports, events and services for both months ready by Sunday, **June 20** at 5 p.m.

The online version of the newsletter will occasionally have extra content that, either, there wasn't room for in the print, or that wouldn't present well in black and white (e.g. Play-scape pictures this month). Also, I'm experimenting with adding live links to the online version of the newsletter.

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(online only)



Stephen Sottong

Supporting our Fellowship in Sharing Ministry: COSM

On **June 20**, at our Congregational Meeting members of the Ministerial Relations Committee will bring forward a proposal for strengthening our congregation in living out our stated Purpose as a spiritual community that shares ministry: the development of a Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM).

HUUF has a long history of sharing ministry with a Minister and in times when we are without a professional minister. We are able to do this because we have developed our own stated Purpose as a spiritual community. We align ourselves with that Purpose rather than any particular Minister as we serve and inspire one another in fellowship.

Our ability to provide ministry has been deeply tested with the challenges and changes of the past few years but fortunately both Rev. Bryan Jessup and Rev. Anthony Johnson helped members of their Ministerial Relations Committee initiate a process of creating a Committee on Shared Ministry to guide us going forward. This is what we now present for your consideration.

Please read the description below and consider what we are recommending. We will discuss this together at the Congregational Meeting on and then see if we have consensus about creating this Committee on Shared Ministry. If we do, we will come together once Rev. Peter Farriday is here, to begin the actual formation of the committee.

Alison O'Dowd, Bonnie MacGregor, John Moor – Ministerial Relations Committee

Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)

Why would a congregation want a COSM?

A COSM supports the congregation in embodying its Purpose and ministry. It helps us to be the best version of ourselves – to live up to what we say we believe in principles and practice. Whether our congregation has a professional minister or not, it is healthy to pay attention to how well we, as a spiritual community, are fulfilling our Purpose through our shared ministry.

What is a COSM?

- A COSM's purpose is to inspire and guide the actualization of a congregation's Purpose.
- The COSM's primary function is to elevate the effectiveness of all facets of the congregation's ministry and promote synergistic possibilities.
- The COSM's responsibility is to reflect on and make recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the congregation's Purpose and ministry.

COSM Scope

- The scope of the COSM concerns the entire ministry of the congregation: professional ministers, the Board of Trustees, program and administrative staff, and lay leaders.
- The COSM does not concern itself with the performance of people; it examines the effectiveness of the ministry they engage in as stewards of the congregation's Purpose.
- The COSM may provide possible pathways to resolve issues and conflicts that arise in the congregation, but does not serve as mediator or arbiter.
- An effective COSM may significantly reduce conflict by keeping the congregation's eye on fulfilling its Purpose through its ministry.

Responsibilities of the COSM

- Maintains awareness of the quality of our congregational life as a spiritual community.
- Supports the congregation to help enhance its understanding and skill in sharing ministry.
- Leads the congregation in a periodic renewal/revision of our Purpose and Covenant.
- Models healthy and deepening relationships with minister/s and staff.
- Serves as a sounding board for the Minister's engagements and concerns, and helps guide actions coming out of those concerns.
- Supports the Minister's planning for continuing education, sabbaticals, and other professional development.
- Provides an annual report to the Board of Trustees and Congregation reflecting how well HUUF is fulfilling the Purpose of its shared ministry.

May, 2021 ~ Proposed

Religious Education

Hello Beloved Families,

First, I wish to extend a heartfelt and full-bellied *Thank You* to everyone who participated in our first, semi-official gathering at the beginning of May. It was beyond uplifting to see so many of you – masked or no – crafting, hula-hoop-ing, singing, and sending postcards to elected leaders (depending upon how you felt led) that day. It reminded me once more of HUUF’s true potency and power: our people.

This past month, I’ve gathered interviews with some of our elders – collecting stories from years ago. Stories about what it was like to create and sustain a grass-roots, values-driven community, to seed its growth and watch it morph and evolve over time. Given our rich legacy of leadership, activism, and heart-led stewardship, I am growing ever more hopeful as the possibility of re-opening becomes a reality.

Our history shows us we can do great things when we come together. Our stories bear testament to the tremendous power embedded in the will and care of the collective. In this past year, in one way or another, we’ve all felt the tremendous, aching absence of our people, of the communities and rituals that add meaning and resonance to our larger life. Rest assured, as you have found yourself missing people, you too, have been missed – your ideas, your talents, your stories, your energy, your presence, your gifts.

As we begin the tentative work of slowly re-opening our world, and building a safe and inclusive plan to do the same at HUUF, I invite you to consider your place at our communal table. There is a place for you here only you can fill. As you use the (hopefully) spacious months of summer to consider how to skillfully curate and rebuild the various fixtures of your personal world, we invite you to consider what role does this beloved community play in your life, and what role, in turn, you can play, in the recreation of the life of this Fellowship?

Thanks to all who continue to be a sustaining and powerful thread in the rich tapestry of our community.

Let me humbly leave you with the words of Rev. Michael A Schuler:

“We have reached the end of this time
For the gathering of memory
And for letting the imagination play with future possibilities.
We have enjoyed magic moments and edified each other.
Shall it be concluded, then?
Or will this adventure, now commenced, continue? —
Our separate paths converging, meeting, merging
In the unending quest for love more perfect,
The joyous struggle for meaning more sufficient and life more abundant.
Is this ending to be an ending,
Or merely prelude to new, more glorious beginnings?
I pose the question;
In your hearts lies the answer.”

Yours,

In grace and gratitude,

Amy Day, Fellowship Engagement Coordinator



Campus cleanup coming soon

Stay tuned to the weekly Fellowship news for announcement of a date for a “loving campus cleanup” of the buildings. We will wipe away the spiderwebs, pressure wash the walls and decks and wash windows throughout. Contact me to volunteer or to suggest other projects you feel ready to take on. Together we can do this.

Scott Allen

Sunday Services

Sunday, June 6 – 11 a.m. – Exploring the Purpose of HUUF – Bonnie MacGregor

What do the words “to nurture ... to embody ... and to empower ...” really mean? In what ways has this purpose been a transformative agent? How is this a spiritual practice? Long-time HUUF member Bonnie MacGregor will discuss how this stated purpose can ground us on our spiritual path and align us with who we long to be in community.

Individual members will also share their personal reflections on ways in which this Fellowship has enabled them to grow as individuals and as members of the larger society. This growth may express itself in a multitude of ways including self-confidence, spiritual depth, interpersonal awareness, and effective social action.

Sunday, June 13 – 11 a.m. – Bridging the Transitions of Our Youth – Scarlett Trippsmith and Amy Day

Join us as we empower our youth, who are transcending into new chapters of their lives. Let this service remind them of where they come from and who is their council, as they journey on new paths. Let’s honor and celebrate them as the gems they are, as we acknowledge that they are no longer playing the role of youth, but are now finding their new roles in this interdependent web of life.

Sunday, June 20 – 11 a.m. – What Fatherhood means to you – Debi Cooper and HUUF Dads

Fathers of our HUUF community will share what fatherhood means to them. We will also split into breakout rooms so Fellowship members get a chance to share stories of their fathers as well.

Sunday, June 27 – 11 a.m. – Circle Round for Justice-Healing-Courage – General Assembly

Join the largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists in a powerful communal worship service, which will be part of General Assembly 2021. Time to circle round in community, in care and healing, for liberation and justice and for love and courage. This part of the national conference will be streamed through the Fellowship and will include our virtual coffee hour afterward.



Nominations for June election

For Co-president, currently vacant, Debi Cooper.

Debi transplanted from Michigan in 2008. She has been a member since 2011 and has served on the Caring Circle Committee, Grounds Committee, Aesthetics Committee, Foyer Expansion Committee, and Stewardship Education Committee.

Secretary, to replace Debi Cooper, Sandy Lynn.

Sandy has been a member since 2002. Her two children, Trevor and Kit, attended RE Sundays and activities from the first grade on, including UU Youth Cons and summer camps. Sandy taught middle school and high school RE classes for several years, helped organize several Halloween Festival events, served as a UU Youth Con adult advisor, and served for two years on the board as an RE liaison.

Trustee, to replace Sandy Lynn, Michael ‘Montana’ Caouette.

Michael has been a member since, 2018. He moved here from Fresno with his wife, Libbi Miller and Son Jack and is a SAHD (stay at home Dad). Since joining HUUF, he has served on the Worship Committee, Grounds Committee and volunteered for various projects within the community. He served on the Ministerial Search Committee and looks forward to working with our new minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Shaw

People

Scott and Susan Allen visited **Bryan and Edie Jessup** in Amity, Oregon recently. Brian is recovering well from two weeks in hospital with a serious ailment and is feeling much better while awaiting removal of his gallbladder. Prognosis for a full recovery is excellent. In addition to caring for Bryan and family dog Wally, Edie has filled her studio with vibrant new paintings. They would be delighted to hear from you.

In related news: **Susan Allen** has been cuddled near Portland with her daughter **Maggi** (HUUF RE Alum) son-in-law AJ and 7-month-old grandson Noah for several weeks. Scott has joined the busy, exhausting baby raising party as the “pandemic generation” makes its bittersweet arrival.

Helen Vatcher, artist of our Redwood Diptych in the front of our Sanctuary, and counselor to many, wants us to know that she has entered that stage where she knows she is dying. She is content to be ably and lovingly cared for by her daughter Kim who has moved in with her for this purpose. Helen would love to receive cards but please do not drop by or phone her. She also asked that instead of sending her flowers please consider planting or tending a tree because trees are her great love.

Virtual Humboldt Trails Summit

The Summit with State Senator Mike McGuire will take place Saturday, **June 5**, 9-11 a.m. via Zoom and Access Humboldt, channel 8, or Facebook Live. This year’s theme is “Enjoy and Engage” and we will be highlighting places for you to get out and enjoy trails as well as ways to engage in efforts to expand our regional trail system. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about the progress that is being made on local trail projects and get an update from State Senator Mike McGuire on the recent progress being made to realize the vision of the Great Redwood Trail. Hank Seeman, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Humboldt County Public Works Department, will provide updates on the Humboldt Bay Trail, the McKay Community Forest, and other developments in Humboldt County. On-location videos will connect you with ongoing work to develop trails and inspire you to engage with other trail enthusiasts in supporting visionary efforts to connect communities through trails. The public is encouraged to send their questions about trails in advance to: TrailsSummit@humtrails.org.

Please register for the webinar at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UAt7CXK8ToOohZAO2weoGw

More details about the event and how to connect will be available at <https://www.humtrails.org/> or Facebook page: Humboldt Trails Council - Home.

The Humboldt Trails Summit is sponsored by the Humboldt Trails Council in collaboration with the Humboldt Bay Trail Working Group, the County of Humboldt, and the many organizations, jurisdictions and agencies working on behalf of expanding non-motorized trail access.

Kate McClain

Playscape update

Thanks to everyone, past and present, who has contributed to getting our Nature-Based-Playscape project off the ground (or rather, on, as the case may be). We are pleased to report that we’ve had our first round of groundbreaking on the project, and are beginning to work towards creating, one by one, some of the various components of this long-time coming dream and creative endeavor. Berti Welty lovingly crafted a model to get a sense of what we’ll be creating over the next several months (see the online version for pictures). Among the proposed components, we’ll be creating:

- a willow tunnel
- a slide and rolling hill
- a climbing wall
- a dry river bed
- a multi-purpose fire pit and agility course, with loose play parts
- and a musical play space

If you have skills or resources you’d like to share with this growing committee, we’d love to have you. Please, contact chair Cassie Brillbeck at dem092109@gmail.com.

Climate Action Campaign Survey summary

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Climate Action Campaign survey and special thanks to Bridgette and Scarlett for helping with office and technical support.

We received 113 responses, representing 230 household members. The survey is quite detailed and therefore difficult to summarize on one page. If you want to delve more deeply, Margy can provide several documents with numbers, percentages, and written comments from participants margaretemerson@att.net.

As the responses came back to us, it was clear that one of the primary benefits of the survey was to inspire people to do more to heal the planet. Participants described the survey as thought provoking and challenging. And they contributed ideas our survey committee had omitted. A few examples: Limiting electric use to non-peak hours; bringing home groceries in boxes and then using the cardboard for mulch; composting in a worm bin farm and using worm-produced water for potted plants; buying an electric, rechargeable mower/blower/weed whacker (“no more gas!”); and, “If it’s yellow, let it mellow.” Thank you.

The HUUF community is particularly strong when it comes to reduce/reuse/recycle. One family of four has chosen to live in a 700-square-foot home. Every spring they celebrate BNS—Buy Nothing Semester. For 16 weeks they buy nothing but groceries and don’t acquire anything—not even from free boxes. They further counteract the American consumer culture by sharing one “dumbphone” among them. An individual told us she was raised on a farm and was taught that being frugal was “the right way to live.”

Ninety percent of respondents are taking steps to wean themselves off plastics. There were several complaints about California’s recycling program and the fact that Recology and stores no longer redeem “redeemables.”

Seventy-five percent of us are “eating vegetarian or vegan sometimes or always.” Eighty-nine percent of us are eating less meat. And the same portion of us is eating homegrown or locally grown produce.

Our weakest area is in networking with environmentally active organizations and prodding elected representatives to take the legislative action that’s necessary to turn the climate crisis around. The feet of large corporations will have to be held to the fire to get them to reduce their carbon emissions. Personal and local efforts are critical, but they have to be combined with a change in governmental and industry practices. If you want to be alerted to more ways to apply pressure, contact Sue Lee Mossman to be put on the Climate Action Campaign E-mail list syl1@humboldt.edu.

We got suggestions for ways in which HUUF could facilitate the efforts of its members: Provide information on “programs that help people with upfront costs on big-ticket energy-reduction purchases” (contacting RCEA would be a good start); “Use HUUF to share and exchange food, clothing, electronics, etc.—with a small donation to HUUF” (another respondent suggested the newsletter could be a vehicle for this).

Some of us are limited in what we can do. We heard from people who can’t afford to be among the 43% of respondents who have acquired an EV/hybrid vehicle or the 34% of us who have installed solar panels. And renters made the point that they have little or no control over measures taken to conserve resources through changes to their homes or yards.

Everyone can do something and probably everyone can do more.

Cena Marino and Margy Emerson

Revised date for final HUUF bird walk

There will be one more walk for this year on **June 18** at 8:30 a.m., not June 11 as previously reported. We’re starting to hear and see a new contingent of lovely, colorful birds. Among them are the Wilson’s warbler, a tiny, bright yellow bird with a big voice, singing from a lone willow we call Fred (it’s male), on the south side of our property; and the yellow-and-black common yellowthroat, flitting around the wet area of the ditch at our southwest corner. If you would like to join us to observe these and other plant and bird delights, email me at polkaqueen@gmail.com. Bring binoculars, a mask and dress for soggy and uneven ground. We are observing Covid restrictions and limiting our group to six people.



Wilson’s warbler

Valerie Gizinski

Climate Action Campaign news

HUUF was recognized as a UU Sixth Principle (world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all) Congregation for 2020-2021. The award is granted annually by the UUA Office at the UN (UU@UN) to congregations that meet at least three criteria (donation of \$100 or \$2 per member, host a United Nations Sunday service, Send congregants to the 2020 Intergenerational Spring Seminar) and complete the application form. UU@UN will announce the 2020-2021 Sixth Principle Congregations in June. They also make a congratulatory video that can be shared with congregations.

Thanks Cena Marino and Margy Emerson, for the excellent summary of results from the CAC's Fellowship survey of actions taken to reduce carbon footprint in a related newsletter article. Thanks also to Scarlett Trippsmith, our intrepid I.T. specialist, who made the survey available on our website. We're pleased that the Arcata Presbyterian Church's Earth Care Committee found the CAC survey on our website, and adopted it for their congregation.

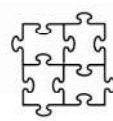
CAC will co-sponsor the 350 Humboldt's presentation, "Humboldt Bay on the Threshold of Change." On Monday, **June 7**, at 7 p.m., local environmental planner, Aldaron Laird, will discuss the best science on the Bay's rise and what we can do to adapt. Register at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/humboldt-bay-on-the-threshold-of-change/>. Humboldt Bay has the highest rate of sea level rise on the West Coast, caused by a combination of rising sea levels from climate change and local land subsidence. We can choose how we adapt to it. Laird is a leading expert on this topic with 40 years experience researching California's coastal waters, with a more recent focus on sea level rise on Humboldt Bay.

The Humboldt County Planning Commission hearing on the Nordic AquaFarm's 36 acre land-based fish farm on Samoa will be on Thursday, **June 3**, at 6 p.m. Details to follow in the Weekly.

Thanks to CAC members who staffed the Earth Day table at our Family Earth Day celebration on May 8. Among other matters, information was presented on upcoming federal and state climate related legislation. Thirty postcards and letters were written to key Congressional and California state legislators.

To reduce carbon footprint, instead of sending food waste to the landfill where it decomposes anaerobically to methane, a major greenhouse gas, there are local options where food waste and scraps can be sent to become compost to reduce landfill methane emissions. North Coast Co-op in Arcata has a self-service program where you bring food waste and scraps and fiber-based containers for composting. You can get organic matter in return to use as a soil amendment. Info is at https://northcoast.coop/shop_your_values/environmental_responsibility/composter.php. Info for Full Cycle Compost, a worker-owned bicycle-powered compost service, is at <https://tinyurl.com/2nkwnjst>. They do curbside pickup, or you can bring material to them at the Jacoby Creek Land Trust. The compost is used in the community Jardin Santuario managed by Cooperation Humboldt in partnership with the Arcata Presbyterian Church, Centro del Pueblo, and Open Door Community Health Centers. The Local Worm Guy, in Fieldbrook, offers curbside pickup between Trinidad and Eureka. Worms and vermiculture soil amendments are available for purchase. Info at <https://www.localwormguy.com/#/>

In news of divesting from fossil fuels, the S&P 500 Fossil Fuel Free Total Return index has outperformed the S&P 500 Total Return index since its inception in 2012.



Sue Lee Mossman

HUUF game, puzzle, and book exchange ending

The idea for having a book and puzzle exchange in front of the Fellowship building was hatched a year ago in a 'Nurturing in Place' zoom group discussion about wanting reading material at a time when the pandemic had closed bookstores and libraries. Exchanging puzzles and games that were in good shape was also added to these exchange tables.

Bookstores and libraries are now open, and we asked that donations stop at the end of April. A group of volunteers from our zoom group will clean up what's left by the end of May, so please grab free goodies while you can, or donate them to your favorite cause (but no new items, please).

Terry Uyeki



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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HUUF annual retreat canceled

With things opening up it is so hard to let all of you know that our tentatively planned All Fellowship retreat at Mattole July 30, 31 and August 1st has been canceled. Reasons include the following: CDC came out with camp guidelines that would be very difficult to follow and put a major crimp in our normal freewheeling weekend. Presently Humboldt County has a severe surge in Covid cases in part due to the actions of another religious youth activity that brought several cases of a more virulent mutation to our county and it continues to spread among younger adults and youth. After using due caution for the year, going from all buildings closed to camping, sharing meals, etc. is too much all at once. The Fellowship is not even meeting in person yet. Furthermore, Camp Mattole is having staffing issues. We need to err on the side of caution. Whine. Pout.

Berti Welty

Deadline information

Deadline for the **Summer (July/August)** issue of the newsletter is Sunday, **June 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://tinivurl.com/HUUFNewsGuide>

Stephen Sottong, editor

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Playscape

Current work on the Playscape



Berti's mockup of the final Playscape

