

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the beloved HUUF community

May these times awaken us

To be free, you must embrace the breadth of your own existence without apology, even if they try to take it from you. You must know, not that you can do whatever you want; you are not a kudzu vine, eating entire hillsides for the purpose of feeding your own lush life. You must know instead, that inside you are entire Universes—milky blue, magenta, and gold—expanding. But to actually be free, you must know and you must fight for the entire Universes inside of everyone else.

Being free is not a license, but

A promise.

To the people who have mistaken freedom for liberation

by Julián Jamaica Soto

I met recently with a group whose sole mission these past 18 months has been the liberation and uplifting of Palestine and its people. This is a group who find themselves frequently heartbroken, uncertain if there's even a point to their continued efforts, in light of all the daily devastation being wrought upon the people there, the cries fallen upon deaf ears here. And yet, in this very heartbreak they have found their individual and collective purpose. It is in the turning toward, and not away from the ongoing brutality, that they have found a reason to keep going. It is in the carrying, however they are able to, some small portion of another's burdens, that they have found a form of personal salvation, a reason to persist.

They say mothers are able to summon a particularly heroic form of caring when confronted with threats to their young. So too, we must believe there is a part of ourselves as yet unawakened, a reserve of grace, strength, and fortitude we've yet to call upon that we can and will tap, when needed. The more we awaken to the interconnectedness of every living thing, and glimpse how inextricably linked our own well being and liberty is to that of all, the more we will gain access to the tools liberation requires of us. Our circles must continue to widen to include more than just what we are already familiar and comfortable with. Our spheres of influence must expand. Our capacity to hold what is brutal and that which is beautiful in the same, small hands must grow. As we allow our hearts to keep breaking open, so the saying goes, so then can we be enlarged enough to contain the whole, sentient world.

May these times awaken within us the potent protectors, champions, liberators and world-breakers-and-remakers we so

See "Awaken," page 2

June, 2025



Why I give

When I discovered the UU Fellowship in Greensboro North Carolina in 1963, I felt that I had found my spiritual, religious, and political home. Here was a family of believers in, and practitioners of, hope, love, and inclusiveness.

We shared a vision of advancing through the ages toward a more perfect union, more justice with more mercy, more love. We supported one another in the challenges required to be in concert with the irreversible arc of history that Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. assured us was bent toward justice and equality.

That faith is being severely tested today by daily disclosures of radical threats to our democracy and our Constitution. Whether our reaction is fear, disgust, distrust, energized resolve, or all of the above, our need for community remains strong. This Fellowship provides each of us a supportive family. We share this space with others who seek a way forward and strive to become, as Rev. Bryan Jessup exhorted us, "love bearers."

See "Give," page 2

Board Notes

New volunteers for Zoom; and coffee time, anyone?

HUUF's May 11 Board meeting was attended by Margy Emerson, Montana Caouette, Hart Mendenhall, Josh Charles, Corazon Amada, Amy Day, Berti Welty, Greg Blomstrom, and Dan Shahin.

Amy Day reported on the status of various aspects of the ministry including the need for more people for the Program and Worship Committee and more people needed to volunteer for the after-service coffee hours each Sunday. The Board celebrated three new members becoming available to broadcast services on Zoom. The Pastoral Care circle is continuing to grow.

The Board approved Tiffany Hess and Charity Butler as Fellowship delegates to the UU General Assembly on June 22.

The Board discussed preparations for the budget retreat scheduled for May 24, including the scope of information we need in order to make decisions at that meeting.

A congregational meeting will be held for approval of the budget. Amy and Corazon were identified to lead the congregational meeting for membership review and decision-making regarding the budget. A third person will be selected to form a team to lead the meeting. The congregational meeting is set for Sunday, June 1, at 11:00 a.m. The Board also discussed the best practices for congregational meetings and gained consensus around a document describing those practices.

Our next Board meeting will be held in the HUUF Sanctuary on Tuesday, June 10, at 7:00 p.m. The first 30 minutes of every Board meeting is reserved for HUUF members to address the Board and Lay Minister Amy Day.

Jason Teraoka, HUUF Board Secretary

Give, from page 1

We are now compelled to respond in a spirit of love with clear-eyed actions that meet our highest calling.

"Speak truth to power"...while seeing "that of God in every person." I first encountered these two phrases in the company and writings of Quakers. I'm encouraged by their spread and adoption in many parts of our culture.

Whether our style is to speak with gentle questioning, with our written words or drawn images, or with insistent thunder, we cannot ignore the call to speak, to speak up, and to speak out.

The strength to do what must be done will be bolstered by our families, our faith family, and our families of friends and coworkers.

We nurture our families by:

showing up and being present;

listening to each other with patience and genuine curiosity;

tending to personal and group needs;

and giving of our time, talents and treasure.

As our Fellowship prepares our budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, we have to know the amounts being pledged by our members. If you have not already turned in your pledge form, please do so soon. If you need a pledge form, please take one today.

Our country has navigated many difficult challenges, often poorly, sometimes successfully. The current crisis is not likely to be the last. We have to strengthen our Fellowship for the long haul and guarantee that it will be here for future generations. Please increase your pledge, give until it feels good, and, in the words of Rev. Jesse Jackson, "Keep hope alive!"

Charles Sharpe

Awaken, from page 1

desperately need. May the very things that threaten to shatter us, remake us into mythic versions of our smaller selves. May these times awaken us to the calling of our larger freedom, to our promise. May we remember that, should we allow it to, the challenges we face in the here and now are helping build in us newfound capacity, chutzpah, stamina, resilience, and, yes, unshakeable joy to seed what's yet to come. May it be so. And may it begin with us.

Yours, in grace and gratitude,

Amy Day, Lay Minister, HUUF

Sunday Services

Sunday, June 1, 11:00 a.m.

Membership Meeting: Our 2025-26 Annual Budget

Please join us at this special service at which Fellowship members will practice a consensus process to approve our budget for the next fiscal year. Our budget is a blueprint for our fiscal resource allocation for the year. Check your email for a draft budget the week before this service. Please bring finger foods to help us keep our energy up through this process.

Sunday, June 8, 11:00 a.m.

Please Note: this is the final service to be scheduled at 11:00 a.m.

Communion of the Flowers and In-Gathering

Amy Day

Just as Nature, in her wisdom, presents us each year with a generous and diverse canvas, so too we will gather to celebrate the beautiful diversity among us. This was conceived by Norbert Capek in Czechoslovakia in 1923 as a colorful and inclusive alternative to the traditional "bread and wine communion" many are familiar with. Please bring a flower (or several) to contribute to our ritual. Also, we'll spend some time getting to know a few of our newer members this year, rich additions to our ever-expanding, beautiful bouquet.

Sunday, June 15, 10:00 a.m. Please note the change in time

Faith of Our Fathers

Montana Caouette and others

Join us as we pay tribute to fathers past, present, and future. Diverse faith traditions have viewed fathers, and fatherhood, as a source of strength that can shape our lives. Members will share their experiences as fathers and as children with, or without, their fathers. Youth are invited to participate in Juneteenth activities, including creating medallion necklaces and enjoying watermelon.

Sunday, June 22, 10:00 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist General Assembly: Shared Service

Josh Charles and Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk (live-stream)

The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly is an annual event at which UU's from around the world gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions through a democratic process. On this Sunday morning, we will participate in a live stream of the UU service conducted as part of this event. This service will include members of many different congregations and will be led by Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk.

Sunday, June 29, 10 a.m.

Images of the Divine

Liesbet Bickett and Amy Day

What did the Divine look like to you as a child? Was it a bearded man in the clouds, the warmth of a mother's arms, the vast night sky, or something else entirely? How has that image shifted, softened, sharpened,

See Sunday June 29 Service: Images of the Divine, on page 4

Climate Action Campaign

Climate challenges not just from Trump, but at the state level, too

I know so many people who feel hopeless, and they ask me, “What should I do?”
And I say, ‘*Act. Do something.*’ Because that is the best medicine against sadness and depression.
Greta Thunberg

CAC members continue to join with other HUUF members every Saturday at noon at the Courthouse and stand together with the Climate Action and Black Lives Matter banners.

We have been writing letters, making calls, and signing petitions to state legislators on climate related issues. We urge you to do likewise and especially to oppose cuts at the state level to rooftop solar contracts and funding for public transit.

Please contact Assemblyman Chris Rogers and ask him to vote no on AB 942. Gov. Newsom and his administration propose to break current solar contracts upon sale of a house, cut solar credits, and levy a new tax on solar homeowners. AB 942 was introduced by Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, a former SoCal Edison executive. These changes would apply to all solar customers who signed up for solar before April, 2023. More information can be found at <https://solarrights.org/blog/2025/03/07/dont-break-the-solar-contract>

Please call our North Coast State Assembly member, Chris Rogers, at (916) 319-2002. A sample phone message is:

My name is __. I live in __. Please vote NO on AB 942 as amended. It still breaks two million solar contracts and will harm consumers who did the right thing by investing in solar energy. Thank you.

You can also sign a petition to Assemblyman Rogers at <https://solarrights.org/dontbreakthecontract-action> and email him at assemblymember.rogers@assembly.ca.gov.

Big cuts in state funding have also been proposed to public transit, including for the Humboldt Transit Authority and other local agencies. Again, contact Assemblyman Rogers and ask him to say no to the governor's proposal to eliminate funding programs including the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC).

Background information: If the legislature approves the governor's transit funding cuts, it will undermine planned transit improvements in our region, and possibly even result in local service cuts. In our region, TIRCP, LCTOP, and AHSC support pending improvements, including more frequent transit service, new transit hubs in Eureka and Crescent City, new micro-transit service, zero-emission buses, and the construction of much-needed affordable, transit-friendly homes. Cutting these funds would be devastating for our transit services and our communities.

Thank you for joining CAC members this past year as we dedicate ourselves to healing the planet, advocating for justice, and building a sustainable world where all can thrive. We commit to transforming our grief into action, our anger into advocacy, and our hope into tangible change.

Sue Lee Mossman, Co-chair



June 29 Sunday Service: Images of the Divine, from page 3

or perhaps disappeared and returned in new form? Join us for a creative, contemplative service at which we will explore the evolving images we hold of the Sacred. Through art-making—drawing, writing, collage, movement, or any form that calls to you—you are invited to express the divine as you knew it, as you know it, and as you long to know it. Come just as you are. All materials will be provided, and all expressions are welcome.

“HUUF in Bloom” Service Auction bears fruit

Our Service Auction on April 26 was a successful fundraiser, and it was fun as well! The total amount raised stands at \$6,500 and counting. (Rebekah Paez had the brilliant idea of offering some of the unsold items on Craig’s List.)

There were very few expenses. We overestimated how much alcohol guests would consume but we can recoup that by selling it at future events. The beer and wine (including donations from Lost Coast Brewery and Fieldbrook Winery) are aging quietly in storage.

We had an army of workers. First and foremost, Colleen Broderick, Pat Carr, and Valerie Gizinski bravely stepped forward to clean up. Set up was handled by Montana Caouette, Josh Charles, Jenna Bader, Cena Marino, Bek Paez, and Jeanne Chapin. Jeanne, Bek, and Cena put the bloom in HUUF in Bloom with their lush and abundant flowers.

22 local businesses lent their support to the Fellowship with donations

Maggie McKnight and Jen Ben greeted people and handled admissions; fabulous food was provided by Sylvia Shaw and Bellamy Devine as well as other potluckers; Montana Caouette and son Jack wrangled the 50/50 Raffle; Tiffany Hess and Debbi Kallish took care of the short people while their parents moseyed around, shopping and eating; Marla Weston, Josh, and Bonnie MacGregor purveyed beer and wine; Judy Rishel, Jeanne Chapin, and Michelle Baggett ran the HUUF Mercantile; Steve Davis and Montana did the auctioneering; check-out was staffed by Charity Butler and Hart Mendenhall; Doug Carroll serenaded us on the cello and Dennis McGetrick on the guitar and vocals; Hooligan the dog showed off some of his tricks while Beverly Morgan Lewis kept him supplied with treats.

It was gratifying that 22 local businesses lent their support to the Fellowship with their donations: All Under Heaven, Humboldt Herbals, Rocking Horse, Belle Starr, Northtown Books, Booklegger, Eco-Groovy Deals, Shipwreck, Rita’s Arcata, Caravan of Dreams, North Coast Co-op, Café Mokka, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Redwood Roots Farm, Los Bagels, Minor Theatre, Moonrise Herbs, Hensel’s Ace Hardware, Orchids for the People, Bubbles, Eureka Natural Foods, and Northcoast Music Together. See the list with their addresses on our bulletin board.

The donations of services (33) and goods (99) from members and friends of HUUF was overwhelming. It was especially meaningful to many of us old timers (and some new timers) to have Beverly Allen’s textiles, thanks to her daughter Stasia.

As we decide what fundraising events to put our energy into, I notice a tug and pull between raising funds and raising meaning. That’s why I like the Service Auction—it does both. It doesn’t just raise money; it raises energy by building community. People learn about each other’s talents and skills and visit each other in their homes—or outdoors—for meals or other services. In this way, we gain appreciation for each other and knit the community together. Congratulations to the Fellowship for a successful revival of the Service Auction.

Margy Emerson, Board President

Centro del Pueblo releases latest issue of *La Semilla*

Centro del Pueblo is proud to announce the release of the new edition of *La Semilla*. Created by and for the migrant community, the magazine provides a space for connection, information, and collective reflection. Celebrating its tenth edition, the publication now features bilingual sections (Spanish and English), and it remains free and accessible to all.

You can pick up your print copy at local businesses, markets, and community centers, thanks to a network of allies who believe that information is a powerful tool for empowerment. It’s also available online at: cdpueblo.com/lasemilla

And mark your calendars: Join Centro del Pueblo’s youth behind each page, hear live readings and connect with the community through powerful words and shared dreams on Thursday, June 12, 6:00 p.m. at NorthTown Books.

Kate McClain



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way, Bayside (off Jacoby Creek Rd.)

(707) 822-3793 <https://huuf.org>, email:
office@huuf.org

Office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or by appointment

Lay Minister: Amy Day,
email: minister@huuf.org

Administrator: Rebekah Paez, email:
office@huuf.org

Engagement Coordinator, Tiffany Hess, email:
connect@huuf.org

Sunday Service Pianist: Annette Gurnee Hull

Newsletter Editor: Pat Carr, email:
newsletter@huuf.org

Newsletter Proofreader: Stephen Sottong

Board of Trustees:

President: Margy Emerson

Vice-President: Michael (Montana) Caouette

Treasurer: Hart Mendenhall

Secretary: Jason Teraoka

Trustees: Corazon Amada, Josh Charles

Memorial planned for longtime HUUF member Barbara Madaras

On Saturday, June 28, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., join a potluck memorial to Barbara, who first came to HUUF in 1998. Pictures, mementos, and fond memories are welcome. For more information, contact: wmmadaras@gmail.com.

Pledge drive progress

Thanks to all who have returned their pledge forms and initiated or renewed their commitment to support HUUF financially. The pledges (promises) received so far for the 2025-26 fiscal year total \$95,060, and we need to get up to at least \$150,000. If you haven't already, please get your pledge form in.

HUUF's Finance Committee and Board of Trustees have meetings scheduled as this article is being written. We'll be crafting a budget and setting a realistic pledge goal. We'll try to get that budget out to everyone before the Congregational Meeting to approve the budget on Sunday, June 1, at 11:00 a.m.

Margy Emerson, Board President

June 14th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a Fellowship Clean-Up Day

Hello Fellowship members and friends, It's time for some community TLC! We're gathering on the second Sunday in June for our quarterly Fellowship Clean-Up Day. This is a chance to care for our shared spaces, enjoy some fresh air, and spend meaningful time with each other.

We'll focus on light yard work (weeding, trimming, sweeping), clearing out the pantry, and organizing the audio closet. All ages are welcome! Whether you have an hour to spare or can stay the whole time, your help makes a big difference. We'll have snacks, water, and good company.

July/August HUUF Newsletter deadline is June 10

The next issue of the newsletter covers both July and August. Send your articles and announcements to newsletter@huuf.org by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10.