

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



July 2020

“Break Bread with the Minister in a Covid-19 Bye Bye” A Minister Farewell Invitation

“If you are brave enough to say good bye, life will honor you with a new hello.”

Paulo Coelho

It has been an honor to serve the HUUF Fellowship and I hope you and yours will join me from the safety and comfort of your own home in a Farewell Good Bye, with the sharing of a meal and a farewell toast. We will gather on Sunday, June 28, at 5:30 via Zoom.

“There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you are in my heart.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Ministerial Transition/Transformation

Given Reverend Anthony’s resignation some weeks ago, the Board considered the possibility of engaging an interim minister next year. It became evident that with the pandemic limitations, it didn’t make sense to bring in someone via Zoom whom we didn’t know and likely would never meet in person.

We then turned to our three current congregational employees: Bridgette Garuti, our able administrator; Amy Day, who worked with Therese Fitzmaurice to lead our Religious Education program from December through March, and who has skillfully hosted our Sunday services on Zoom; and Suzanne Kimmel, our experienced and highly qualified new Director of Religious Education. Suzanne is a recent recipient of the Master of Divinity degree from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley.

We are exploring what new roles can emerge for these three women in providing leadership for HUUF next year both in administration and religious education, and also in ministry. This exploration has just begun, with guidance and support from Reverend Anthony. Conversations also include representatives of the Board, the Worship Associates, and the Committee on Ministry.

We expect to report with a detailed plan by the end of July. If you have questions about this process, contact Berti Welty or David Marshak.

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Good bye Anthony and Lydia

There's an old saying, "how can we miss you when you aren't gone yet." Well, Anthony and Lydia, you may not be gone yet, but we miss you already. Some of that is due to the COVID-19 pandemic that drove us all apart and deprived us of the magnetic power of your presence. Even if you both planned to stay we couldn't see you in person. Yet it is the racial virus that has taken the bigger toll, and we'll miss being able to heal its effects together, for this too has called for separation.

We'll miss the small and big things you brought to this congregation and to this community. Your interpersonal, multicultural relationships laid the foundation for the authentic social and cultural change that we have so longed to be part of. Anthony's prophetic voice in preaching woke us up and called us to be accountable even while holding us in a love that acknowledged individual members and made us feel we were seen for who we truly are. Who can forget your shout out, on Zoom, to Helen Vatcher – missing her sitting on the bench by the office, or to Jeff Thomas – teasing him about coming in late while letting him know you were glad to see him. And Lydia's warm and loving calls to see how we were, and her creative ways of working side-by-side, modeling healing ways of being together. As Malidoma Some said of his elders, "I just felt privileged to deserve the attention of such wisdom and power."

While your leadership has transcended both the departure of Therese and the COVID-19 changes you've also helped bring us Amy Day and Suzanne Kimmel; for that we will be forever grateful. From a Board perspective you continued to reinforce who was accountable and who was responsible. But we think your biggest and most important contribution is not your/our collective response to COVID-19, but the way you helped us face the George Price impasse and confront our fears, passions and hypocrisy over the houseless and mentally ill. That truly is a gift that most of us continue to take to heart.

So go now in peace and love and be assured that you both touched us deeply, and we will surely miss you, especially when you've left. We may be separated in body but you are forever in our hearts.

Greg Blomstrom Co-president for 10 more days and Bonnie MacGregor, Worship committee

Virtual General Assembly

Each year a few thousand Unitarian Universalists gather in community in late June for five days of worship, small groups, celebrations, music and business meetings. This year, due to COVID-19, General Assembly is virtual. There are currently over 4000 UUs registered. While most events are only for registered attendees there four are open to all via live streaming. Since this is based in the east coast, our times vary from those in the program. To access each of these public events go to www.uua.org. The events are:

- Welcoming Celebration: Wednesday, June 24, at 4:30 p.m. PT. This gathering will feature speakers and drummers of the Wampanoag tribe of Rhode Island where GA was to have been held. In addition, there will be a virtual parade of select banners of attending congregations and various speakers and musicians.
- Service of the Living Tradition: Thursday, June 25, at 3 p.m. PT. This service honors the transitions in ministers lives. Both Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson (receiving preliminary fellowship) and Jamal Tharp (receiving final fellowship) will be named this year. The sermon will be given by Rev. Danielle Di Bona. The music director/performer will be Dr. Zenaida Robles.
- Synergy Bridging Worship: Friday, June 26, at 3 p.m. PT. Bridging celebrates the transition of youth to adulthood. This year's service, planned by youth and young adults, explores this moment through a metaphor of compost. It is heartwarming to see our UU youth emerging as courageous adults.
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, June 28, at 10 a.m. PT. This grand finale of GA will also be HUUF's Sunday morning worship on June 28. It will prove to be a powerful experience including the GA choir, Emma's Revolution, and skilled presenters. Rev. Joan Javier-Duval will speak on the theme of, "Beyond the Water's Edge." These are uncertain and volatile times. These are times that call on us to work towards our collective liberation while also tending to our spiritual needs and caring for others. How do we ready ourselves for what is being asked of us? How do we keep moving even when we don't feel ready? NOTE: This is also available at 7 a.m. PT when it is broadcast for the east coast.

Religious Education



Take courage friends.
The way is often hard, the path is never clear,
and the stakes are very high.
Take courage.
For deep down, there is another truth:
You are not alone.

Wayne B Arnason



Here we are together and yet not together as a nation, a people and a community. We are here due to a confluence of many factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism in our society, the actions of our current federal administration, and our individual choices. This spring our Fellowship has been responding to the challenge of maintaining community while sheltering-in-place. Due to the pandemic, families are navigating summer with tightened financial belts and fewer child-friendly activities. Since the murder of George Floyd last month, we are leaning into anti-racism as individuals, a congregation and a nation. As a Fellowship, we are also grieving the resignation of our minister, while holding his decision with the greatest respect.

This is a lot.

We are currently experiencing a lot of transition, and hopefully, transformation. So, I encourage each of us to practice radical self-care. Take five minutes to sit in that sun patch. Remind yourself that fresh air is a necessity for mental health. Reading a book for fun can help give your mind a rest from worry. Talking with someone can lift both your spirits. Please contact our minister at minister@huuf.org with pastoral concerns; he will be here until June 28. Please contact me at re@huuf.org with any RE family concerns. We can help each other carry the weight of these times, whether physically apart or not. That is why we are in community together.

We must not lose sight of the fact that we are not alone. I've been talking, writing, and texting with families the past few weeks to learn how you're doing. It's been a surprisingly slow process, but full of rich conversation. I'm exploring ways to provide meaningful support and have a few ideas to implement in the next week or so. I'm learning that while we long for connection, there are many ways connection can happen. What a wonderful opportunity to expand our ideas of what it is to be in community. As Wayne Arnason reminds us, "Take courage. For deep down there is another truth: You are not alone."

Suzanne Kimmel

Cairns

The Art and Aesthetics committee would like to call your attention to a couple of installations on the grounds of the HUUF Campus. Earlier this spring several of us participated in the temporary exhibits process by creating a small cairn. A cairn is a pile or tower of rocks created by humans. In Buddhism, building a cairn can be a form of worship, a way to ask for good fortune or an effort to balance energies. In the western world they are often associated with astronomy. For example, a cairn could mark the position of the setting sun for Solstice Celebrations. The term comes from the Scottish Gaelic word *carn* which translates as (wait for it) "heap of stones."

Now a permanent Cairn is under construction in the Memorial Garden. The idea for this project came from the memorial service for Marilyn Walker, a former beloved member of HUUF who moved to Corvallis some years ago to be near three of her daughters. During the service her daughters created a tiny cairn to represent the values that she wished for them as they matured. This ceremony inspired a group of her HUUF friends here both to honor Marilyn and to invoke the values and principles of our Fellowship.

Participants included Bert Taylor, Ann King, Barbara Barratt, Cheryl Rau, Sue Mossman, Cynthia Chason, Bonnie MacGregor, Berti Welty, Lydia Johnson, Antony Johnson, and Scott Allen. As we continue to construct the outdoor art piece, we invite others to join us as we worship.

Cheryl Rau

Sunday Services

Sunday, July 15 – 11 a.m. – Rebirth of Our Nation, with Dignity, Equity and Justice for All – Suzanne Kimmel, Amy Day and Bonnie MacGregor

Our founding documents speak eloquently about the vision held at the birth of this nation – a vision we have never managed to live into, yet have always upheld. Now, amid COVID-19 and racism pandemics, economic and ecologic collapse, and political tyranny, we face some of the greatest challenges ever to the democratic ideal of a country with liberty and justice for all.

In this service we will look at how our UU principles reflect on the ideals on which our nation was founded. We'll explore how they can guide the way to a rebirth and reinvention of that vision of a nation where we embody the beloved community we aspire to as a just and liberated country worthy of celebrating.

Sunday, July 12 – 11 a.m. – Rooted, Inspired and Ready Review 2020

This service will celebrate the theme of the 2020 Unitarian Universalist Association's virtual General Assembly. Its message is: "We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world." Join HUUF delegate Montana Caouette and other Fellowship attendees as they share their take-away from the dozens of workshops, business meetings and virtual events, including "UU the Vote."

July 19 – 11 a.m. – Ecology as Theology – Rev. Michael Dowd

An "eco-theo" big picture (i.e., a meaningful "dark green" interpretation of evolution and human history) is vital for understanding these contracting and confusing times. Such an evidence-based "sacred realism" or "religious naturalism" can help us accept what is inevitable, avoid what is futile, and be a blessing to friends, family and community in an uncertain world. Bestselling eco-theologian the Rev. Michael Dowd will offer a "hope beyond hope" grounded in knowledge and trust rather than beliefs and wishful thinking.

Sunday, July 26 – 11 a.m. – Expensive Legalities – Dr. Lydia Zepeda

Dr. Zepeda will talk about how our current legal system is arranged to damage both American citizens and immigrants and how much this cost all of us as we go forward with this arrangement. Her article on this subject was recently published in California Western Law Review and is titled, "The Cost of U.S. Immigration Policies."



Deadline info

Deadline for the **August** issue of the newsletter is Monday, **July 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://tinyurl.com/HUUFnews>

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.

Swan song for Greg Blomstrom

After 13 years on the Board in various positions, I think it's time to hand over the emails, Board meetings and Zoom calls, and the stuff that goes with being on the Board to a younger more energetic cohort of people. Well, maybe not younger, but perhaps more energetic. Not that I'm tired from attending 2 or 3 meetings per month or receiving the 420 emails that I got last year and sending the 822 responses (OK maybe that's part of the reason), but mostly it has to do with wanting more freedom from a set schedule.

My last day as a Board member will be June 30. I started on the Board when Karen Harris was preaching. I've been a part of contracting/hiring/searching for Karen Harris, Joy Atkinson, Dennis Reynolds, Bryan and now Anthony – maybe there is a message there, six ministers in 13 years.

So why am I leaving? We have a great set of Board members including Co-Presidents, Berti and David, whom I am sure will lead HUUF through this unprecedented time. And, really, as much as I love our UU approach to discussing items, I'm about done with that, at least at a Board level.

So here is to all of you, which is the reason that I've stuck it out on the Board. I love you all and the community that HUUF is – started by HSU professors and families in the 1950s and now a wider community. I know that even in this pandemic we will persevere. Our vision for peace, love and justice for all is HUUF's and my mantra. And just like a bad penny, I'm not going away, just retiring (for now) from the Board but certainly not from HUUF.

Greg Blomstrom currently (but not for long) Co-president



Good news

“Schools and Community First” will be key to California’s recovery and reinvestment.

A heartfelt thank you to HUUF members and friends who participated in the True North and PICO sponsored petition drive to support the “Schools and Communities First” ballot Initiative. We are happy to announce that after making history by garnering 1.7 million signatures of support, “Schools & Communities First” has officially qualified for the November ballot, garnering more signatures than any initiative in California history.

This initiative will reclaim \$12 billion every year for local governments and schools by closing corporate tax loopholes while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture from any changes. According to a University of Southern California study, 78% of the new revenue would come from only 6% of commercial and industrial properties – illustrating that a fraction of top corporations have overwhelmingly benefited from the current system.

California, along with local governments and school districts, faces historic shortfalls. Communities face the prospect of devastating cuts to essential workers, local services, and schools. Now, more than ever, those schools, critical local services, and essential workers on the frontlines deserve our support. We simply can't afford corporate tax loopholes at the expense of essential workers, critical local services, and schools.

Thanks again to all who participated in our petition drive. We must be ready to fully support this ballot initiative in November.

*Blessings,
Rev. Anthony*

Climate Action Campaign news

CAC encourages everyone to keep up your individual and collective climate and racial justice actions during this pandemic. CAC members and friends continue to phone, write letters, sign petitions, and learn about further climate actions that we can do collectively. In May and early June, we've had two more CAC related Zoom meetings, including a follow-up from the socially responsible investing meeting. Some of us recently called Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, on the day of the Chase stockholders meeting, and got to speak to a real person to request that Chase disinvest from the fossil fuel industry. We thank John Schaefer for his June presentation on low cost battery storage for emergencies.

CAC is now registered as a Climate Action Team in the UU Climate Action Network. As a CAT, we will have access to materials, resources, and networking opportunities so we may have a greater impact on the topics that we are passionate about. CATs, as well as individuals, participate in a monthly Climate Action Roundtable the second Wednesday of each month, coming together online or by phone for conversation about spiritual resources, current events, stories, questions and struggles, and calls for action and solidarity towards climate justice. See <https://www.uua.org/environment/climate/getinvolved/cat> for more information.

As the nation grapples with how to control the Covid-19 pandemic, we also face an eruption of widespread protests over centuries of racial injustice and exploitation, and violence against Black Americans resulting from a culture of white supremacy and systemic racism, perpetuated through generations and rooted in ignorance, denial, and lies. Given the obvious intersection of racial and ecological exploitation, and that climate change disproportionately impacts BIPOC communities, our UU values of the inherent worth and dignity of all peoples, democracy, and the interdependent web of all existence call on us to do what we can to support leaders who have the vision for a just, equitable and green future. We can start by joining with groups working to increase voter registration, and to support voting by mail.

The pre-Covid-19 corporate business model hasn't worked for millions of people, and has caused enormous social unrest, and environmental and climate degradation. A number of organizations and world leaders including Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and UN Secretary General António Guterres are urging nations to "turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future. Public funds should be used to invest in the future, not the past."

In late May, Archie and I attended the Crowdcast live interview with Amy Goodman, Stan Cox, and Noam Chomsky about some of Stan Cox's proposals in the, *The Green New Deal and Beyond: Ending the Climate Emergency While We Still Can* (published April, 2020 by City Lights). The program was recorded and can be accessed now online. After hearing their conversation, we recommend that you check it out because we are at the critical crossroads where we can do things right. We can continue and build on the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs) that have happened during the last 3 months and work for a post-pandemic equitable and green recovery that tackles the interconnected crises of racial inequities, unemployment, exploitation of human and natural resources, public health, and climate change. Cox maintains the Green New Deal (GND) is still based on the capitalist modern monetary theory of continuing with business as usual. Growth of green energy and green infrastructure of the GND is not good enough, and we must go beyond the GND, and cap fossil fuel production and use; reduce our energy diet (yes, eliminate non-essential air travel and stop driving cars), move away from an economy based to a large degree on luxury goods, and focus on essential goods and services with price controls and rationing as we had in World War II. All this sounds very similar to messages conveyed in the recent Michael Moore documentary, *Planet of the Humans*, which was recommended by Cena Marino and Joanne McGarry.

On June 24 and July 1 at 12 p.m. there will be a Zoom panel on, "Social Justice Implications of COVID-19." Participants will learn, review, and dialogue on how the pandemic has impacted marginalized people. Topics will vary each week. Register at <https://humboldt.libcal.com/event/6779999>.

Scott Allen recommends the May Vogue article, "Regenerative Agriculture Could Change the Fashion Industry – And the World." See <https://www.vogue.com/article/regenerative-agriculture-sustainable-fashion-christy-dawn-fibershed>. The author calls for the use of sustainably grown natural fibers instead of synthetics (derived from fossil fuels), and describes how crops like cotton can be grown using regenerative agricultural practices that sequester carbon and restore biodiversity.

A related article recommended last year by Cena Marino is "Consuming Stuff: The Polluting World of Fashion" by

Graham Peebles, published in April, 2019 at <https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/04/22/consuming-stuff-the-polluting-world-of-fashion/>. Peebles cites data from a United Nations study show that “around 10% of global GGEs are churned out by the fashion industry, due to its long supply chains and energy intensive production. The industry consumes more energy than aviation and shipping combined.” There is a call for us to reduce consumerism and to move from the manufacture of luxury goods to essential goods. Meanwhile keep driving 55 and stay in the right lane.

Sue Lee Mossman

HUUF banners

We’re coordinating a pilot effort by HUUF members and friends to have a regularly occurring sign-holding presence to support Black Lives Matter. The idea came from a Zoom conversation that found many want to be supportive of Black Lives Matter but are uncomfortable, due to the pandemic, being in a crowd. A group of eight UU’s were socially distanced and held BLM and UU banners on June 6, at the corners of the V and 4th St. intersection in Eureka. We were pleased by the positive feedback and safety of that location. The second showing was on June 21, on the Arcata Plaza during the Farmers Market. There, nearly a dozen socially-distanced and masked UU’s encountered foot traffic, and not vehicle traffic, and engaged in good discussions with passersby.

If you are interested in holding one of two banners (BLM and HUUF) on Saturday mornings, please email Sylvia at sls500@yahoo.com or Terry at terryuwiki@gmail.com. Having at least four people to hold the two banners is the minimum requirement. People can sign up for a minimum one-hour shift, and do not have to sign up for more than one Saturday (unless you want to). Parents and older children are also encouraged to sign up as a family.





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Growing Food

I grew up in the 1940s, twenty miles south of London. German bombers flew over our house on the way to the city. After the war, Britain was broke. Food was scarce, and rationed. My parents, like many other families, learned to grow much of our fruits and vegetables, and continued to do so long after rationing ended.

There are similarities between the situation in 1940s England and our current predicament, and people are, once again, interested in learning how to grow their own food. In his book, *Introduction to Permaculture*, Bill Mollison describes a method of growing food in a very small space, by making raised beds. It's cheap and easy to set up, and produces plenty of fresh, nutritious food for a family. According to Mollison, three of his beds can produce enough to feed a family of three for a year. And, it can be easily dismantled and moved when needed.

As my contribution to the Community Garden Art Installation project at HUUF, I've installed a raised bed according to Mollison's design. I invite HUUF friends and members to study the design. You can build one like it yourself and grow your own food. I'll also be harvesting the produce and it will be available for people to take home for a donation (please do not pick produce yourself).

If you have questions about how to build a raised bed and grow food in it, please let me know; I'd be happy to discuss it with you. My number is 839-3406, or you can email me at rftaylor1312@gmail.com.



Richard Taylor