

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



September 2020

President's Corner

September ordinarily signals the renewal of our engagement with the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Attendance at Sunday services grows dramatically, and we participate again both in our rituals of renewal, such as the Gathering of the Waters, and all the various programs, activities and celebrations that we create within the Fellowship community each year.

This September will need to be different. We don't know how long the current limitations on gathering in person will last. What we do know is that we can use what we've learned over the past several months to enhance the depth and meaning of our experience together on Zoom.

Our Worship Associates have learned a great deal about employing Zoom and YouTube to create beauty and meaning and connection on Sunday mornings. We've also engaged the services of Scarlett Trippsmith to handle the technical demands. If you haven't participated in a Sunday service recently, I invite you to "tune in" next Sunday morning at 11 a.m. to see how much our services have evolved. Additionally:

- We are forming new online Soul Matters groups that will meet monthly to consider the various Soul Matters topics and resources and share thoughts, feelings, and insights on these matters. If you'd like to participate, please email me: david.marshak@gmail.com
- The Fellowship Engagement Committee will soon announce a series of opportunities for those who choose to continue the work we began last year about recognizing white privilege and dismantling white supremacy. The Committee will also announce other opportunities for connection and learning, including book clubs and the upcoming election.
- The RE Committee will soon announce its plans for a fall program for children and families.
- Finally, we will soon begin to offer some in-person activities outdoors at the Fellowship. These will require advance reservations so we can limit the number of participants to 25 and of course will involve masks and physical distancing. Nonetheless, for those who are comfortable with this situation, we believe we can interact with each other safely outdoors.
- The limitations demanded by the pandemic present us with a choice: We can withdraw more and more from each other and from the community of the Fellowship, perhaps because we are simply tired of Zoom (which can certainly be tiring); or we can employ the tools we have with gratitude, considering what our lives would be like right now without video-chat. We can use these tools to enhance our relationships with each other and with HUUF, with the recognition that like everything else in our lives, this too shall pass.

David Marshak, Co-President

Editor's note

There were barely enough articles this month for four pages. If the Fellowship wants the newsletter to continue, it needs content. In these times of isolation, the newsletter can provide a means to stay in touch with each other, but only if you contribute to it. If this is no longer a valued source of communications, it can be discontinued.

Stephen Sottong



Sunday Services

Sunday, September 6 – 11 a.m.

What's Your Question? – The Rev. Lucy Bunch

What have you always wanted to ask about Unitarian Universalist theology? About UU faith or history? About the meaning of life? This Sunday is your opportunity when we join the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento via Zoom. The Rev. Lucy Bunch will be addressing questions submitted beforehand by her congregation and ours.

Sunday, September 13 – 11 a.m.

Gathering of the Waters – Debi Cooper and Amy Day

Water has always symbolized a sacred container. It's a place where we can bring the fullness of our individual experience and have it held inside the gracious wake of the larger communal pool. Traditionally, we have used this service as a way to come back and greet each other after our summer of travels and away time; however, in this time of Covid-19, we invite you to bring whatever is on your heart to share, and to re-affirm the power of beloved community to water the soul.

Sunday September 20 – 11 a.m.

On Claiming *This Time* for Renewal – Berti Welty

To be fully human means to interact in the stream of life with other beings during our life journey. To do that, we must learn and practice the art of being in community, while being true to ourselves. Now, during Covid-19, we need to learn new ways to stay connected and consciously work on maintaining our ties, and to remain true to our covenants with one another.

In 1989, members of this congregation wrote and adopted a covenant that addresses HUUF's purpose and how we will be in relationship with one another. During this service we will be exploring ways we can practice this covenant in the current reality.

Note: "Covenantal Relationship" refers to a relationship of mutual commitment by individuals characterized by shared values, open-ended commitment, mutual trust, and concern for the welfare of the other party. The full covenant is on the Fellowship's website, huuf.org, under Beliefs.

Sunday, September 27 – 11 a.m.

Sheltering in Poems – Pat McCutcheon

A number of Fellowship writers will share their poems written during these pandemic months. Out of the interactions and works of the HUUF Friday Afternoon Poets, the idea arose for this year's Poetry Service. For them, writing has been one way to cope with the Covid-19 blues, and they have invited several other Fellowship poets to share with them.

People

Ann King has entered hospice care. She has family with her. Cards and letters are appreciated, but she is not up for visits or calls.

Stephen Sottong

Candidate update

Thank you to Howard Stauffer and the Endowment Fund Committee for pursuing a candidate to fulfill the newly approved expansion of their committee to four people. They are putting the candidate name of Hart Mendenhall forward for a three year term. Hart will be confirmed by a congregational meeting to be held in October, date yet to be selected by the Board of Directors.

Sylvia Shaw



Climate Action Campaign News

A big thank you to CAC and other HUUF members for continuing their climate action work, especially to Pat Carr who co-authored a letter to the Humboldt County Planning Commission requesting that it changes how the “vehicles miles traveled” criterion is interpreted for new development in our county. For more details, see <https://tinyurl.com/TAPProcess>.

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is holding a webinar August 26 on electric vehicle buying and about RCEA’s new electric vehicle cash incentive program. Advanced registration is required at: <https://tinyurl.com/RCEAreg>.

Opportunity for HUUF youth: Become a UU@UN Envoy as the new academic year opens. Envoys serve as representatives of the UU Office at the United Nations within their local congregation and inform and connect the congregation to UN initiatives including those related to climate. For information, see: <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/envoys>.

Recently Congressman Jared Huffman held a virtual town hall meeting to inform us about the comprehensive Congressional Climate Crisis Action Plan released by the House Select Committee on Climate Crisis. CAC members who attended were encouraged that the Committee proposed a \$14 trillion infrastructure package to address the intersectional issues of climate change, the economy, and human rights. See <https://climatecrisis.house.gov/report> for more information. You can still view the town hall at https://archive.org/details/access_humboldt.

Many of us on the CAC and the congregation are writing personal, nonpartisan letters and postcards to historically Democratic voters with spotty voting records in swing states to encourage them to register and vote. Based on Trump’s record, a vote against him is a vote for urgently needed climate action. Organizations seeking volunteers for letter and postcard writing include: votefwd.org, 350 Humboldt, the Sierra Club, and Reclaim our Vote, the latter’s special focus being BIPOC whose voting rights may have been suppressed. For information about writing letters and postcards and/or information on writing in the virtual company of folks doing the same, see <https://world.350.org/humboldt/upcoming-events/>.

Sue Lee Mossman

New online Soul Matters groups

Soul Matters is a UUA conceived program that invites UUs to gather in small groups to explore various issues of meaning, values, beliefs, and more that reside at the heart of our lives. It’s a lovely invitation to sharing, listening, reflection, exploration, and getting to know other HUUF members in a deeper way.

Several Soul Matters groups that started last year are continuing, and we are forming new groups. These groups will meet monthly at an agreed upon time.

If you’d like to participate in Soul Matters this year, email me (david.marshak@gmail.com) with your interest before September 6. If you have questions about Soul Matters, call me at: 630-3894.

David Marshak



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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.

Requesting help finding a rental for a HUUF Friend: a single, nonsmoking woman, nearing 60, needs a quiet, long-term place to live. A tiny house, separate studio, or ADU would be perfect but an apartment could also work. She is trained and experienced in both sustainable agriculture and personal caregiving. Many years of rental references are available including local, and from myself for the past two years. Please contact me with any ideas or possibilities. Thank you, Cathy Hanafi, cbhanafi@yahoo.com or call 299-7098.

Deadline info

Deadline for the **October** issue of the newsletter is Sunday, **September 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