

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



October 2023

To the Beloved HUUF Community

## For this work we need empty arms and open hands



For nearly four decades, Dr. Eugene Novotney has mentored aspiring musicians who've walked through the doors of what is now Cal Poly Humboldt. If you've been blessed, perhaps you've attended one of the jubilant performances by one of the groups he's founded: the Percussion Ensemble or the much loved Calypso Band. If you've been very blessed, perhaps you've gotten the chance to study under him, a rigorous and joyous mentorship that infuses deft virtuosity with a lavish dose of humility and play. If you've

been just moderately lucky, maybe you attended a semester of his always-full General Education class "Music in World Culture." If so, you were the beneficiary of Eugene's having traveled to many of the countries and learned firsthand from the cultures to which he was now introducing his students.

There was a favorite chestnut of his inside this course. He would ask students to consider the difference between familiar Western music and the somewhat less recognizable forms he'd introduce: the African mbira or kalimba, or the cacophonous sounds of an Indonesian gamelan. He'd play a bit of Western classical music followed by a sampling from another part of the world, and he'd ask you to compare. Words like "simple" versus "complex" would populate the air. And after a time, Dr. Novotney would pause, halt the recordings and turn to address his pupils: "Do not be confused. Just because something *sounds* simple (to our Western ears) does not mean it is not *equally* complex."

Supremacy is a word we hear a lot of these days, to the point where it can begin to lose its impact. So, let's unpack it a bit. The history of Western colonization tells us that our white, settler ancestors left their shores and came to these rooted in a common, unifying belief that the systems they'd inherited from Europe were the right and true ones. Systems of dress, religion, class, gender roles, cycles of work and rest, agriculture,

See "Beloved," page 8



## Member news

### Highlight on Sue Mossman

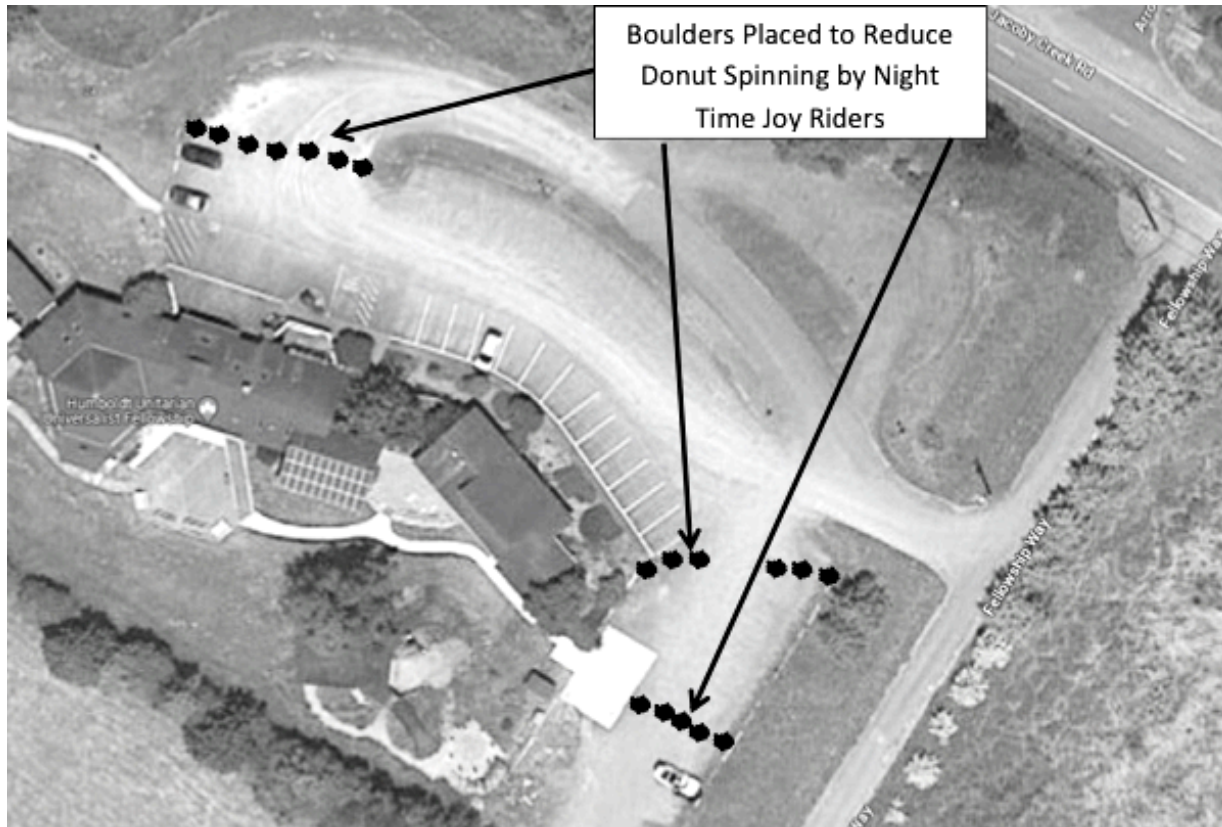
Sue was chosen as the local Heroes of the Redwoods award winner. The *Times Standard* called for nominations to honor and uplift local outstanding heroes within the community — and the community spoke. Sue received an outpouring of nominations from the many organizations she has given her time and talents to over the years. Betty Chinn, the Breast Health Project, the China Town Project as well as HUUF's Climate Action Campaign have all flourished with Sue's involvement. Congratulations on See "Member," page 9

## Important congregational meeting on Sunday, October 22

We hope you will attend the congregational meeting after the service on October 22. The agenda includes:

1. Bylaw change establishing that the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC) will be comprised of four or five members selected by the Ministerial Team and the MRC, instead of the current three members. This will be presented by Alison O'Dowd. (See article on next page.)
2. Discussion of a potential UU tour in our area—Berti Welty
3. Nominating Committee—Sylvia Shaw
4. Musical Ministry—Amy Day
5. Information about the Do Not Donut program—Margy Emerson (see article below)

*Pat McCutcheon for the HUUF Board of Trustees*



*Aerial view of HUUF buildings and parking lots showing possible placement of boulders to prevent “donuts” by late night joy riders. Rubber speed bumps in the parking lot are another option. What do you think?*

## The Do Not Donut Project

We are the low-hanging fruit. Our oval, gravel parking lot is a magnet for hot rodders who like to “donut.” By building up speed and then whipping around the corner, they create a rooster tail of dust and flying gravel. It’s been a recurring problem over the last year.

At 2:00 a.m. this past August 9, two 18-year-olds who were under the influence flipped their truck at the turn-around point. One of the young men was slightly injured, but both fled. A neighbor heard the accident and called the sheriff. The truck was towed and the license plate led to the arrest and charging of the young men. The father of one of the two assured Bridgette they would be out to clean up the mess, but that never happened.

Broken glass as well as spilled fuel and oil were left in the parking lot. The driveway was deeply rutted and a thick layer of gravel coated the entryway to our main building. Gravel was also sprayed down the length of the paved parking spaces, on the paved entry to the lot, and on the basketball court (at the midpoint of another inviting semicircular driveway). The window in the kitchen’s back door was broken by a flying rock.

See “Donut,” next page

## Congregational meeting

### **By-law change to be decided on**

The members of the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC) would like to expand their committee from three members to four or five. Since the number of members of the MRC is set in the HUUF By-Laws, this proposed change must be brought to the congregation for consensus decision.

Please read over the current by-law and the proposed change that follows before the congregational meeting on Sunday, October 22. Members of the MRC will be available to answer questions and discuss concerns before calling the question.

*Alison O'Dowd, Roy King, Bonnie MacGregor - Ministerial Relations Committee*

#### **Article VIII – Minister**

2. A **Ministerial Relations Committee** shall be created as a means for the minister to address her/his concerns to the congregation and its entities, and for the members to convey to the minister their concerns about the minister [*ministry*]. The Committee will consist of three members: one put forth by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation, one chosen by the minister and one chosen by the other two committee members. The elected member will hold office for two years.

#### **Proposed change:**

2. A **Ministerial Relations Committee** shall be created as a means for the minister\* to address her/his concerns to the congregation and its entities, and for the members to convey to the minister their concerns about the minister [*ministry*]. The Committee will consist of four to five members: one put forth by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation, one chosen by the minister; and two to three chosen by the other committee members with the minister.

\* Where it reads minister, this also refers to a ministerial team.

### **Donut, from page 2**

Although we will follow up with the District Attorney to see that the young men are prosecuted, our neighbors in the Bayside Neighborhood Watch, speaking from experience, believe the case will be low priority on a crowded docket. There may be little chance we will see any justice, let alone compensation--\$475 to replace the window, \$600-900 for gravel to fill the ruts, and an unknown sum to grade the driveway. This does not include the time members spent cleaning up the mess, or Bridgette's time spent talking with the officers and writing a detailed report for the sheriff's office.

Chris Chapin arranged a meeting with members of a very active Bayside Neighborhood Watch (BNW). Ten of them attended, along with five of us from HUUF. Sgt. Matt Harvey from CHP was there and spoke first. It was illuminating.

Both Sgt. Harvey and the BNW people emphasized that prevention is the way to go, and placing barriers or speed bumps is the best way to prevent donutting. BNW has an interest in our taking action—the hot rodders drawn to our parking lot speed down Jacoby Creek Road and are noisy and dangerous.

Relations between HUUF and our neighbors have not always run smooth. It would go a long way toward building social capital with them if we took steps to eliminate the entertainment value of our parking lot.

In the past, a camera was installed on the side of the main building to deal with this problem, but it can't capture license plates because of the angle and limited lighting. As a member of the Neighborhood Watch pointed out, if you rely on technology, you have to maintain it and that's an ongoing hassle. Plus, catching and prosecuting people is labor-intensive and mostly futile.

A representative from Miller Farms came to look at the parking lot and advise on barriers. Observing the donutting patterns, he recommended placing boulders as shown in the graphic. If we have all the recommended barriers done at one time, the price will be \$4,565. We also requested a visit from Sundberg but they have not yet responded.

The boulders would change our traffic pattern and we'd have to ensure safety for visitors and access for emergency vehicles. We're also looking into installing rubber speed bumps anchored with rebar, which would have the advantage of keeping our existing traffic pattern. It would make sense to add gravel and have the lot graded before installing barriers or speed bumps.

If you or others you may know have experience with this sort of thing, we're open to ideas. We'll discuss this issue at the Congregational Meeting on October 22.

*Margy Emerson*

HUUF Poetry Corner

To My Parents Now Dead

by Diane Dickson

I remember  
some evenings  
when I was six  
or seven or eight  
you would say  
good-bye to me  
and my brother  
leaving us  
with grandparents  
busy somewhere  
in the house.  
I remember that  
it would always  
be dusk  
as you stood  
in the doorway  
dressed up  
looking nice.  
In my teens  
I thought you  
looked like  
Esther Williams  
and Cary Grant  
but on those  
very young  
evenings you  
looked only  
like our mother  
and father who  
were smiling  
and turning  
to walk away  
into the  
dying sun.



**Sunday Coffee Hour needs hosts**

Sunday Coffee Hour after service is a time to connect and touch base with other HUUF members and friends in a relaxed manner. Prior to the Covid shutdown, Jan Rowen, along with Steve Sottong, Sylvia Shaw, Shawn Nichols, Jackie Wales and others made coffee and cleaned up each Sunday. Now it's time to pass the hospitality torch. Will you be among the next group of hosts?

Coffee Hour hosts should expect to arrive a half hour before our 11:00 a.m. service to heat up the coffee maker, set up the air pots, make regular and decaf coffee plus heat up tea water, set out cups, tea, creamer, and finally, clean up once all is done (clean up takes approximately 45 minutes).

Having two to four willing folks available to embrace this commitment to hospitality would be ideal so that no one person feels overburdened.

Anyone willing to host our coffee hour should connect with Bridgette Garuti or Rebekah Paez as soon as possible. Training will be provided by Jan Rowen.

Your commitment is a gift of time that is much appreciated by all who attend service!

*Jan Rowen and Bridgette Garuti*

Climate Action Campaign

**October 15 CAC program discusses EV rebates, drivers' experiences**

A big thank you to HUUF Director of Operations Bridgette Garuti for her hard work in getting a new credit card for HUUF. Many banks issuing credit cards invest heavily in fossil fuels and make few investments in the health of local communities. Thank you, Bridgette, for helping Fellowship members put their principles into action.

I also want to thank Dr. Peter Lehman, founding co-director of the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt, for his informative presentation at HUUF on September 18. About 30 Climate Action Committee (CAC) members and others attended and heard Dr. Lehman talk about the history of hydrogen as an energy source and the plans for zero-emission hydrogen buses and fueling infrastructure in Humboldt County. There was lively discussion on these topics and on the role of hydrogen in greening our transportation.

If you're interested in electric vehicles (EVs), I hope you will join CAC's monthly Zoom meeting on Sunday, October 15, 1:00 p.m., featuring Gregory Stevens, the Northern California Director of California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL). We'll hear about California's Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (CVRP), followed by a question and answer session with HUUF members sharing their experiences as EV owners. The Zoom link will be in the HUUF Weekly and is always on the CAC page on HUUF's website. Note that this meeting will take the place of the usual second Sunday monthly CAC meeting.

For more information about California's CVRP, see <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/en>

In shared ministry, in faith and with love, we support each other in our efforts on behalf of Earth's climate and her life support systems.

*Sue Lee Mossman, Climate Action Campaign Co-chair*

## Sunday Services

**Sunday, October 1, 11:00 a.m.**

### **Heritage – Margy Emerson**

Ralph Ellison writes, “Some people are your relatives, but others are your ancestors, and you can choose the ones you want to have as ancestors. You create yourself out of [their] values.”

In small groups, using our deep listening guidelines, we will discuss heritage. These questions are offered as possible springboards for conversation: Whose shoulders are you standing on and how are you working to further their values? Is there a way in which you want to depart from your family heritage so you can pass on something more constructive to the next generation? What family memento has the deepest meaning for you? (If it’s light and portable, bring it with you for show-and-tell.)

As always with small groups, our underlying topic is deep listening. It’s a practice that takes practice.

**Sunday, October 8, 11:00 a.m.**

### **The Times They Are A-Changin’ – Rev. Bryan Jessup**

HUUF minister emeritus, the Rev. Bryan Jessup, will return to our pulpit for the first time since his retirement in 2019. He will share with us some stories about how life has changed for his wife Edie and him since they moved to Oregon.

He will also talk with us about living on the Earth in a time of change: The danger to our environment. The warlike ways of our country and the big powers in the world, that have us in a precarious place. The strained fabric of our relationships with one another as citizens of the United States. Even the dynamics of our own religious association, the UUA, cause stress as we come to terms with the limits of our past ways of being. How do we live with all this change? Whether we are ready or not, we are called to answer that question with our very lives. And, ready or not, we will answer.

**Sunday, October 15, 11:00 a.m.**

### **Stone Soup Sunday – Amy Day, Corazon Amada, and the Food and Fellowship Team**

Join us on this Social Action Sunday as we put our hands to work in service of our values. In partnership with Arcata House, we will use a small portion of our time to prepare meals for those experiencing homelessness in our region. Our Food and Fellowship team will be serving up veggie pasta, bread and salad. If you can, bring a small dish to share.

**Sunday, October 22, 11:00 a.m.**

### **Report from General Assembly – Amy Day and Rebekah Paez**

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Join us as our small panel of HUUF delegates shares highlights, lessons learned, and tools gained that we can bring back to our own congregation.

**Stay for the Congregational Meeting** to follow and see how you can lean more into the living tapestry of our faith.

**Sunday, October 29 – 11:00 a.m.**

### **Transforming Conflict – Laura Phelan-Shahin and Margy Emerson**

“Lasting change, the kind that seeps into people’s hearts, has only ever come through a combination of pressure and good conflict,” writes journalist and conflict mediator Amanda Ripley.

Using Terasa Cooley’s book, *Transforming Conflict*, and other sources, Laura and Margy will explore ways to build intimacy while navigating conflict. Honing tools like deep listening and covenants, and cultivating a willingness to accept disagreement and the discomfort that comes with it, can make a community stronger and more cohesive.

There will also be a sign-up sheet for a book group on *Transforming Conflict*.

## Children and families religious education

### Parents of teens and tweens

Join us for another sharing time where we'll talk about ways to creatively engage our teen and tween-age youth in the life of the Fellowship. This is a time in our kids' lives where they're actively self-differentiating and finding ways to be themselves and with one another in the world. It's also a time when it can be hard to be a part of HUUF. Let's share some inspirations on ways to re-knit our youth back into the tapestry, help them to continue to champion the values we want to see flourish, and nurture their relationships in the months to come.

**Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.** Check the HUUF website calendar or the *Weekly* email for the link.

### Sunday RE during 11:00 a.m. services

Our wonderful RE staff provide meaningful engagement with games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories and outdoor play to our youth, grades Pre-K-5, during Sunday services. Nursery care is also available for babies and toddlers. See this month's service descriptions for more details.

This month, we'll explore "Heritage" as part of our ongoing Soul Matters curriculum.

## Fellowship engagement opportunities

### Chalice Dinners - Fall 2023

Many early spiritual and religious traditions emerged from simply breaking bread together - being in one another's company and sharing conversation about the type of world we wish to live in and build collectively. This fall, we're taking a page from this playbook and coming together to share what we think of as Chalice Dinners: a chance to circle up for the next few months, with a small group (6-8 or so) of your nearest HUUF neighbors.

What's the purpose of Chalice Dinners?

\*To build relationship

\*Engage in a little low-key mutual aid and care, and talk about things like...

\*Covenant

\*Personal Belief Systems

\*Building the Future of Unitarian Universalism here in our unique, little corner of the world.

An opportunity for members both new and old. *We hope you'll join us.*

We'll link up according to geography, so as to keep travel time minimal.

"Dinner" is not the only option here. If you'd prefer a daytime meetup, "Chalice Lunches" are definitely on the menu. Just let us know.

Our hope is to have a series of six dinners for each group over the rest of 2023, with a chance for a full service and culminating celebration (and meal) on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

*Please sign up to participate* by filling out one of the forms shown below which will be available at Sunday services, also available online at the website, or by sending in the information below to [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org).

Name:

Phone Number:

Age:

Email address:

Known food allergies or dietary restrictions:

Town you live in:

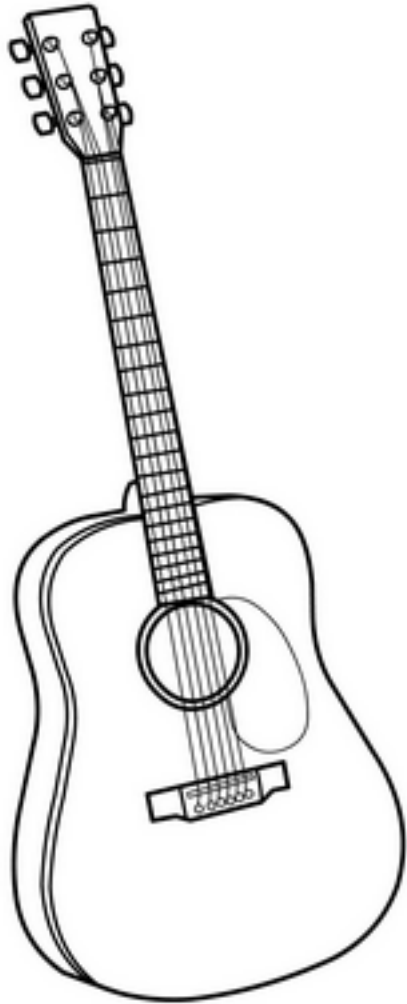
How many people in your family/household (dinner participants)?

Do you prefer a daytime or evening meetup?

Would you like to serve as a.....

- host (open your home for a night?),
- facilitator (guide discussion - we provide training) or group coordinator (communication, scheduling, etc.)?

*See next page for more Fellowship engagement opportunities*



## Fellowship engagement, continued

### Music ministry at HUUF

We are gathering input as to the future of Music Ministry at HUUF. If you haven't already, please head to [huuf.org](http://huuf.org) and fill out the questionnaire, sharing your thoughts and reflections around music and the Fellowship. Input will be shared at the Congregational Meeting on October 22 with recommendations on how to move forward.

### Soul Matters begins again

On the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Margy Emerson and Joanna Welch offer an open discussion and deep listening circle to delve into this month's topic. Join them on campus on October 11 to talk more about "Heritage." Contact the office for more information or to get a copy of this month's packet: [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org)

### Art Matters/Soul Matters - A space of creativity and healing

Join Amy Day and Bridgette Garuti on Wednesday, October 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. for a unique small group experience. We will bring a creative twist to the exploration of this month's Soul Matters theme of "Heritage" by offering the opportunity to engage in mindful writing prompts and art journaling. No art or writing experience necessary to participate.

A \$5.00 materials fee helps cover the cost of supplies, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

### Halloween Festival Planning Meeting

The Fall is upon us, and with it, all sorts of mystical and magical things to conjure. Join us to plan this year's Halloween Festival, scheduled for Saturday, October 28, to be held as a community-wide event and fundraiser for our OWL (Our Whole Lives Human Sexuality curriculum) program.

We'll need help with skits, set-up, flyers, clean-up, cupcakes, and booth

activity ideas.

**Join us on Monday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom** to talk about what comes next for launching this magical and beloved event. Check the HUUF website calendar and the *Weekly* for the link.

### Show YoUU care with a card

The card writers will once again gather twice monthly, **Wednesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., October 11 and 25**. All needed materials will be provided. Contact [Amy Day](#) for more information or just show up. Share in the ministry of card writing by sending a note to a Fellowship friend or member. Send encouragement, love, and support to those who may feel isolated. Your words make a difference.

### Food outreach for Church of the Joyful Healer partnership resumes

Got an easy enchilada recipe or a favorite stew that's simple to prepare? Our friends at the Church of the Joyful Healer in McKinleyville could use help providing food for the unhoused. Each Saturday they provide bagged lunches, a hot meal, and an assortment of useful goods as part of their [Saturday Outreach Program](#).

Once a month, beginning again this coming **Friday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m.**, we'll gather at HUUF's kitchen to whip up a pot of soup or something hearty and yummy, and a bag of sandwiches to be distributed the following day. It's a wonderful way to continue to live into our Aspiration: "Let service be our prayer." Contact Amy for more information at [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org)

## Beloved, from page 1

law, economics, vast and complicated structures of organization and belief that were rooted in an entirely different ecosystem, landscape, and history, transported wholesale to these shores.

The history of colonization, as we know, is one of erasure. One culture seeks to obliterate the names, language, stories, rhythms, gods, values, practices, and ways of being native to a place and its Indigenous people. It is a drowning of the collective voices of the past (and present) by the roar of modernity and power. A developer comes upon a piece of land and seeks to erect his vision upon the spot of inert ground on which he stands. Someone else, a student of permaculture, say, which is built on Indigenous knowledge and systems, first becomes a *student* of the land: watches how the air, sunlight, water, bugs, animals, and plant life move inside the space, and asks: “What can I create out of the complex systems that already exist? What is the simplest and most elegant structure I can erect that will honor and harness the combined energies herein?”

All this to say, Beloved: How are we seeking to build and fortify the community of faith we wish to grow into the future? Are we seeking to impose the structures, viewpoints, rituals and systems of our inherited past upon the landscape of today? Are we barreling in, visions of mighty cathedrals already etched inside our minds, wondering where we can install our grand designs? Or are we moving in quietly, watching with keen and reverent eyes for the systems already at play, the holy dwellings being casually but powerfully erected over cups of coffee, bowls of soup, shared stories, songs, and conversation? Are we so full of our own ideas that we have forgotten the Land itself holds a dream of what It wants to *become*?

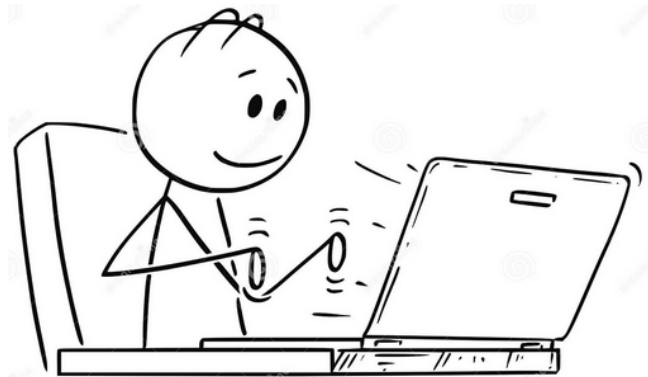
There is a way forward, of that we are certain. But in all likelihood we cannot get there, arms laden with the burden of trying to uphold the complex structures of the past, built upon another time and another socio-economic, political and even Earthly reality. Clutching tightly to these as the supreme ways of being and worshipping within this world.

Rather, we may be asked to show up to this work arms empty, open wide, hearts full, ready to listen deeply to what is wanting to take form. We may start to hear a simple melody, a different song begin to emerge, and want to discard it for a more familiar hymn belonging to another time. “Surely we need something more intricate than that,” our Western-conditioned minds might say. But then, if we are lucky, we’ll remember what the wise and winsome Dr. Novotney might say, “Do not be confused. Just because something *sounds* simple does not mean it is not *equally* complex.” And we’ll once more reach out our hands, and deftly, delightedly begin to make music with what’s within our reach.

Yours in grace and gratitude, your Shared Ministry Team,  
*Amy Day and Bridgette Garuti*

## Hybrid services

Thank you to our great team of volunteers who have stepped forth for training to set up and facilitate Sunday hybrid services. While some technology is needed to make this happen, in the end, it’s our wonderful people who make the magic possible. To that end, we still need a few more folks to step up and join this effort for hybrid services to resume fully. If you would like to join us to host Zoom services, contact Amy at [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org).





## Member, from page 1

your recognition, Sue! We are fortunate to have you as a member. You are a true example of what it means to live the values and live in community.

### Highlight on Anne Weiss

Anne, who joined HUUF with her husband Roger in the early 1960s, passed away peacefully on September 8. Anne moved to Iowa in 2020 to be closer to family, but prior to that was a leader and involved member at the Fellowship and within the community. In March, 1965, in a 24-hour period, Anne single-handedly raised twice the amount needed to pay for travel expenses for our then-minister, the Rev. Lewis McGee, to join clergy from all over the country and

represent our Fellowship in the Selma, Alabama march to seek voting rights for African Americans. Anne was also a critical leader in the founding of the Fellowship Funeral Society in the 1960s.

In 1974, Anne received a national grant to establish services for the elderly in Humboldt County. She was a founder and became the first executive director of the Humboldt Senior Resource Center, and served in this capacity from 1974-1986. In more recent years, Anne recruited and coordinated volunteers to provide flowers for HUUF's Sunday Services. She organized holiday singing fun and shared regularly with her Soul Matters group. Thank you Anne, for always bringing wit, intelligence, puns, humor and fun, and for your deep community commitment.

We will remember you fondly.

*Bridgette Garuti*



### A (Short) Note from the Garden

#### **Heading into fall, but work still to be done**

I want to thank the HUUF volunteers who came to the September 9 work party to weed, water, haul clippings, work on the drip irrigation system, and many other good deeds: Karen Underwood, Katherine Almy, Kate McClain, Montana Caouette, and Pat Carr.

Please join us for our next Grounds Work Party on Saturday, October 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We'll plant, weed, edge, and mulch our beds to ready them for the fall rains. No experience is needed; we'll happily train you. Many people find the work relaxing and invigorating, and it brings us all in touch with the nature that surrounds our HUUF grounds.

*Valerie Gizinski*



## Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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### Letter to the editor

Hello HUUF members,

There are several people who were an integral part of my journey as Board President. Because I have no other means, I would like to thank them here.

To my original board: Sally Williams, Bek Paez, Sandy Lynn, Montana Caouette, Chris West, and Cas Bilbrek. I am so proud of the work we did together. We uplifted and supported each other through losing a minister, the whirlwind that followed with the Co-President quitting, and we managed the Fellowship through a pandemic! Plus, you never failed to make me smile. Thank you so much for your work, wisdom, positive energy, and everything you have given for the good of this fellowship.

Secondly, to Sylvia Shaw: I honestly don't know what I would have done without your enthusiasm, your spirit, your one-woman-show of a nominating committee. You are a Powerhouse! This congregation is blessed to have you.

Third, to the Presidents Emeritus, Berti Welty, Greg Bloomstrom, and Richard Kossow: Thank you for being there. Whether it was the gentle guidance I needed or just listening to me struggle with the presidential weight, I so appreciate each of you.

Fourth, to Bonnie MacGregor: There's not much I can say that I haven't already said before. I hope I can be where you are someday. You are calm and collected, wise and gentle. Thank you for your counsel. Your presence at this Fellowship is truly a gift.

Fifth and finally, to Elisabeth Harrington and Cathy Enis, my HUUF soul sisters. The shoulders I leaned on. Thank you always for your undying support.

*Sincerely, Debi Cooper, former Board President, former Fellowship member*