

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



November 2016

A note from the minister

I had a wonderful conversation with a friend recently about “making America great again.” We agreed, of course, that there were a number of ways that such a conversation could go awry, but wondered what would happen if we talked with one another about instances when we truly thought America was “great.”

I think America was pretty great when it passed the Bill of Rights, when it ended slavery, and when it gave women the right to vote. I think America was pretty great when it enacted the “New Deal,” the GI Bill and Social Security. I think America has been great in its growing acceptance of LGBTQ people and its innovations around wind and solar power and renewable energy.

I think America can show greatness again when it creates Universal Health Care, when it backs away from its fossil fuel addiction and when it evolves its economy away from its dependence on warfare and toward caring for all our people and our infrastructure.

So when do you think America has been great? And when do you think it might be great again? Those are not bad questions. And after the elections on November 8 we will all get a chance to again go to work answering those questions with our actions.

Yours in the ongoing journey -



Rev. Bryan Jessup

Samhain Celebration on November 7

Samhain is a Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It takes place halfway between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice and the actual date of that halfway point this year is November 7.

So on November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Main Hall, the Building Your Own Theology II Class is inviting everyone to a Samhain Celebration. The theme will be “Facing our Fears.”

Tom Torma who has a Ph.D. in Celtic Studies is teaming up with Rev. Jessup and others to plan the celebration. Email Rev. Jessup to sign up for the event: minister@huuf.org.

Inside

Page 2:

Thanks building workers

Page 3:

Religious education

Page 4:

Garden is a work of heart

Thanksgiving at Fellowship

Page 5:

Tiny house quilt

Spring auction gala

Get your news out

SAC brunch

Page 6:

Chaffee bequest comm.

End-of-life issues class

Page 7

Coffee committee

Sunday chores

Circle dinners

International women's

Page 8

Classified ads

From this Day Forward

Board coffee corner

Board members will be available to share coffee and chat between services November 13.

Drop by.

Sylvia Shaw

Thanks to the Building Workers

A team of building exterior, deck, foyer, sanctuary cleaners and window washers took on the task of sprucing up the Fellowship on October 5, 6 and 10. Scott Allen brought a pressure washer, supplies and food, Kate McClain appealed to the congregation for volunteers, and a small but hard-working team assembled to do the job. Heartfelt thanks go to:

- Susan Allen, who vacuumed the flies and dust from the light wells in the Sanctuary as well as washed windows.
- Kate McClain, who did the hard but essential work of recruiting volunteers. She is a tireless deep cleaner.
- Cynthia Chason, who washed windows while figuring out how much money the Fellowship saved in labor costs.
- Virginia Chatfield, who washed windows while thinking up more improvements to the landscape she could survey through the windows.
- Debi Cooper, who taped vents and washed windows (maybe even the new ones she bought for the Foyer project).
- John Schaefer, who taped vents, sprayed detergent and actually hand-scrubbed the exterior walls ahead of the power washer. The results reflect his work.
- Sylvia Shaw, who washed windows and made sure we cleaned up the kitchen.
- Berti Welty and Jo Weisgerber, who showed up with a second power washer on Thursday to really accelerate the process.
- Bryan, of course, who blessed and inspired the crew.

So if the light in the Sanctuary seems a little brighter, the view a little clearer and the building looks a little newer, please thank members of the Building Cleaning crew! Better yet, come to the next building or landscaping work party and join the fun.

Scott Allen



Religious Education

November 6: Religious Exploration- students go to their classes

Take note! Daylight savings time...set your clocks back. An extra hour to get here.

All ages will continue with our Miracles curriculum:

Preschool - we'll explore the miracles found right outside our door with magnifiers and bring it in to create art in celebration of fall.

Kdg-2 - still plans to go outside. Weather has delayed our plans to do yoga and movement on our grounds, but we will continue to try. How our bodies move in space can be miraculous.

3-5 - will continue with their project of photographing what they think a miracle is for a future display.

Intermediates - Come meet your new teacher and continue answering the question of what is a miracle to you?

November 13: All Worship- all ages together

In this month we especially think of thankfulness. In our Miracles curriculum we look around us for miracles in science and nature often. What are we grateful for closer to home or far away? We will have opportunities to make costumes and props for a play to act out, make a meal together for snack and sing a song together in gratefulness.

November 20: Religious Exploration- students go to their classes

We will continue with our study of miracles.

November 27: Friendship Sunday

All ages together to share their travel stories and play games.

Welcome to Israel Orosco, our new intermediate teacher. He is a senior at HSU in Environmental Science, Ecological Restoration. He has been a childcare provider with us and has volunteered in other programs working with children, as well as his experience of helping to raise his siblings. He is excited to join our teaching staff and brings much to our miracles curriculum, especially in the area of our seventh principle.

If you are interested in a one-time project or sharing your love of something with our children and youth but are worried about how to go about it, or if you would like to help in the classroom with our knowledgeable teaching staff to support you, but are still a little unsure of what you can offer, never fear, training is here, we are offering a volunteer training in working with a variety of ages (it also helps in grandparenting and parenting). Simple phrases, ways of interacting, how to deal with conflict between children (it works for adults, too!). If you are interested, see Jillian to sign up.

Families who are interested in having their children dedicated, let Jillian know. If you have questions about what that means, please talk to Jillian or Bryan or look at a brochure at the RE table in the foyer. We hope to have a dedication ceremony this year.

Jillian Mooney

Youth Group:

November 6: No meeting.

November 13: Youth group meets during service in the teen room. We will have a rousing discussion about politics and our UU values.

November 18: Movie Night at the Fellowship. This will start at 6:30 p.m.

November 27: Youth group meets during service and will have a low-key activity focused around gratitude, and sharing how our Thanksgiving Holiday break has been.

Navarra Carr

“Garden is a Work of Heart”

As we wind down our work on the Fellowship grounds for the winter, we want to thank all those who have contributed to this on-going effort. Many of you came out to help for full afternoons, some for just an hour or so. All this effort creates a beautiful place for our Fellowship in which we enjoy coming to service, lingering and chatting with friends, and strolling through the Memorial Garden. One person who has been helping regularly told me that she has found great satisfaction in working with her hands and creating something that makes a visible difference. When attending services she looks around the grounds with pride and interest at her labors, checking on the growth of plants she has planted and/or tended.

Lately, we have been focused on finishing projects. On Monday, October 10 (not our usual work day), our team of volunteers accomplished much. Misha Skaarup was a great help. He got the former compost bin area all cleaned up and ready to be sown with grass seed. It was a lot of work involving moving and spreading a ton of soil. Now that it's seeded, the rains will finish the job and make the area nice and green and mow-able. This is such an improvement over what it used to look like. Remember?

Berti Welty and Michelle Hastings worked hard on the RE garden. Using Bertie and Jo's really cool homemade rock sorter, they sifted foundation stones left over from the foyer expansion. They used the fine sized stones to fill in the cracks in the RE garden walkway, the medium size for around the garden stepping stones, and the large rocks for accents and a border at the building edge near the main patio. This work is still in progress but is already a great improvement. We feel good about finding uses for this pile of rocks.

The picnic tables were recently scrubbed of dirt, mold and mildew and then cleaned with a mild wood bleach and sanded. Karen Underwood and Judy Rishel finished putting a protective coating on the RE picnic tables and now they really look nice.

We have been constructing a small azalea garden west of the first monument, toward the willows. You may have noticed the mounds of soil that will make up this new garden. There will be eight memorial plants including azaleas, rhododendrons and huckleberries. Most of them are the native plants. Putting these in one area will make them easier to care for and more visually effective. We are now creating the beds so that we can plant them in late winter.

Several dying plants, one Big Leaf Maple and three Vine Maples, have been removed “to a better place.” Two of the maples are memorial plants and will be replaced.

We invite you to join us as we continue the ministry of caring for our Fellowship grounds. We have some exciting projects planned for the future. As one member has said, “one must enjoy dirt and fun.”

Kate McLain, for the Grounds Committee



Thanksgiving dinner at the Fellowship

Everyone is invited to come to our community dinner on Thanksgiving Day at 2 p.m. at the Fellowship. Good food. Great conversation. A real community meal. Berti and Jo will provide the turkey. The rest of you can bring all the other dishes to make our community meal into a feast. Since we want everyone to have an opportunity to attend, please contact Debi Cooper (633-6365 or email debicooper42@gmail.com) if you are willing to give someone a ride or if you need transportation.

As always, assistance with set-up and clean-up will be greatly appreciated. Set-up begins at 1:30 p.m. If you know you are coming, and know what you plan on bringing, please let Berti know (476-0654 or bertijo@humboldt1.com) so we can have a somewhat balanced meal. If you didn't tell her, just come with a dish to share. A vegan option for the main course would be super.

Berti Welty

The HUUF tiny houses quilt

The quilt will be raffled with funds benefiting Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives (AHHA). Avid quilters, and those who want to learn to quilt are invited to the kick-off on Saturday, November 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary of HUUF.

Learn to quilt! Work on quilt blocks at home or with others, then the 'Houses' will be put together, borders made, and quilted.

Thanks to Kim Moor for organizing this fundraiser. The quilt will be raffled after the first of the year, and include both HUUF and the wider community. Contact Kim for more information: 268-8662.

Edie Jessup



Spring Auction Gala

Saturday, April 29 is our Spring Auction Gala which will feature a Silent Auction with dinners, classes and services, as well as a boutique of crafts and unusual items. Although it may seem "miles away," it's not too early to start thinking of what you might like to contribute and donate. To volunteer to help in planning this fun fundraiser, please contact Cathy Hanafi or Sherry Singh. Together we can make this major fundraiser even bigger and better for HUUF.

JoAnn Thomas

How to get your news out

Does your group or committee have news you want the Fellowship to know? Just follow these easy guidelines:

As you begin planning your event, be sure to check first for availability on the Events Calendar in the newsletter or on the website (www.huuf.org). For longer term planning, check with Roxana at office@huuf.org. Send her an email to reserve your date and time.

In publicity or the newsletter article, always include information regarding a person from your group to contact to request or offer a ride.

Chairs of Committees can get information published in the newsletter by submitting an item no later than 5 p.m. the 20th of the month to newsletter@huuf.org. Articles should be succinct and include "who," "what," "where," "when" and "why."

Brief and timely announcements can be submitted to office@huuf.org by noon on Thursday to be included on the HUUF Happenings green sheet.

You may also want to post your event on Facebook. The relatively new Humboldt County Unitarian Universalists page, started by Lucera Love, is quite popular and anyone can join.

For items you believe should be emailed to the congregation, contact Rev. Jessup.

Good luck with letting us know what's going on.

Pat McCutcheon for the Communications Committee

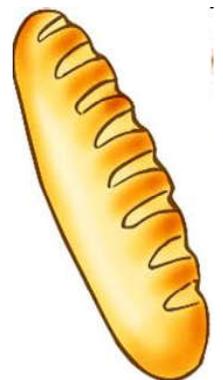
November Social Action brunch

November's brunch will be on the 20th, following the second service. The theme this month will be soups, salads and breads. Maybe a few other hot dishes will sneak in, as well. We will try to feature locally grown and locally baked items. Not wanting to compete with Thanksgiving, we're keeping brunch simple (but tasty). There will, however, be pumpkin-related items.

Suggested prices: Adults, \$5; children, \$1

Proceeds raised from brunch will go to support Betty Chinn's work with the homeless in our community.

Eve Anderson, for the Social Action Committee



Chaffee bequest ad-hoc committee

The board has formed an ad-hoc committee to further explore and get input from the congregation regarding the best use of the approximately \$60,000 Chaffee bequest that was received about two years ago. At that time, the Fellowship budget was in dire straits so it felt like a gift from the universe. However, through prudent management and budget cuts, the Chaffee funds were able to remain untouched. The board chose not to designate the funds at that time, setting them aside for further consideration. These funds have been sitting in an investment account.

It is now time to make a considered investigation into what is best use of the Chaffee bequest. Some congregants have stated that the Chaffee Funds, and all other unrestricted bequests, should go immediately in the endowment fund from which only the interest can be used. Other congregants are of the opinion that all or part of the money should go to unfunded priority items not covered in our current budget. Richard Kossow and Berti Welty have come up with alternative suggestions that include:

- Practicing generosity by giving some of the funds to worthy causes both because it is the 'right thing to do' and inspires generosity in congregants.
- Since Florence Chaffee was a supporter of beauty and gardens, fund the current Memorial garden walks project and/or other garden projects.
- Replenishing our depleted reserves.
- Put the Money towards ministry.
- Hiring/training a UUA Membership professional to assist in integrating new and prospective members into the congregation, assessing members talents and interests, volunteers motivation and coordination, etc.

All of these ideas need research. The Chaffee Bequest Ad-hoc committee is charged with researching what is best for our congregations by studying various aspects of endowments, reserves, benefits vs. costs of a Membership Professional and/or training a volunteer as a membership coordinator. This includes asking for guidance from the UUA and exploring what other congregations have found most beneficial. After thorough examination and considering input from the congregation, the ad-hoc committee will prepare a detailed recommendation to the board. The board will then prepare a recommendation to the congregation.

Fellowship members are invited to give ideas in writing, preferably via email, to any or all members of the committee. Committee members are Dave Harris, Berti Welty, Margot Julian, Catherine Hanafi and Richard Kossow. Contact information is in the directory. NOTE: Comments made in passing are hard to remember and seldom receive the attention that written comments engender.

Berti Welty

"End-of-life Issues" class

Six Monday evenings - 7 p.m., January 23 through February 27 in the Pre-School Room at HUUF, Rev. Jessup will facilitate an End-of-life Issues class. Sign up by emailing minister@huuf.org

Deadline info

Deadline for the **December** issue of the newsletter is Sunday, **November 20**, 5:00 p.m. Send your committee reports and articles to newsletter@huuf.org (email only). While many file formats are acceptable, .doc, .docx, .rtf and text are preferred, and .pdf and pages cannot be used. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

Stephen Sottong, editor

Becoming a member

If you are ready to become a member of HUUF, please talk to a greeter and we will schedule a time during the week for you to sign the Membership Book. There is a pamphlet available in the lobby which explains some of the details of becoming a member. We'd love to have you join us when you're ready.

Awanna Kalal



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

HUUF Coffee Committee

The following volunteer to make coffee:

First Sunday: Kathy Layton, Second Sunday: Jessie Wheeler, Third Sunday: Jan Rowen, Fourth Sunday: Steve Sottong, Fifth Sunday: Kelly Keen & Jeanne Chapin.

Substitutes: Fry Wolhandler and Steve & Carol Newman

Coffee Preparation involves the following:

- Make 2 pots of coffee, 1 decaf & 1 caffinated as well as 1 pot of hot water for tea so they are ready between the two services
- Remove grounds before putting pots on cart.
- Purchase half & half as well as 2% milk for the cart.
- Use cart with attached electrical strip for pot & ensure the strip is on prior to plugging in coffee.
- Treats are always appreciated but not necessary.

If you need to change your Sunday, please let Roxana know by the previous Wednesday so she can update the Order of Service.

We need someone to step up for coffee prep for the Summer months when we only have one service.

Thank you for being coffee makers!

Jan Rowen



Sunday chores

Yes we are a congregationally run fellowship. And in honor of Maria Montessori we do our own chores! So don't miss out on your opportunity to serve as a Sunday Set Up person at 8 a.m. set up for the 9 a.m. service, or to serve as a Kitchen Clean Up person at about 12:30 p.m. after the 11 a.m. service.

Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners are a fun, casual opportunity to socialize with other HUUF members and friends to get to know each other. These dinners occur once a month at the convenience of hosts and guests.

One person (or two people, for those wish to co-host) hosts a dinner in their home or appropriate place of their choosing. They decide from a list of names provided to them how many they would like to have participate in their dinner, and then organize the dinner. The host(s) usually prepares the main dish and contacts the guests to bring side dishes, salad, appetizer, dessert, beverages, etc. Different people attend each dinner, allowing guests to vary each time.

For those not currently on the Circle Dinner list, please add your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet available in the foyer on Sunday mornings, or contact Eve at 444-8220.

Eve Anderson

International Women's Convocation

From the PCD newsletter: The Third International Women's Convocation will take place on February 16-19, 2017, Asilomar Conference Center, Monterey Peninsula, California.

For more information on the Convocation, please visit their website, IntlWomensConvo.org. There, you will find a link to our Program Guide with up-to-date news about speakers and the rich variety of workshop and discussion topics, as well as discounts and scholarship opportunities for ministers, young adults, and international participants.

Berti Welty



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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CLASSIFIED ADS

LINDA VINSON is offering her service as house/pet sitter and companion/caregiver to the HUUF community. Contact her at linvinson@yahoo.com or 808-987-7323

From this Day Forward : A Trans Love Story

From This Day Forward is a moving portrayal of an American family coping with one of the most intimate transformations. When director Sharon Shattuck's father came out as transgender and changed her name to Trisha, Sharon was in the awkward throes of middle school. Her father's transition to female was difficult for her straight-identified mother, Marcia, to accept, but her parents stayed together. As the Shattucks reunite to plan Sharon's wedding, she seeks a deeper understanding of how her parents' marriage survived the radical changes that threatened to tear them apart. Fromthisdayforwardfilm.com

Social Action Committee and Adult RE will present the film on Saturday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. Dr. Loren Cannon from Humboldt State will facilitate a discussion after the film. A \$10 donation is requested but no one will be turned away. For Further Information call the HUUF office 822-3793.

Edie Jessup