

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



November 2022

To the beloved HUUF community

It's interesting how often the analogy of marriage presents itself in discussions pertaining to Covenant, particularly within the context of a progressive faith like ours. When we look back on the history of the marital institution, there's a lot to be resolved. How, within a historical, heteronormative, patriarchal framework, the male was typically given power, status, and agency far above his female counterpart. His labors were often seen to be the "real work," the "breadwinning" necessary to sustain a family, while the energies of the wife constituted a lesser, supporting contribution. A classic example of "power over" rather than "power with."

Thankfully, our understanding has evolved. Rather than a secure arrangement entered solely into by a man and a woman (and ordained by God, no less), we have expanded our definition to include adult people of all genders, who choose to enter into a mutually-supportive, loving expression of deep care and commitment they carry toward one another. Rather than upholding the labors of one person as superior to another, we strive toward a more equitable distribution of work, both within and outside of the home, doing our best to honor the contributions made by all. Perhaps, most importantly, we have come to understand this covenantal relationship as one that is a living, breathing entity. Not a litany of rote vows we recite once to one another, and then fall, somnambulantly, into antiquated roles culturally assigned to us. Instead, we have to come see that marriage is, as we often say, a transformative structure, not a transactional one. Both parties agree to show up, again and again, to keep learning, growing, and yes, rupturing and care-fully re-pairing their relationship to one another, for the life of their union.

If you were able to attend the Congregational Meeting on October 16, you heard a few comparisons to this venerable institution, as our discussion of the proposal offered by the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC) was put forth for consensus. Among the main tenets of this proposal were:

*The decision to enter into a two-year period of deep discovery and multiple, facilitated small group conversations to ascertain the next steps for this beloved Congregation

*The decision to postpone a formal search for a professional UUA Minister until 2023

And perhaps, most importantly...

*The decision to enter into a covenantal relationship with the current core staff of Bridgette Garuti and Amy Day, naming them the Interim Ministerial Team which will help guide us through this next phase of our growth and transition. This included the decision to compensate them within the UUA's recommendation for a living wage, and to re-draft their current job titles and descriptions to reflect the

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Thanks, Steve!

A big thank you goes to Stephen Sottong who has edited and produced this newsletter for many years and now is passing on the reins. We've appreciated your years of work, Steve!

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Beloved Community cont.

expanded agency, responsibility and capacity they have both shown to serve in a more directorial way.

The primary items put forth on the agenda were:

The budget, which was approved by unanimous consent;

Pat McCutcheon's nomination as a new trustee on the board which was approved by unanimous consent

The above-mentioned MRC proposal which was approved with two people standing aside without blocking consensus

In this manner, the structure of marriage is an apt way to describe this pivotal moment. Just as our progressive forebears strived tirelessly to refashion the definition and cultural understanding of marriage, so too have we, as a Congregation, taken a vital step in redefining what we mean to one another, and how we want to move forward. You have chosen to see your dedicated staff as partners in this work of shared ministry, rather than employees waiting to be told what to do. You have chosen to recognize and acknowledge the devoted labors of these years past, and offered your blessing for that work and relationship to flourish in the years to come. You have made a formal and loving commitment to engage with us as equal co-creators in reviving this beloved community and seeing it into its next era of growth.

You have said an emphatic "Yes!" to us and to continuing to learn and redefine what it means to carry out our mission in a rapidly shifting world. It is with this beautiful, expansive, and liberated image of marriage in mind that we in turn are honored to continue to say yes to all of you, and to serve with renewed purpose. Thank you for taking this first vital and important step. May we all move out into this uncharted territory with fresh hope and faith, trusting the process to unfold, and the people moving through it with us, to guide us where we are called.

Amy Day, Bridgette Garuti, Chris Chapin (on behalf of the BOT), Alison O'Dowd, and Bonnie MacGregor (on behalf of the MRC)

FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



NOW THAT **IS** SCARY!

FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



I THINK WE'RE **ALL** HAPPY ABOUT THE RAIN, BUT DO THE FROGS HAVE TO BE SO VOCAL ABOUT IT?

Religious education and engagement activities for November

Each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. - Our wonderful RE staff provide meaningful engagement in the form of games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories and outdoor play to our youth during Sunday services. Nursery Care is also available for our babies and toddlers.

November 6, 11:00 a.m. - Small Groups Sunday - "Change": Within small groups, Berti Welty will offer a service in which we discuss the topic of this month's Soul Matters: Change. RE staff will provide games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories and outdoor play to our youth during Sunday services. Nursery Care is also available for our babies and toddlers.

November 13, 11:00 a.m. - The Future of Worship: Come join Bonnie MacGregor and other members of our Program & Worship team as we reflect upon the insights gathered during our summer "Future of Worship" discussions. We'll look for innovative ways to come together in sacred space and put forth an invitation for members of the Congregation to play a more active role in our Sunday morning worship experience. RE staff will provide meaningful engagement in the form of games, crafts, songs, sharing time, stories and outdoor play to our youth during Sunday services. Nursery Care is also available for our babies and toddlers.

November 20, 11:00 a.m. - How We Give Thanks : During this season we are confronted by the maelstrom of holidays in the dominant culture. But how do we engage with these in a way that aligns with our UU values and faith? On this day, we are honored to be visited by leaders from the local Yurok Tribe, who will bring to us stories, perspectives, songs and rituals that hold meaning to the Indigenous way of Thanks-Giving. They'll encourage us to celebrate in a way that moves beyond the colonial narrative, and into one of abundance for all. This All Ages service will be led by Amy Day. Nursery Care is also available for our babies and toddlers.

November 27, 11:00 a.m. - Social Action Sunday: Join us for an opportunity to, once again, "*Let service be our prayer...*" This year we've been dedicating the fourth Sunday of each month to partner with a local organization to roll up our sleeves and offer our time and energy in service of our values and the community we love. Dress comfortably, as we gather to move, be together, and embody our principles as one. Please note, these services typically do not include separate childcare, and often take place off campus. Check huuf.org for more information.



Fellowship engagement activity schedule

Toning Our Temple: Yoga for All Bodies continues!

Mondays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A gentle, multi-level, practice lovingly offered by Jamie Kessloff. Jamie brings 16 years as a yoga teacher and healing arts practitioner to this space. Her classes focus on therapeutic alignment and connecting to one's brightness from within.

Mindful Mondays: A separate space for youth, with Jessalyn DeLucchi

Mondays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Care Building, beginning November 7

Join youth and mindfulness expert, Jessa, who will offer a separate space for kids ages 5-11 to move, play, craft, sing, and find ways to deepen their connection to themselves, their bodies, to nature, and one another. Ideal for any parent or caregiver participating in yoga in the Sanctuary but needing childcare to do so.

For both, donations are gratefully accepted, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, contact Amy at comm@huuf.org

Climate Action Campaign news

First off, please vote for Proposition 30, the Clean Cars and Clean Air Act, which will invest \$100 billion over 20 years to address the largest source of climate emissions, transportation, without raising taxes on 99.8% of Californians.

If passed, Prop. 30 will provide \$20 billion to prevent catastrophic wildfires, \$35 billion to expand zero-emission charging and fueling infrastructure, and \$45 billion to help lower and middle-income consumers, businesses, and local governments afford zero-emission cars, trucks, school buses, public transit, and fund the charging infrastructure to make this transition possible. Prop. 30 will fund EV equity with a 1.75% tax on individuals earning more than \$2 million per year. Prop. 30 is endorsed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Citizens Climate Lobby, California Environmental Voters, the State Association of Electrical Workers, the American Lung Association, and other groups listed at <https://yeson30.org>. It will generate billions in funding for grid upgrades and unlock the potential for EVs to put electricity back into the grid as California moves to electrify. See <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/electric-cars-california-power-17333054.php?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=ef1ff2bb-82a9-4e5c-8432-a1d49570afd4>

For more about Prop. 30, see <https://www.nrdcactionfund.org/historic-investment-in-californias-climate-future-on-the-ballot-this-fall-with-proposition-30/>

Thanks to all who attended the Friday for the Future rally on September 23 at the Arcata Plaza with signs supporting youth worldwide who challenge leaders to take immediate action on the climate crisis: Ann Kilby, Archie Mossman, Chris Chapin, Joanna and Patrick Welch, Joanne McGarry, John Shaefer, Kate McClain, Jamal Tharp, Laurel Busse, Mandy Bray, Margy Emerson, Michelle Hasting, Sue Lee Mossman, and Sylvia Shaw.

CAC joins 350 Humboldt to cosponsor a Zoom presentation on Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. with Dr. Kevin Fingerma speaking on efforts to target agricultural sources of greenhouse gas emissions, and the emerging problem at the nexus of California climate policy: agriculture and environmental justice. He will discuss approaches to address the problem, including installing biodigesters that convert organic wastes to biogas. Look for the Zoom link in an upcoming HUUF Weekly.

For background on this talk, listen to Dr. Wendy Ring's talk entitled "Got Methane?" on <https://beta.prx.org/stories/397489>.

A year ago, CAC was one of the earliest faith-based climate groups endorsing the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty Initiative (FFNPT). We also wrote a letter to Fifth District County Supervisor Steve Madrone asking that he bring this initiative to the Board of Supervisors.

Last month, the island nation of Vanuatu made history by becoming the first nation to call on the United Nations General Assembly to negotiate the FFNPT. The treaty would establish a binding international agreement to phase out fossil fuels while supporting dependent economies, workers, and communities in making that change. With the U.N. Climate Change Conference, COP27, meeting this month in Egypt, CAC has sent a letter calling on the U.S. to join the FFNPT.

I thank each of you for who you are, for all that you do, and for all that you give on behalf of mother earth.

Sue Lee Mossman

Another view

This is analysis by the non-partisan League of Women Voters of California. *Stephen Sottong*

Prop 30 would increase the income tax for very wealthy Californians, and use the proceeds on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and wildfires in the state. The initiative includes thoughtful proposals for moving to electrify our transportation, including incentives and education, requirements for improving charging infrastructure for all road vehicles, and improving the electric grid to meet increased demand. The League supports these goals and proposals. The need to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions is clear. However, making decisions about budget expenditures through ballot measures is not a good policy. It reduces the flexibility our legislators need to react to future needs. In this case, this problem is increased because the huge size of this program could force deep cuts in basic state programs like healthcare, child care, and housing assistance due to a previously enacted spending limit ("Gann Limit").

Sunday Services

Sunday, November 6 – 11 a.m. – Changes in our Religious Perspectives – Berti Welty

Because of the feedback received in our Future of Worship summer series, the Worship Leaders have decided that on the first Sunday of each month we will have discussions among the attendees designed to share the wisdom in each of us. This morning's Wisdom Sharing discussion service will focus on this question: How have your personal beliefs and understanding of religion and/or spirituality changed during your life's journey? After the introductory portions of the service, small groups will be formed, both in person and online.

Sunday, November 13 – 11 a.m. – Sharing Worship – Bonnie MacGregor, Ann Kilby, Amy Day, Debi Cooper, Marla West

Our worship leaders will share the themes and patterns that emerged from the summer congregational discussions about worship and the spiritual sources and experiences at the Fellowship – including Sunday services – that are meaningful, engaging, and uplifting. The service itself will play with, and incorporate ideas from, the congregational discussions and elicit ways for congregants to participate in creating future services as we re-invigorate our spiritual life as a community.

Sunday, November 20 – 11 a.m. – How We Give Thanks – Yurok elders

Every year during this season, we are confronted by the maelstrom of holidays (once “holy days”) represented in the dominant culture. Yet how are we to engage with these in a way that aligns with our UU values and faith? On this day, we will be honored by a visit of leaders from the Yurok tribe, who will share stories, perspectives, songs, and rituals that hold meaning to the indigenous way of giving thanks. They will encourage us to celebrate in a way that moves beyond the colonial narrative and into one of abundance for all.

Sunday, November 27 – 11 a.m. – Social Action Sunday

Join us for another opportunity to “let service be our prayer.” This past year, we have dedicated the fourth Sunday of each month to partner with a local like-minded organization, to roll up our sleeves and offer our time and energies in service of our values and the community we love. Dress comfortably, as we gather to move, be together, and embody our principles as one.



Who are the volunteer members of the Fellowship Board?

There is confusion about who is on the HUUF Board, what positions they fill, and how to contact them. See below for the HUUF members who represent you on the board.

Before talking about *who* is on the board, it is important to remind ourselves that they are *survivors* and *warriors*. Five of the current board members held onto their seats while riding out the plague, resignations and general upheaval. New arrivals to the board have agreed to jump into the unknown. All of them are diving deep into the HUUF pond! I, for one, am grateful and thankful for their plunge.

So, *who* is on the HUUF Board?

Co-president - Debi Cooper, second year of two year term

Cell: 248-227-2124

Email: debcoop46@gmail.com

Co-president - vacant

Vice President - vacant

Treasurer - Cassie Brillbeck, second year of two year term

Cell: 707-530-3918

Email: dem092109@gmail.com

Secretary - Sandy Lynn, second year of two year term

Cell: 707-499-1131

Email: slynn.uke@gmail.com

Trustee - Chris West, second year of two year term

Cell: 650-773-4273

Email: cwest@gmail.com

Trustee - Montana Caouette, second year of two year term

Cell: 928-607-1931

Email: caouette.michael@gmail.com

Trustee - Chris Chapin, first year of two year term

Home: 707-798-1211

Email: chrischapin029@gmail.com

Trustee - Ann Kilby, first year of two year term

Email: akilbypup@yahoo.com

Trustee - Pat McCutcheon, first year of two year term

Cell: 707-834-4459

Email: mcauselhorst@gmail.com

HUUF Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at HUUF, and meetings will also be available via Zoom. You are welcome to attend these meetings. If you wish to be on the agenda, please contact Debi Cooper at least a week in advance. The first half hour is dedicated to member input. Look for the agenda and the Zoom link in an email sent before the meeting.

Sylvia Shaw

David Acton Lewis: May 5, 1945 - September 5, 2022

David Acton Lewis died in his sleep on September 5, 2022. David was the husband of long time member Beverly Morgan Lewis. A Celebration Of Life service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 6, 2022 in the HUUF sanctuary. All friends and members are invited to attend.



Board meeting report

The HUUF Board of Trustees met twice in October. At a special meeting on October 6 the board discussed a proposal for raising the salaries for Amy and Bridgette, retroactive to July 2022, which was approved. Finalizing the agenda for the October 16 congregational meeting was also discussed.

The regular meeting on October 11 was attended by several members of the congregation. During the first half hour, the time designated for member input, Shawn Nichols made suggestions for determining the number of members we have, what they need from HUUF, as well as reestablishing the caring circle including funding, preparing for a crisis, and funds for members who are in need of financial assistance.

The trustees' portion of the meeting followed, starting with a discussion about the Ministerial Transition Committee's proposal that would be presented at the congregational meeting. This was a continuation of the discussion from the last meeting, including the fact that defining the job descriptions had yet to be done, as well as getting input from the Council of Chairs. Other business included Covid safety protocols, and it was decided to keep the mask policy for indoor services but allow for optional masking in the Care Building. A financial report was provided, and Cassie Brilbeck was approved as the new treasurer.

Sandy Lynn

A Caring Circle Collaborative comes together

Last month, representatives of four different HUUF groups and committees — the Pastoral Care Team, Religious Education Committee, Climate Action Campaign, and the Caring Circle — all met over cheesecake. It led to a great exchange, talking about our efforts to work for the Fellowship and its members. There was an airing of both successes and frustrations. We decided to continue meeting using a title Amy Day originated, the Caring Circle Collaborative.

Our discussion included how we might organize carpooling among members, how we might update members' contact information (with a new member directory in mind), and how we could support the work of the Pastoral Care Team. Another focus was to organize hubs of HUUF members and friends who might come together around shared interests or needs in our Fellowship.

We will be reaching out to HUUF members and friends to verify contact information and interest in being listed in the next HUUF Directory. We'll meet again on Thursday, October 27, at 2:00 p.m. We plan to meet again in November, and if you're interested in joining us then, contact me at (707)798-1211.

Chris Chapin

Climate action for November

Thanks to Cena Marino, I know to gather dry leaves and redwood duff before the rains come so I have "browns" to add to my composter during the winter. I stuffed the debris into potting soil bags that I had saved and stashed in the basement. A composter needs browns—dry, brittle materials like leaves, straw, newspaper and wood chips—to provide carbon and keep the compost from becoming too wet. Of course it also needs "greens"—food waste, grass, coffee grounds, etc.—to provide nitrogen and moisture.

Although they're compostable, it's best to omit meat, dairy, and oily, fatty products because they attract pests and can cause odors. Starting with a 6-12-inch layer of browns, make a composter lasagna by alternating layers of browns and greens. The City of Arcata and surrounding cities are selling easily-assembled compost bins for \$35. (You must show proof of residence in the particular city.) Arcata City Hall is open 9-5, Monday through Friday. The most effective, ergonomic compost turner and aerator I've found is a Lotech Products Compost Crank.

It takes time, but compost happens.

Margy Emerson



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Board of Trustees:

Presidents: Debi Cooper

Vice-President: *vacant*

Secretary: Sandy Lynn

Treasurer: Cassie Brillbeck

Trustees: Chris Chapin, Chris West,
Michael 'Montana' Caouette,
Ann Kilby, Pat McCutcheon

Call to artists

On Saturday, October 15, Art and Aesthetics Committee Chair Cheryl Rau put up a display of her art in the HUUF Sanctuary/"Gallery." The committee is currently working with HUUF's Religious Education staff to create a show for late November and December. In January we will do an All Fellowship Show.

So make some art and get your pieces ready to show!

Cheryl Rau

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.

Linda Vinson is available to house sit small dogs and cats. Linvinson@yahoo.com 808 987 7323

1 or 2 bedroom apt needed for adult male student friend of mine. Please send referrals to munsee@humboldt1.com. Many thanks. Jean Munsee



Deadline Information

Deadline for the December newsletter issue is Sunday, November 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/HUUFNewsGuide>