

yUUper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

"We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 September 2017; Vol. 32, #9

BHK Building (700 Park Ave., Houghton). Enter on North Side, off Waterworks Drive

Sunday Schedule for September

**This Month's Theme: The Second Principle:
Justice, equity and compassion in human
relations**

Sept. 3, "Equity in Labor": This year's Labor Day movement will celebrate the labor movement and show how labor's efforts to bring about fair pay and rights echo our Unitarian Universalist values.

Sept. 10, Forum: Our own Robin Mueller discusses the famous Kensington Runestone in Minnesota and its finder, Ignatius Donnelly. See a more detailed description of the talk elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sept. 17, "Waters of Compassion": In our annual water ceremony, we will examine the connection between water and compassion as we mingle our waters together for the new church year. Potluck and book sale follow the service.

Sept. 24, "Justice: Not Just a Political Virtue": In many churches, social justice sermons would out of place, but what if the political is both personal and spiritual? In this service, Rev. Chris will examine how justice begins with the spiritual and personal choices we make in our lives.

(9/23 Dinner Auction Plans)

Sign-up sheets are available at Sunday services.

The committee would like to know by September 10th who is coming and what auction items might be donated. Call Sharon Levine with your plans: 523-5868

Annual Picnic Set for Sep. 10th

The annual KUUF picnic will be September 10th at the Marsin Center after Robin's Forum talk.

Lunch is planned for 1:00. Bring your own place setting and a dish to share. Drinks will be provided.

Fellowship musicians should bring their instruments. Kayaks and canoes will be available for those who would like to spend some time on the water.



**KUUF Committee
Announces Dinner and
Services Auction on
Sept 23rd.**

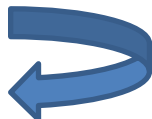
The KUUF Goods and Services Auction will take place at The Bluffs on Saturday, September 23rd, beginning at 5:30 with appetizers. Dinner follows at 6:30.

Jim Boyce will again be our host, and he is providing dinner for all attendees.

This special event raises funds to support our KUUF choir whose efforts have added so much to our Sunday services.

The live auction will start after dinner and everyone will have a chance to bid on the silent auction items throughout the evening.

Door prizes will be one of the highlights. Please plan on attending.





“Love on the Journey”

Minister’s Musings

It’s hard to believe we’re entering our third year together. Where does the time go! Much has happened over the summer, and we’re entering the new church year with a lot of possibilities.

Our web site has a brand-new look and address (<http://www.keweenawuu.org>) and our Office Assistant, Lisa Wiitala, along with member Melissa Williamson, are busy creating a robust web presence to help distribute our name in the larger community.

We have been experimenting with different forms of advertising, and soon, the Personnel Committee will identify a new Religious Education Coordinator to direct our children and youth RE programs.

The board is also assessing new initiatives on community building and social justice.

We all should be excited about these new initiatives, and we are already seeing people contact us who are interested in our faith community.

I have been so proud of our group over the last few months: how we have handled adversity, and the commitment we have shown to building Beloved Community both in our congregation and in the larger Copper Country.

I was touched by how many KUUF people came to the solidarity vigil in August, aligning themselves with the counter-protestors in Charlottesville.

There is so much we have to be proud, and, though our path here has had some bumps, we are in a strong position now, and can reach out to grow our structure, our programs, and, yes, our numbers. How will we each contribute to the different levels of growth within our congregation?

After all, within congregational polity, the minister, staff, and board are not the only faces of the congregation.

Sure, we have important roles in helping the congregation grow, but it all comes down to members of the fellowship.

In my first sermon as your minister, I made the statement that this congregation belongs to YOU! This means that when you sign the membership book, you are taking on the responsibility of owning a portion of it.

As the board and strategic goals committee continue wrestling with questions of mission, vision, and strategy, every member must ask:

“What will I do to help our congregation meet its goals? Growth requires thinking outside the box.. It requires that we renew ourselves through reexamining how tasks have always been done.

—Rev. Chris

Rev. Chris’s Office Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm;
Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, and by appointment

Tea with the Minister:

Thursday: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Rev. Chris's Blog: <http://www.radicalrev.com>
Listen to Rev. Chris's Sermons on SoundCloud:
<https://soundcloud.com/chrisrothbauer>



KUUF Library News

The previously published link to the KUUF library website has been replaced.

A quick way of reaching the link is to visit the KUUF home page, then clicking on

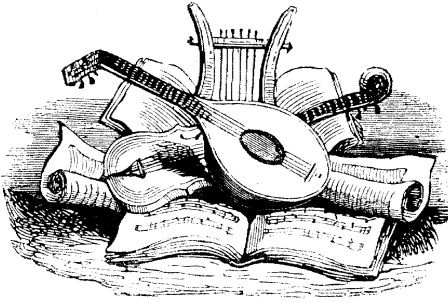
"Connection." From there you will find the library link listed.

The website, of course, is new so you may encounter some bugs in the system. Nevertheless, you should be able to browse the collection; but you may not be able to do a search of the collection at this time.

—Bob Fiandt

The KUUF Choir: The Director Discusses the Challenges

Editor's note: Everyone in the congregation has been asked to participate in some way that helps the KUUF function. Thus I have asked the Choir Director, Sandra Loy, to describe her responsibilities, with the thought that those seeking some form of KUUF participation



might find this group of interest.

What is your musical background?

As a fourth generation

musician, my earliest memories are of music. I was raised in the Church of Christ tradition, a conservative sect in which instrumental music was disallowed during church services, but my early experience with acapella singing prepared me well for my formal education, and especially as an ensemble singer.

Where did you study, and what particular aspect of music interests you?

I received my Bachelor of Vocal Performance from Stetson University, a small, private school in DeLand, Florida.

The Stetson School of Music is an undergraduate institution, and one of the only programs in the U.S. to stage full operas with an all-undergrad cast and crew.

I was, however, an avid choir and chamber singer, with a particular interest in African American spirituals, and 20th century art songs.

What is the most challenging aspect of working with a small choir like ours?

With a small group, music selection is the greatest challenge. Our members are all accomplished people with diverse interests, and therefore they are involved in many activities outside of choir.

This necessitates a flexible format where members attend as they are able. Our selections must thus be flexible as well, with voice parts and instrumentation that can be quickly adjusted as needed to suit whatever personnel we have on hand that day.

Ideally, what would you like to see at KUUF with regards to the choir?

We are in the early stages of developing an outreach program to bring musical joy to the underserved members of our larger community, with a focus on those in nursing homes and hospice care.

I believe in the practice of *Seva* (selfless service) as an essential part of one's personal development, and I feel that my highest calling in this job is to encourage selfless service among those I lead.

It's easy to get caught up in the concerns of one's ego (recruitment, prestige, being "good" in a musical sense), but the true goal is for us to grow as individuals and in fellowship with one another.

Do you select the choir music? Can anyone in the choir make

suggestions?

I make most of the choir selections, with input from Rev. Chris as well as from our choir members. I'm happy to report that several of our members' knowledge of music literature (and UU music literature in particular) far outstrips my own!

I greatly value the choir members' input, and find that I am always learning new things while in the process of teaching others.

Although I'm not always able to implement every suggestion, I love being surrounded by enthusiastic people whose knowledge and ideas allow me to broaden my own musical horizons.

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"I feel that my highest calling in this job is to encourage selfless service among those I lead."

—Sandra Loy

The KUUF choir is small. What would you say to the Fellowship in order to increase the choir's size?

Join us!

In speaking with members of our congregation and with people in general, I repeatedly encounter the same false dichotomy: that there are some people who "can sing" versus everyone else who "can't."

This is always the result of harsh or negative feedback during one's formative years. Certainly there are varying levels of aptitude and refinement but ultimately, I believe that musical expression is an inherently human trait that we can all access.

It saddens me that there are so many people whose capacity for musical joy was damaged at a young age. I welcome the opportunity to help anyone who wants to heal from that experience and reclaim their musicality.

Our choir rejects ableism in all its forms: our doors and hearts are open to all!



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