

yUUper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 April 2018; Vol. 33, #4

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



Sunday Schedule for April 2018

April 1: Marty Smith presents a service on what he has learned from his world travels: "Easter, Spring, and the El Camino: Finding Your Way"

April 8th. Marty returns for a Forum follow-up: "42 Days, 500 miles, 20lbs: Walking El Camino"

April 15: "On the Origin and Nature of Good and Evil," a sermon by Rev. David Pyle. Bill Fink will lead us; Jack Jobst will read the sermon.

April 22: "Hospice Lessons." Rev. Karon Sandberg will discuss what she has learned as a hospice chaplain. "Spending time with folks at the end of their lives has taught me many lessons. I will share some of these with you. Perhaps they may help you live your life with more intention.

April 29: "The Five Tasks of Interim Ministry." Rev. Karen McFarland will discuss what to do when a Fellowship is in a transitional period between a minister's resignation and calling a new, settled minister. "The congregation," she says, "needs to consider certain issues before making the choice. Of major value will be a well-trained interim minister to help with these five tasks."



Rev. Ann Schranz, shown here discussing music plans with pianist Alex Frazier, while Sandra Loy and daughter Maddie look on. Rev. Schranz visited KUUF on Sunday, March 4th. Her sermon used birding as a thematic focal point for a key part of her spiritual life.

Marty Smith to Show Film Related to his April 'Comino Way' Presentations

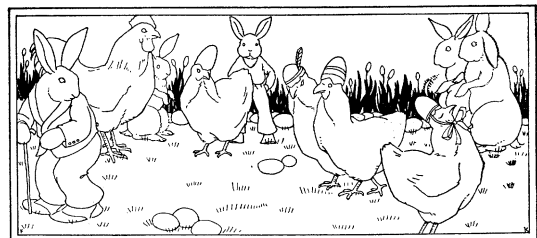
Supplementing his two services in April, Marty Smith will show on Wednesday, April 4th, a film starring Martin Sheen titled "The Way," at 6:30 pm, KUUF Office.

The film will be preceded by pizza at 6.

The movie follows the pilgrimage of four individuals on the Camino spiritual journey.



The Koffee Klatch group now meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month (April 13th & 27th) at Roy's Bakery, on the waterfront, at 10am.



KUUF Membership Drops to 85

Membership Committee chair Lora Repp reports that the Fellowship now consists of 85 Members and 20 Friends, as of Feb. 1st, 2018.

"Part of the reason for the drop," Repp says, "is because some members moved away from the area, such as John and Betty Haro, and the Peggs.

"Our average Sunday attendance last year," Repp adds, "was 38."

Lora also says that the committee mailed postcards to people whom KUUF has not seen for a while. The Membership Committee, so far, has no results on this effort.

'Hospice Lessons,' Subject of Sermon on April 22nd

by Karon Sandberg



I spend my days as a hospice chaplain and through this work I have learned a few things. My patients and families are brave

and loving souls who generously welcome me into their lives and into this intimate moment.

Everyone thinks that this must be depressing work, and yet for me, it is not.

In my work I have learned from these very people what to honor, embrace, and what to let go. This work has taught me how to live with greater intention and attention.

Let their lessons teach you too as we explore ways to embrace and learn from this time of life.

Recyclable Electronics Collection Set for May 4th and 5th

The Michigan DEQ has recently awarded local groups funding for recycling old electronics, according to KUUF's Carol Ekstrom.

The first collection will be Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th.

The groups sponsoring this recycling effort include CCRI (Copper Country Recycling Initiative), MTU, Goodwill Industries, and the cities of Hancock and Houghton.

The organizers plan collections in both spring and fall, Ekstrom reports. In addition, the groups expect to develop permanent collection sites.

Carol has recently faced health issues, so she is hoping some volunteers from KUUF will help make the first collection event a success.

Volunteers may choose from a variety of tasks and will take just a couple of hours. If you can help, please email cekstrom3@gmail.com.

2018 KUUF Canvassing Gears Up



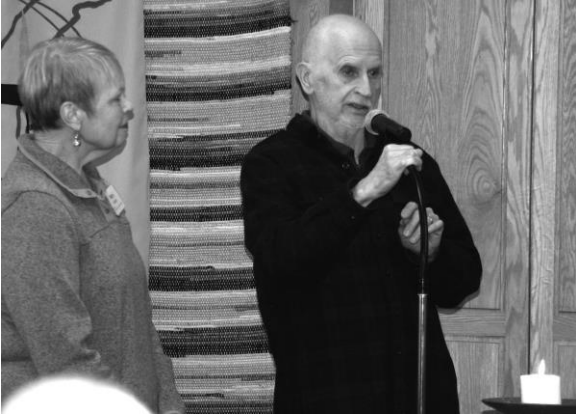
Canvass co-chair Bill Leder discusses with Linda Rulison the amount raised thus far in the 2018 canvassing drive.

Leder and co-chair Will Cantrell are asking KUUF members to pledge by April 1st so that the Finance Committee can determine how much of the KUUF operation can be funded for the next fiscal year.

"We will certainly accept pledges made after 1 April," Leder says, "but the work of the KUUF Finance Committee will be much more difficult trying to determine what Fellowship expenses in the coming year will be possible and what will not."



The Kuures say 'Goodbye.'



On Sunday March 18th, Dave and Mary Kuure stepped up to the microphone during *Joys and Concerns* to say goodbye. They are moving to the Traverse City area, to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Such is life.

"We made many friends," Dave says, "in the six years we have been attending services here." Dave was a long-time Houghton Elementary teacher, while Mary was, and is, a registered nurse.

Good luck to them at their new location!

Who is Karon Sandberg?

Rev. Sandberg will join us for the first time on April 22nd, the 'Potluck Service.' The newsletter staff has asked her to tell us something about herself.

I was an old Special Education teacher who found a lot of love and laughter with folks who did not carry around social perceptions of what was proper or the "right" thing to do.

My students taught me a lot about living in the moment and sharing my feelings and emotions openly. But life, raising kids and a couple of corporate moves for my engineering husband found me no longer in the classroom.

Changes to education and tax cuts left less support for teachers in Special Ed, and I began to feel less certain that I was making a difference.

A chance to live abroad came along as my husband was offered a year-long assignment in Jakarta, Indonesia. I thought this would be a great opportunity to spend the year focusing on just what it was that I thought I should do in life.

We had a wonderful time in Indonesia. Our kids were forever changed by this adventure, and it was there where I felt a pull towards hospice work.

I met a woman who had been a hospice volunteer. Her stories were so profound and moving. I wondered if that might be something to investigate. I checked in with a friend who was a manager of a hospice provider back in the US to see what he thought of the idea. He suggested that when we returned from SE Asia that I volunteer, just to see what I thought of it.

In my mind I thought, perhaps I could become a social worker; that did not seem like a big stretch from being a Special Ed. teacher.

But when we returned to Wisconsin, and I started to volunteer in hospice, I found myself drawn to the work of the chaplain. Rev. Jordan was a kind, gentle and open soul who never judged anyone about their ideas of faith. He just simply walked alongside them in their journey.

The more I spent time with him and the patients I met, the more I felt a calling to this work.

After a year of volunteering, I began seminary and four years later was ordained by the Fox Valley UU Fellowship.

Being a Unitarian Universalist has been the best fit in the world for me as a hospice chaplain, as daily I am called to respect the inherent worth and dignity of each individual, and to be open to their spiritual walk in whatever shape or form it takes.



**From the
KUUF Library;
A Book
Review by Bob
Fiandt**

*If Yes Is the
Answer, What Is
the Question?* by
George Kimmich
Beach (1995, 204
pages)

Book Review, continued:

If 'Yes' is the Answer, What is the Question?

"This book is addressed to people who do not want easy answers," the introduction says, "but it will work for those who would rather take on the toughest questions of human existence and find pathways toward the discovery of their own answers."

The book has eight chapters, each with a title containing a yes-or-no question to be addressed in the chapter. Author Beach always responds with 'yes.' He invites the reader to enter a process of reflection and decision; with the aim to discover the basic issues of human life; that is, the "first questions" based on our experiences.

Here are a few examples from the book:

- Are humans incurably religious?
- Can we acknowledge evil and tragedy, and not lose heart?
- Are ethical values rooted in reality?
- Does faith make sense?

Beach takes his material from a wide variety of sources and, for those readers who need them, he provides corresponding endnotes.

— Bob Fiandt



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