

# yUUper Newsletter

**Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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

**Sunday Mornings at 10:30 February 2017; Vol. 32, #2**

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

## Sunday Schedule for February

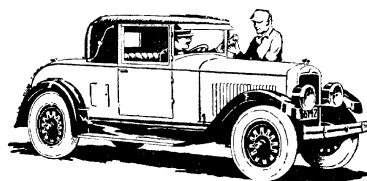
### This Month's Theme: Identity

**February 5 - "Living Single on Valentine's Day"** This time of year we are bombarded with messages about the virtues of being coupled, but what of singles? Rev. Chris will share the experience of being happily/unhappily single, and examine how the single life can be an opportunity to love ourselves and the world.

**February 12: Forum. "Land use Change and Bird Communities."** Prof. David Flaspohler (Forestry) will discuss bird habitat and summarize recent research in the Entre Rios state of northern Argentina, an area dominated by natural grasslands for eons but now being planted for timber and bioenergy. Illustrated.

**February 19 - "Been in the Storm So Long: Black in America Today"** This is Black History Month and, with the rise of white nationalism in America, the question must be asked: Where do we go from here? Rev. Chris will point towards possible opportunities in the future for racial justice. Potluck and Book Sale today.

**February 26 - "Who Do You Think You Are? Intersections of Identity."** The American poet Walt Whitman once wrote, "Do I contradict myself? Very well, then I contradict myself, I am large, I contain multitudes." Today, many are looking at identity not as a fixed source, but as a series of intersections. In this sermon, Rev. Chris will examine how understanding our different identities could help us live holistic lives.



**Rides Needed for Jim Boyce**  
Coordinator Carol Ekstrom seeks help in transporting Jim on Sunday mornings

from The Bluffs and back. Could you take a turn or two? Contact Carol: [cekstrom3gmail.com](mailto:cekstrom3gmail.com)

## Building a Lay Pastoral Care Program: One Day Workshop Set for Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at BHK

Rev. Chris and Rev. Ian Evison, of the MidAmerica Region of the UUA, will examine the different facets and considerations of lay pastoral care programs. By the end of the workshop, participants will create a practical plan for implementing a lay pastoral program in their congregation.

Program runs from 9-3 (with a lunch break) at BHK Community Room. Questions? [crothbauer@uuma.org](mailto:crothbauer@uuma.org)

## Green Book Club's Feb. Title

*The Serengeti Rules: The Quest to Discover How Life Works & Why It Matters*, by S. B. Carroll. Club meets Feb. 28, KUUF Office. 7 pm. Everyone invited.

## Mid-America UU Regional Assembly to Meet This Spring in Chicago Area

Oak Brook Marriott, April 28-30, 2017  
This year's Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President and Professor of Ministry at Meadville-Lombard Theological School.



## Minister's Musings

### "Identity and the Church"

Religious movements have been shaped by what their followers saw as their *mission*.

The Christian church saw itself as building the Kingdom of God. Buddhists sought to help reach enlightenment and avoid reincarnation. The Baha'i faith built a religious movement based on the unity of world religions. Daoists sought to live at one with The Way.

Whatever the stated purpose, missions have helped shape the identity of religious people and helped guide them towards a deeper understanding of their faith and a purpose for their existence.

Unitarian Universalism is no different. We have built an identity around a tempered religion that employs reason, service, and love. And this continues to present day.

Indeed, the first line of Unitarian minister James Vila Blake's famous covenant declares, "Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law..."

Blake saw these qualities as inseparable from the church as a whole, and wrote them as a living commitment to be recited by his parishioners every week at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois. They gave him and his members an identity around which to act.

It's not just larger movements that need this sense of purpose; individual churches also grapple with mission, vision, and purpose, and their questions of who they are will form the backbone of their identities.

Just as Blake's covenant was a statement of who his church was, congregations grapple with statements that declare who they are.

The answers they generate for the question of who they are will determine the relationship they have with the wider world.

What do we want KUUF to be in the coming weeks, months and years? What do you want people to say when they hear you are a member of this congregation that declares itself to be

both welcoming and inclusive? What are your dreams for how we will be seen in the world?

I hope you will allow these living questions to fill your heart with hope and the courage to move forward, for this is your congregation. The answers shape how we are as a congregation and what sort of religious community we will be.

*Rev. Chris*

## KUUF Evaluation Begins; 100% Participation Hoped For

KUUF has begun the process of evaluating the congregation's and the minister's progress. This will be the first since Chris joined us. In 2016 the process was deferred because Chris was with us for only a short time.

This evaluation is very similar to the one we conducted in 2009 and 2013.

This evaluation stems from the written agreement with our minister, who started serving KUUF in August 2015. It states that his compensation will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted by the Board based on a recommendation from a three-person ad hoc committee composed of a member of the Committee on Ministry, the Finance Committee, and the Board. Members are Linda Rulison, Bill Leder, and Kelly Steelman.

*Ways you can complete the survey:*

- Go to the KUUF website and log in.
- If you don't have access to a computer, obtain a paper copy from the side table on Sunday morning or contact an ad hoc committee member. Place your completed survey form in the box on the side table, or give it to an ad hoc committee member.

## Film Sponsors Say "Thanks"

Thanks to those who provided refreshment for the KUUF-Sponsored Green Film in January: Lora Repp, Linda Belote, Sharon Levine, Mary Kuure, Anne Newcombe, Joan Chadde, and Linda Rulison,

The Film Series, initiated by our own Joan Chadde, is now in its 7th season.

Seventy-five people attended in January.



## What Type of Governance System Will Be the Best for KUUF?

### A Report from Board President Amlan

As KUUF has grown over the years, we have benefited from organizing more formally. Following are some examples, of changes in the last two years that are indicative of a transition to a more formal organization:

- We formed a Personnel Committee to oversee the hiring of KUUF employees, as we have grown from a single employee (minister) to multiple employees (choir director, pianist, child care provider, and office assistant).
- In compliance with current labor laws we have formalized our payroll and payment procedures.
- The role of the Treasurer has become much more complex, and we now require formal professional bookkeeping.
- We have added a choir director position thanks to the generosity of the silent auction.

While some of these steps were incremental, put together they are taking us in a direction that may require structural changes in how we are organized.

In keeping with our commitment to the democratic process, we must start a conversation with the Fellowship before making any changes. Hence, an interactive community town hall meeting occurred on January 15<sup>th</sup> during potluck to discuss the following two questions of organization within the Fellowship.

**What is the role of the minister?** Do we subscribe to a CEO-style corporate model, or a shared governance model?

Each has its merits but also defines how various administrative roles and responsibilities are shared between minister and lay congregants.

The objective of this discussion will be to identify clearly the roles and responsibilities of the Minister and lay leaders.

**What is the role of the Board?** Should we be a policy-only Board, or should we be a working board with direct representation from the Chairs of Committees?

In either case, there needs to be better communication between the Board and committees.

At the January Potluck, the participation was enthusiastic: 35 members gathered over lunch and participated in this important discussion.

*Amlan*

## KUUF Membership Committee

*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 Membership Committee chair, Lora Repp, to describe her group's responsibilities, with the thought that those seeking some form of KUUF participation might find her committee of interest.*

*What is the purpose of your committee?*

We try to grow membership and keep track of everyone's status. By 'status' I mean determining the number of current, active members.

*How many do we have?*

Ninety-five. We need an accurate count of members each year. This figure goes to UUA in Boston at the beginning of each calendar year.

*How do you encourage memberships?*

We welcome visitors on Sundays and maintain visitor lists. We also print members' name tags, and distribute orientation booklets. We are also responsible for organizing the "New to UU" meetings.

*I suppose you also update the membership directory?*

Absolutely.

*About how often does your committee meet?*

This year we hope to meet monthly if schedules permit.

## Membership Committee (continued)

*Do you have any new tasks coming up?*

During our first meeting in October we developed a list of issues/projects that we would like to address. Our first project was to update a Visitor Packet to give to first time visitors. The



packet includes a welcome note from Chris and information about KUUF and Unitarian Universalism in general. We are hoping this information may encourage a second visit.

*Anything else?*

A "scrapbooking project" is in the works and Fellowship members will soon be asked to participate. In February the committee will begin working on Outreach issues. I think most of us feel that there are many people in the community who would be interested in UU and possibly joining KUUF if they knew more about it.

*Who are currently on the committee?*

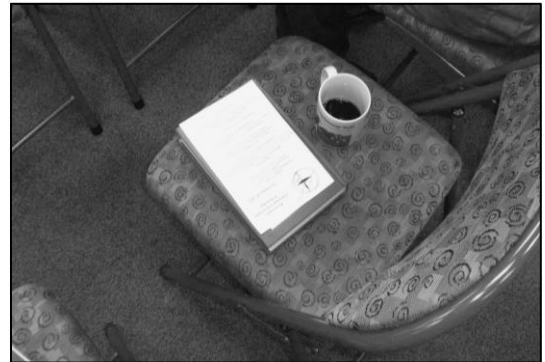
Miriam Pickens, Bob Drake, Grace Parikh, Jenn Donovan and me.

*This sounds like you have plenty to do.*

Yes, and we welcome new members to the committee. With our numerous small tasks, "many hands make light work."

*Who coined that phrase?*

Hmm. . . Ben Franklin?



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