

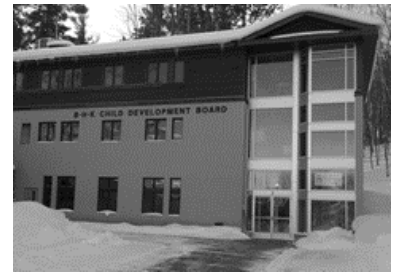
yUUPER Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 May 2018; Vol. 33, #5

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



Sunday Schedule for May 2018

May 6: Rev. Karen McFarland's leads us in worship with her sermon titled "Moving On from Church Folly Lane, Part 1."

May 13: Rev. Karen returns with Part II of her sermon on "Church Folly Lane."

May 20: Horst Schmidt will read a Faith Rocket sermon by the Rev. Laurie Bushbaum on Miracles. See the short article in this newsletter for more detail.

May 27: Forum. Dr. Keat Ghee Ong, Associate chair of the Biomedical Dept at Tech, will discuss "Advances in Biomedical Technologies," the science that has changed the lives of many, especially wounded soldiers.



Help Needed with Econo Slips

Refunds from Econo receipts add to our Fellowship's income, but to receive the funds, we must submit stacks of receipts, each totaling \$1,000, with an adding machine printout

placed atop each stack.

Barry Fink asks "Do you own or have access to an adding machine with a printer?" If so, please bring it to the **Econo-Slips Processing Party** at the

KUUF office on Wednesday, May 9, 4:00 to 5:30pm. No RSVP required.

McFarland to Speak Here on May 6th and 13th: On Growing a Fellowship

My title, McFarland says, is "Moving On From Church Folly Lane." When we want to reinvigorate our church, what do we need to do? We need to do an honest inventory of ourselves and look at how we want to move forward. What are our best skills? What do we do well and what do we need to improve? How do we present our best selves to visitors, newcomers, and the wider community that is the Copper Country?



Rev. Karon Sandberg speaks to Barry Fink on 4/22, just before the service she led on "Hospice Lessons." Almost forty people attended the event.

KUUF Board Considers Response to Rev. Chris's Blog

Last month the KUUF Board received a message from UUA that Rev. Chris had written an extensive

blog complaining about the Fellowship's abuse of him during his residency with us.

(continued on page two)

(Minister's blog, continued)

The Board has been considering responding to his comments, and they asked KUUF member Frank Kohl if he would generate a draft letter.

After the April 15th service, Board President Amlan asked the Fellowship to remain for a Town Hall meeting, during which those in attendance discussed how they would like the Board to proceed regarding two issues: the question of whether to seek another minister, and if so, when; and Rev. Chris's blog.

Bill Leder pointed out that the 2018 canvass generated pledges reaching the \$63,000 level. "To have a full-time minister," Bill pointed out, "would take virtually all the money we have in the canvass."

During the discussion that followed, the Fellowship considered the pros and cons of sharing a minister, should the Marquette fellowship be so inclined.

The meeting ran late, but before closing discussion, Amlan mentioned the second major issue facing the Fellowship: the controversy regarding Rev. Chris's blog, which Amlan felt was unprofessional. He explained that the Board had produced, with Frank Kohl's help, a critical response to be sent to UUA, and the Fellowship asked for it to be read. Afterwards, all but one member of KUUF voted to send it.

Since that meeting, the sole voter opposed to sending a response, Jack Jobst, sent a copy of his reasoning to the Board members. Presumably, the Board will discuss the issue again before making a final decision.

Sermon on Miracles Set for May 27th

Horst Schmidt says that "Laurie Bushbaum's sermon identifies how UUs feel more uncomfortable talking about miracles than they do about magic."

"She leads us into a parable from Jesus about a miracle that comes from sharing," Schmidt says. "Then she changes course to the present day about how that parable has been translated into sharing our time and talents."

The point of the sermon "can lead to enhancing our physical community as well as building our Fellowship. Miracles of the ordinary!"

To Be Radically Welcoming

Rev. Karen McFarland Looks Back at Her Intro to UU

When we moved to the Copper Country in 1986, I was already studying feminist theology. As an Episcopalian, I felt increasingly alienated from that denomination's liturgy.

I still loved their liberal bent, but increasingly, it just didn't feel like home to me, the home where I'd been for almost twenty years: the denomination that was beginning to ordain women priests.

I felt there was no place for me. No church would accept my far-out beliefs. I was "too radical." I faced the predicament that I might never be able to go to church again.

So, after moments of panic, I began to look around me in the Copper Country for kindred souls. I noticed that most of my friends were going to a fellowship called the Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

I came initially at the invitation of Hubert Mather, who played great piano. He asked me to play viola for his group. He and other UU folks welcomed me with open arms, and when they found out I'd been to seminary in Boston, asked me to give a talk one Sunday.

I spoke about "The Return of the Goddess." At the end of that talk, people's eyes did not glaze over, and I wasn't met with stony, disapproving silence. I was applauded.



home.

I became a regular attendee and, finally, signed the membership book. I became a Unitarian Universalist. These were the first steps to my becoming a UU minister. The KUUF loved me into it! It was like coming

Like many others before me, I found a home at KUUF and in Unitarian Universalism.

Biomedical Prof to Offer Forum

Dr. Keat Ghee Ong will speak on orthopedic advances at the May KUUF forum. Dr. Ong's talk has been pushed to the final Sunday to accommodate Rev. McFarland's tight schedule.

Biomedical advances seem to be arriving weekly, perhaps due to the tremendous need for helping veterans with terrible wounds.

Others, non-combatants, also have similar needs. Biomedical engineering is quickly ascending the ladder of most popular majors at Tech.



Baby Maddy listens attentively to Rev Karon's sermon.

Committee on Ministry Conducts Survey of Covenants

One of the most controversial subjects for the KUUF last year was the topic of covenants. Rev. Chris wrote a rough draft, which was distributed widely, and some Fellowship members interpreted the document as a means of squelching dissent. Rev. Chris denied that this was its purpose, but the covenant concept died when the minister left in December.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) met with the Board during its March meeting and asked if the committee should be abandoned since the Fellowship no longer has a minister.

Instead of ending the existence of the COM, President Amlan suggested the committee

survey other Fellowships which have covenants and report back on what the group discovers.

Are You Non-Religious? If So, You are in In the Right Place



In their book *A Religion for the "Non-Religious": An Overview of Unitarian Universalism*, authors Josiah R. and Laile Bartlett describe their book as a tour guide, in which they discuss "Who we are, what we believe, where we come from, where

we're going—but especially, what distinguishes us from others."

For example, they explain why we remain creed-less, and also reluctant to proselytize. They state that they wanted the book to be concise and comprehensive.

The Bartletts make good use of statistics, using a 1987 demographic profile (on income, education, locale, race, ethnicity). They also use an opinion poll (of Jesus, God, Bible, prayer, life after death).

The authors claim that despite their individuality, "UUs are very much at one in their basic values and commitments."

The authors make a good comment about membership: "Religious education is the number one door through which newcomers find us." Conversely, "No one has ever done a definitive study of . . . who leaves, why, and where they go."

The book contains brief and self-contained chapters, honest criticism of our denomination, language meant to be light reading, and a bibliography and index.

We have one copy available for check-out.

— *Bob Fiandt*

The Koffee Klatch group now meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month (May 11th & 25th) at Roy's Bakery, on the waterfront, at 10am.



***Keweenaw Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
PO Box 276
Houghton, MI
49931***