



yUUper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Sunday Mornings at 10:30 August 2018; Vol. 33, #8

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

Sunday Schedule for August 2018

August 5: Rev. Gabi Parks "Adept to Adapt."

Aug. 12: Elizabeth Benyi: "We Draw the Line-Creating An Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission"

Aug 19: Micah Cavaleri, Vicar of Grace Lutheran Church in South Range and First Lutheran Church in Dollar Bay will lead us in a service (Potluck Sunday)

Aug. 26: Oren Tikkanen and the Back Room Boys will share the service, with "Ways of Knowing" as the theme.

Mugs Project Put on Hold

The Social Activities Committee is planning a community fundraising event. This will involve KUUFers painting already bisqued Coffee Mugs, and then KUUF would host a community gathering to have a Coffee Conversation event for the community. KUUFers, along with the public would be able to "purchase" the mugs for a suggested donation, and engage in conversation with coffee and baked goods provided.

We have decided to postpone the project until summer/fall of 2019. Meanwhile, if you would like to help with this project in the form of ideas, planning or volunteering, please contact Miriam or Lora.



Board Meeting held July 1, 22

A special Board Meeting was held on July 1 to address, most notably, three issues. The first issue was a report on the **task forces**, by Lora Repp. It was decided that each task force should include a Board Member, who could be responsible for both initiating the first meeting,

as well as reporting to the Board on progress made. The groundwork for updating the Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by January 1, 2019, with one or more Congregational meetings to follow shortly after that to discuss and approve the plan. It would be an action plan with specific as to the work needed and who would take responsibility for that work.

The Personnel Committee was instructed to initiate a new search for a Children's Religious Education (RE) instructor who would be supervised by Lora Repp, the current RE instructor. This position will hopefully be filled by September. Meanwhile, we are hoping to find volunteers to help with this during the summer, so that Lora can attend more services.

The Board also discussed projects that KUUF can do to assist with the Flood Recovery Effort such as the work Bill and Barry Fink have been doing with the distribution center at the mall which resulted in volunteering by additional KUUFers. We are also considering the idea of doing a pancake breakfast with some other liberal-leaning churches in the fall.

In the July 22nd meeting, many items were discussed. Progress in being made on the search for a Children's RE instructor, which will be advertised. Plans are being made for a Goods & Services Auction in October. The Board approved salary increases for the choir director and the pianist (spoiler alert). The first **task force** was charged with coming up with some sort of healing process for KUUF, and they are making progress on putting a workshop together for that. Funds to cover expenses for that healing workshop have been approved by the Board.

~Miriam Pickens

Letter to Jack Bergmann

On June 21, the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the fellowship, sent a letter to Congressman Jack Bergman concerning the separation of families at

our southern border. This is a grave issue, and one we felt the need to address as a community. The text was as follows:

Dear Representative Bergman,

We are writing as elected trustees of the Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a congregation founded on the principles of the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We would like to express our grave concerns about the recent U.S. immigration policy that separated young children from their parents. Social psychologists tell us that children may develop posttraumatic responses, with long-term effects, when separated from their caregiver.¹

We ask you and your colleagues to urge the president and the attorney general to take immediate action to reunite separated families. In addition, we ask you to sponsor a bill that prohibits separating children from parents without cause. The specific causes of separation should be enumerated. Should children have to be removed, we ask you to incorporate language from the 1992 resolution of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

"[We urge]...the United States Congress and Administration to require that when the INS detains children they be held, whenever possible, with their families in accredited shelter care programs or facilities that are state licensed for dependent care or in INS facilities that meet state standards" and "...that when the protection of public welfare demands that parents be detained separately from their children, when the parents are not available or when the parents wish to have their children released, then the INS be urged to release detained children to responsible parties in this order of priority: 1) Relatives, 2) Caregivers who have been designated by a responsible family member, and 3) Licensed child-welfare facilities."

In summary, we implore you to support an immigration bill that will ensure the conscious, humane treatment of all immigrants, especially small children. Further, we look forward to hearing what specific steps are taken to reunite these children with their parents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Donovan, Secretary
David Watkins, President
Will Cantrell, Acting Treasurer
Horst Schmidt, Vice President
Connie Sherry

On August 5th, Rev. Gabi will offer a closer look at how nature adapts to what humankind is doing in it and to it; and how humankind then has to adapt to nature's adaptations.

Rev. Dr. Parks - or Rev. Gabi as we called her when she served as our interim minister for 18 months - is the Senior Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, PA. She has "finally settled down" after serving 4 congregations in 8 years; with her husband, 5 cats, and a brand-new puppy!

Micah Cavaleri to speak on Zen Lutheranism

I am Vicar of Grace Lutheran Church in South Range and First Lutheran Church in Dollar Bay.

For me, Zen Lutheranism is my life. Who I am is caught up in the study and practice of both Zen Buddhism and Lutheran Christianity. I admit that my understanding of both traditions is not the mainstream understanding. But it is an understanding heavily influenced by the mystics rather than priests and theologians, by the practitioners of faith rather than the gatekeepers and lawyers.

To make sense of the divergent ways the two religions have of describing the world, I imagine religious language as no different from any other bit of language. Similar phenomena can be described in distinctly different words that may or may not be intelligible to the listener. Sometimes, if we are not understood, we must go searching for language that communicates our point, maybe even drawing not only on different phrasing but

¹ <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/children-traumatic-separation-information-professionals>

on different national languages. Religions, in my experience, at least religions as understood through the eyes of the mystics, are attempts to make accessible the incomprehensible in different idioms.

The 7th principle of Unitarian Universalism teaches that we will have: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Interdependent existence is, at least in part, a sharing of space and experience. Our religious existence, in its biological as well as its spiritual components, is shared by Buddhists and Christians and UUs. Therefore, to enter more fully into the interdependent web of all existence, we can learn to speak the languages of our neighbors and through that sharing begin to hold a faith in common without losing our traditions.

~Micah Cavaleri

Elizabeth Benyi is our forum speaker for August. She will talk about why gerrymandering is bad for Michigan and cheats voters of their voice. The ballot proposal from Voters Not Politicians would form an independent redistricting commission that would end gerrymandering in Michigan. It's a good FIT for Michigan: Fair, Impartial and Transparent.

Elizabeth Benyi, D.O., is a retired General Surgeon who worked as a resident for 10 years in Calumet, Michigan at Aspirus Keweenaw. Prior to that she lived in L'Anse, working at Baraga Memorial Hospital for 10 years. She received an honorable discharge with the rank of captain in the US Army Reserve. She received a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University in 1977 and her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Des Moines University in 1988 followed by her residency in Canton, Ohio



Flood relief efforts

KUUFers did a great job helping out with flood relief. We volunteered at Evangel Baptist when it was a distribution center, and also at the JC Penney location. We donated large items and made care packages. We loaned space in our homes, and one amazing KUUFer even loaned her car to one of the victims, and got a relative to come up from Wisconsin to assist with the clean-up. We used our pick-up trucks to haul. We collaborated on committee

meetings, helped get word out and worked with the Salvation Army. We gave free massage treatments and food to the workers. And we made monetary donations; whatever we could afford and sometimes stretched our budgets to give more. We cleaned, day after day in some cases.

Engineers in our congregation are exploring ways in which we can contribute to and potentially participate in the rebuilding process, with an eye on long-term sustainability. Even though we are still exploring plans for action as a group, as individual Unitarian Universalists we are and will continue to live out our principles. Rev. Emily Gage of Unity Temple in Chicago says "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations (2nd principle) points us toward something beyond inherent worth and dignity. It points us to the larger community. It gets at collective responsibility. It reminds us that treating people as human beings is not simply something we do one-on-one, but something that has systemic implications and can inform our entire cultural way of being."

~Miriam Pickens

Traditional New Orleans Jazz is a lively and creative musical form which began to emerge in the years following 1900.

Early jazz music challenged, but also emphasized racial issues in American society. Find out more about the cultural and social history surrounding this exciting American art form on Sunday Aug. 26th, when Oren Tikkanen and his band, "The Back Room Boys" will provide the program at our Fellowship. It is sure to be an upbeat and joyful occasion!

~Shirley Galbraith

KUUF Library Briefs

Suppose that you are talking to a friend who has asked a few questions about Unitarian Universalism.

Your friend may ask, for example, what does your denomination believe? Do you believe in a Christian God and celebrate Christian holidays? What happens at death? How do you deal with evil? What do you teach in Sunday school? What do you do on Sunday? A 49 page book in our library answers all of these queries.

100 Questions That Non-Members Ask About Unitarian Universalism was compiled by John Sias from interviews with Rev. Steve Edington.

The book evolved as Sias attempted to answer the question, "Why are UUs so rare?" From this start he set out to collect questions about UUism from a diverse group of people, both outside and inside the UU denomination.

Rev. Edington, of the Nashua, New Hampshire UU Church, provides the majority of the answers.

First published in 1994, the copy that we have is the 10th edition (Feb 2013). Because of this, it is extremely well-written, comprehensive, yet concise.

The answers given, Sias states, do not represent the beliefs of all UU's: "Leaving room for our differences, we think the answers given here are fairly representative. Many people," Sias continues, "have told us that 100 Questions has helped them decide to become a UU."

___Bob Fiandt

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

<http://www.keweenawuu.org/>

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/keweenawuu/>

Koffee Klatsch: By agreement of the 3 coffee drinkers at the last klatch, The KUUF Koffee Klatch will be on hiatus for the summer and resume in September. Enjoy the rest of our fleeting summer months!



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Universalist Fellowship
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