



yUUper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Sunday Mornings at 10:30

Dec 2018; Vol. 33, #12

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



Sunday Schedule for December 2018

Dec 2: A Buddhist service directed by Carol Grafford, who has been a follower of Thich Nhat Hanh since 2002. She was ordained as a core member of the *Order of Interbeing* in 2017.

Dec 9: Renee Johnson and Finlandia students will discuss what they have learned by visits to Tanzania

Dec 16: Beginning Our KUUF Orthopraxy. Paul Mitchell will discuss UU practices and how our community can build a shared understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Paul will start the discussion in the service, and everyone is invited to stay after the potluck to continue our conversation. (*Potluck Sunday: Bring a dish to pass, and please help with cleanup.*)

Dec 23 @ 10:30 AM: A Solstice Service, featuring Live Music with Oren Tikkanen and musical partners. We celebrate the days getting longer. Come ready to sing and dance

Dec 24 @ 5 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Our special evening service, carols and a chance to look at today's world through the lens of the traditional Christmas story. Paul Mitchell will lead the holiday carol singing.

Dec 30 @ 10:30 AM. Sharing Our Stories for the New Year. All are invited to a New Year's gathering. Bring your poems and stories, share your writings that celebrate the past year and the year to come. Join us to say good bye to 2018 and hello to 2019.

KUUF Strategic Planning Process Set to Begin in January

The small group discussions held earlier this year indicated that the top priority for KUUF members is to develop a new strategic plan.

In response to this charge from the fellowship, a strategic planning task force has met and has scheduled two congregational meetings to get us started. The meeting dates are January 13th and February 3rd of next year, after Sunday services.

The goal of the January meeting is to develop a KUUF mission statement. During the second meeting fellowship members will have the opportunity to discuss what they would like KUUF to be like in the next 5 years.

Bill Fink, who was instrumental in the creation of KUUF's last strategic plan and oversaw the development of many strategic plans while working for the National Park Service, will be facilitating these sessions. He will be working with task force members Sharon Levine, Connie Sherry, Rachel McDonald, and Lora Repp

Everyone's input is important, and the committee hopes all will try to attend these meetings.



KUUF Building Trust Seeks Trustees

By Bill Leder

In 2004 the KUUF Board took a significant step toward the possibility of a building of our own. At that time, Phyllis Boutilier told the Board that she wanted to contribute appreciated stock to KUUF with the understanding that the proceeds could only be used for purposes related to the development of a building.

In response, the Board created the Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church Building Trust (a five-page legal document) and appointed three initial Trustees.

The Trust document stipulates that . . .

- Contributions are tax deductible, just like donations made directly to KUUF.
- Trust assets may only be used towards obtaining a building -- expenses such as the purchase of land, professional service fees, the construction of a new building, or the purchase and remodeling of an existing building.
- the Trustees may not also serve as members of the Board or the Finance Committee.
- Trustees are appointed by the Board and serve for staggered three-year terms.
- The Trustees are responsible for investing Trust assets.

One decision the Board of Trustees does *not* do is decide on a building. This decision must come from several entities: the KUUF Board, relevant committees, and the Fellowship at large.

The Trust functions solely as a funding mechanism. An active Building Committee operated for several years between 2004 and 2007, but then interest in a building diminished.

Now, in 2018, donations over the years have expanded the Trust's holdings to \$29,633. This money forms the nucleus of what could become a new building initiative at some point.

The Board currently needs to appoint three new Trustees who are responsible for monitoring the investment of the funds. The Trustees need to meet twice a year, deposit any new donations, and provide periodic updates to the Treasurer. The investments are largely self-managing, so a high level of investment knowledge is not required.

Those interested in serving as a trustee should contact Dave Watkins at dwatkins@mtu.edu.



New KUUF Office Manager, Martha Shapton, Discusses Her Job.

"I have some background in office work, so I have the skills for this kind of job. (At KUUF) I do everything: the bookkeeping, the business affairs, customer service, website updating--

"The biggest challenge so far is getting the information I need—it comes from a lot of different sources—the biggest challenge is compiling all of that. Some of it is the same, but not always, so I must figure out what everyone is telling me.

"The bookkeeping has been straight forward; getting the numbers in the right column can be hard, but the (Quickbooks) program makes this easier. So far, I like this job. I work by myself, but many people have stopped by to say hello, and to help on different topics, so it's not that lonely."

Counseling Offered to KUUF Members

For those still dealing with unresolved issues related to the departure of Rev. Chris, Oren Tikkanen, an experienced counselor, has offered to help.

"If there are at least four people who feel the need to process unresolved feelings, I am available to act as a group convener/moderator," Tikkanen says.

"I feel I could do that in an objective, supportive way because I was only marginally involved in that situation, and I feel neutral about what happened."

"If a meeting occurs," Tikkanen says, "it should not be considered in any way a therapy group."

For more information, contact Oren at oren.tikkanen@gmail.com.

Thich Nhat Hanh: A Buddhist's Life,
By Carol Grafford. (Note: Ms. Grafford will lead our December 2nd service on Buddhism.)

Thich Nhat Hanh [TICK not Hahn] was born in 1926 in central Viet Nam. As a young boy he was drawn to the peace and serenity of the Buddha.

He became a novice monk at age 16. Soon his country was at war, fighting for independence from France. Viet Nam succeeded, and the country became ruled by a Catholic regime. The new regime oppressed Buddhism, which had been the primary religion of Viet Nam for many centuries.

Now in his twenties, Thich Nhat Hanh felt that creating a Unified Buddhist Church across all Viet Nam would help diminish the oppression. He began publishing a journal promoting unity, reconciliation, and peace, but this viewpoint was judged as radical, and the journal was suppressed.

By the time he reached his thirties, the Communists who had helped Viet Nam defeat French rule were well entrenched in the north, and the Catholic regime remained in control in the south.

The Unified Buddhist Church was established but became a puppet of the southern regime. War broke out between the north and the south, and the US entered this war.

Thich Nhat Hanh created the School of Youth for Social Service (SYSS), training hundreds of young people as social workers, then sending them into the countryside to help rebuild the villages decimated by war.

The government in the south, noting the SYSS connection to the Unified Buddhist Church, allowed it to continue for a time, but Thich Nhat Hanh and the SYSS refused to take sides, helping wherever needed. The war raged on, and Thich Nhat Hanh left for the West in 1966 to advocate for peace in his country.

Because he would not take sides, Thich Nhat Hanh was branded as an American sympathizer by the north, and as a communist by the south. He was unable to return to his home country for nearly 40 years.

He has spent this time bringing Buddhist teachings, especially mindfulness, to people of

the West. Shortly before leaving Viet Nam he created the Order of Interbeing, a reform branch of Zen Buddhism, as a way to make Buddhist teachings more relevant and accessible. His primary home has been Plum Village, a monastery in France.

In November 2014, Thich Nhat Hanh suffered a stroke. Now 92 years old, strong of mind, but frail of body, he recently returned to his original temple grounds in Viet Nam to live out his days.

A Method for Supporting KUUF and Public Broadcasting

Many KUUF members support local public radio and television through financial donations. Those funds, according to Miriam Pickens, could also support KUUF's advertising efforts.

For donations of \$80 to \$150, depending on the medium (radio or TV), the station might allow an on-air announcement indicating that KUUF is a "Program Sponsor" for a particular broadcast day.

Not everyone in KUUF contributes gifts large enough to warrant being a Program Sponsor, but members may combine their contributions to reach the required level, Pickens says.

Those interested may send their checks to Barry Fink (Chair of Publicity Committee) with a note indicating the donor's wishes to support this plan, and stating what station might receive the funds, if applicable. When the amount reaches the appropriate level, Ms. Fink will send it to the desired station.

Donors should keep in mind that this plan should not be interpreted as a financial contribution to KUUF, but rather to public radio and TV, with help towards KUUF's advertising.

Newsletter Humor:

"The service last Sunday concluded with a song from soloist Miss Charlene Mason, who sang "I will not pass this way again," which gave obvious pleasure to the congregation."



Setting it Straight

A reader took issue with the editing of an article in the September issue.

The person submitted a straight press release about a committee's work, and the *Newsletter* staff edited the style to make, they thought, the article more readable, but it also suggested, in its addition of quotation marks, that the person submitting the information, was responsible for most or all of the committee's recent efforts.

No information from the original material was changed, but nevertheless, the *Newsletter* regrets that the person submitting the material suffered some degree of embarrassment.

The staff hopes all Fellowship members will continue submitting newsworthy articles for publication.

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

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

On Facebook:

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

Koffee Klatsch: The weekly Bulletin will announce new changes to the time and day of the week the group will be meeting at Roy's Bakery.

The yUUpper Newsletter reserves the right to edit submissions based on length, relevance to the KUUF audience, and style based on traditional journalistic patterns

Submissions may be sent to
jackjobst@charter.net



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