



yUUper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Sunday Mornings at 10:30 March 2019; Vol. 34, #3

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

Sunday Schedule for March 2019

March 3: Paul will speak on **Exploring Place for UUs**. We might be hesitant to intentionally develop our institutional presence. Whether it's a building or a community's awareness UUs need to find our *Place* and share our *Values*. When we share our values do we acknowledge our UU faith?

At this service, we will reflect on the difference between proselytizing and evangelizing.

March 10: Guest speaker, Susan Kauppi, local Community Health Educator, will speak on **Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACE**. She is a master ACE trainer and received her own training through the Michigan ACE Initiative. **Daylight savings time begins today. Set Your Clocks Ahead an Hour!**

March 17: Paul will speak on **Rekindling Our Flame...Continuing Our Legacy**

NOTE: Potluck today. Bring a dish to pass.

The Buddha said, "Thousands of candles can be lit from one, and the life of this master candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

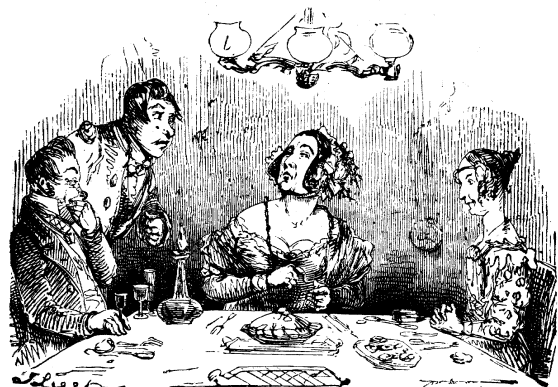
As we look toward to this year's canvass, we recognize that each of us can be that single candle that lights many candles through our shared Fellowship. We need to be a congregation of stewards, who understand that the Fellowship needs our strong support in order to fulfill our shared mission of transforming ourselves and the world.

As stewards, we are caretakers of this institution for a future we will never see, just as our founders had the vision to build and strengthen a congregation from which we now benefit. I look forward to talking with you about continuing our legacy.

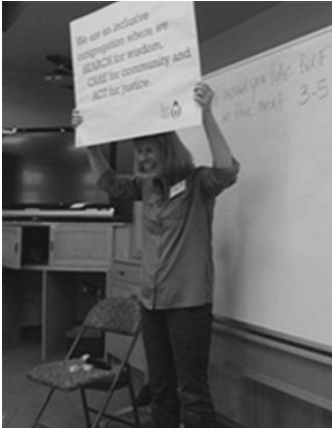
March 24: Paul's focus will be "**Not just because of Valentine's Day...**" Recently the American Psychological Association released new guidelines for psychological practice with boys and men. What is toxic masculinity? What can we learn from this new guide? How do we connect this to our UU identity and possible actions? Note: **this sermon was originally scheduled for February 24th, but cancelled because of the winter storm.**

March 31: UUs in Everyday Work: Perspectives from the Field. How do we live our faith in our lives? Will Shapton and Rachel McDonald will share their insights. Join us as we share and explore new depths of life that are illuminated by our faith.

Seven Plus Suppers, Coming in Late March.



Watch for an announcement. Update: Strategic Planning Task



Force Meets, Moves Forward

Early in February, after the Sunday service, 25 KUUF members met in the BHK community room to discuss the KUUF Mission Statement, and an Updated Vision Statement.

Twenty-five people, actively engaged,

shared their thoughts on what they would like KUUF to become in the next 3-5 years.

A Strategic Planning Taskforce was in charge (Lora Repp, Bill Leder, Sharon Levine, Connie Sherry, and Paul Mitchell as *Ex Officio*).

Lora began by showing a mission statement, written on a white board (see photo above by Bill Fink).

She then asked the participants to brainstorm ideas, which she placed into several categories: KUUF operations (things having to do with the institution, such as Administration—the Structure and Organization of KUUF; Congregational Care (how KUUF cares for its members); Community Involvement; Spiritual Growth; Social and Environmental Justice; Lifelong Learning; and Sunday Services.

The participants then prioritized these.

The Task Force met separately on Feb 10th, and devised Areas of Emphasis, from the list of priorities: ministerial services, diversity and size of membership, caring for each other; community involvement, and spiritual development.

From this beginning, the task force met on February 17th and generated six recommended goals that they will present to the Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on February 24th.

After receiving the Board's input, the Task Force will work, with the Fellowship's assistance, before moving on to the action plans.

The April *yUUPER Newsletter* will highlight their progress at that point.

Econo Slips Processing Party Set for March 1st

Those willing to help add up and bind packets of Econo receipts will meet at 1:15 on Friday, March 1st. Helpers will meet at the KUUF office and plug in adding machines for this organizing event.

Volunteers must collect receipt packets that add up to approximately \$3,000 of purchases, then staple the proof, the adding machine printouts to the pack of receipts. Last year this took just a little over an hour.

"Thanks to everyone in the last year," says Barry Fink, organizer. "who submitted the Econo receipts that allowed KUUF to add thousands of dollars to our general fund,"



A New DVD in the 'Great Courses' Series Begins on Fridays in the KUUF Office, hosted by the Fink Family

'Cultural Literacy for Religion' is this new topic, according to Bill Fink, host. The subtitle is "Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know."

The series contains 24 lessons, covering the Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions – their beliefs and their practices.

Each lecture commonly lasts about a half hour, Fink says, "so those attending will view a lesson, talk about it over lunch, then watch the next session. Each showing finishes about 1:00 PM.

While it is helpful to attend all sessions, it is by no means required. The first lesson will be shown on the last Friday in February, but all are still welcome the following Friday, March 1st, and subsequent Fridays.

Here is a link to the course preview:

<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/cultural-literacy-for-religion-everything-the-well-educated-person-should-know.html>

The Income Tax Advantage of a Qualified Charitable Distribution

Submitted by Bill Leder, Finance Committee Chair

Lately some KUUF members have been asking me if the new tax law will decrease monetary donations because of the increase in the standard deduction (to \$24,000 if married filing jointly; \$12,000 if single or married filing separately.)

This change in the law will mean that fewer taxpayers will be itemizing deductions and thus less likely to donate as much to charities as in the past. The answer to this question is "I don't know."

There is, however, one attractive federal tax code opportunity that can benefit *both* you and KUUF if you are age 70½ or older and have an IRA. You can make what's called a *Qualified Charitable Distribution*, or QCD, from your IRA directly to KUUF.

In doing this, your taxable income will be decreased by the amount of the QCD and you still can take the standard deduction. It's a win-win situation for you and KUUF. Moreover, the QCD will count as part of your required, annual IRA distribution.

If you are interested in how this works, and how it fits into your particular situation, contact your tax preparer.

**Daylight
Savings Time:
Begins Sunday,
March 10th**



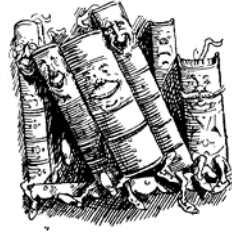
2019 Canvass Begins Soon

Barry Elizabeth Fink, 2019 Canvasser, says that Committee folks have submitted budget requests for their needs for the coming KUUF year (June '19 to May '20).

"Some exciting ideas for new activities have been proposed by members." More info to come in the April Newsletter.

A Near Death Experience, and Memories of a Science Prof: our KUUF Library book of the Month

By Bob Fiandt



Do you enjoy reading interesting stories about everyday life, stories that make you pause for a moment and reflect on your own life? If so, consider *A Guest of the World: Meditations*, by Jeffery

Lockwood (only 74 pages). The book contains 33 short, thought-provoking readings, mainly about Lockwood's personal life.

The author has traveled to more than 20 countries where he learned the "art" of being a guest.

"How might we act if we consider ourselves guests in the lives of friends and family? . . . The rules of being a good guest of the world are just the same: Ask little, accept what is offered, and give thanks."

Lockwood's writings cover a broad spectrum:

- Experience with obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Characteristics, such as generosity, gratitude, wisdom, and happiness. Curiously, Lockwood criticizes Aristotle's definition of happiness (a life of virtue by practicing moderation).
- Explaining his actions as a science professor, and the lessons that he has learned from his students.
- Experiences while traveling the world, including very long airplane rides, and language barriers that he encountered. Also, Lockwood makes the comment that silence is the hardest language to learn.
- Dealing with societal issues, including religious proselytizing, peacemaking, and protesting the Iraq War.
- Describing a near-death experience, calling it a "gift," and dealing with his own mortality, concluding that life can be compared to a raffle. "We can't let our dread of the unknown restrict what we can become."

We have one copy available for check-out.

New UUA Logo Makes an Appearance

Submitted by Miriam Pickens

You will notice on the page one newsletter banner and below, in the return address section, a new KUUF logo. A few years back, the UUA redesigned our logo to a new chalice that had a bolder design.

Recently, the KUUF Board agreed to adopt the new design. Our version came from input from many congregation members. It incorporates the three basic elements: the chalice, the Upper Peninsula, and our name.

There is flexibility with the logo because, depending on circumstances, sometimes it will be in color, and sometimes the name won't be included.

The new look will also extend to our cloth banner, which will be ready in the next month or two.

Fortunately, three KUUFers are currently enrolled in Phyllis Fredendall's "Surface Design on Textiles class" at Finlandia, and the cloth banner will be created as a class project. Contact Miriam at mpickens1@charter.net if you need to incorporate it in a publication. It will be available for download on the KUUF website soon.

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

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

On Facebook:

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

Koffee Klatsch: Every 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10 AM. We meet at Roy's Bakery, on the Houghton waterfront, west of the Bridge.



Keweenaw
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
PO Box 276
Houghton, MI
49931