



# yUUper Newsletter

**Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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



**Sunday Mornings at 10:30 Sept. 2019; Vol. 34, #9**

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

## Sunday Schedule for September 2019

**September 1:** Paul will speak to us of *The Second Mountain*, by *NY Times* writer David Brooks, a book inspired by the stories of people whose lives moved from *self-centered* to *others-centered*.

Brooks finds that these folks have "embraced a life of interdependence, not independence. They surrender to a life of commitment."

Brooks, himself was "radicalized" when he recognized that the cultural and moral structures of our society are not fine. He believes it is not enough to fix ourselves individually; instead, "the whole cultural paradigm must shift from the mindset of hyper-individualism to the relational mindset of the second mountain. At this service we will learn how this second mountain relates to our lives.

**September 8:** Forum. MTU Professor Emeritus and historian Bill Sproule will explain how **Professional Hockey Really Did Start in Houghton.**

This is the story of how a Canadian-born dentist and Houghton entrepreneur changed hockey in the early 1900s by openly paying players to come to the Copper Country to play hockey.

Bill Sproule taught transportation and engineering, among other topics. He is the author of two locally-focused books, *Copper Country Streetcars*, and recently published, *Houghton - The Birthplace of Professional Hockey*.

Bill is Canadian but he speaks without an accent.

**Sept 15:** Paul will conduct the **annual Water Ceremony Service**; bring a sample of water that has meaning for you. It can be from far away or right outside your front door. We'll share the water via a common bowl and share stories about

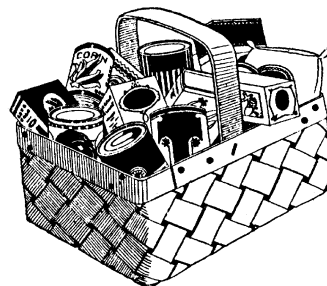


our connection to the waters we've brought. **Picnic Potluck today at Marsin Center.** See below for more info.

**Sept 22:** Carol Grafford, Buddhist teacher, will visit us. No other info is available.

**Sept 29:** Visiting minister, Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, will visit us and speak on **"Walking with Epicurus to Paradiso"**

According to most reports, we have no more than 12 years to keep our planet from becoming unsupportable for life. Writing from her cabin in the forest near Traverse City, Stephanie Mills, guided by Epicurus, offers a way to lessen the weight of our feet and turn our path toward hope and health, toward Paradiso.



## KUUF Annual Picnic Planning

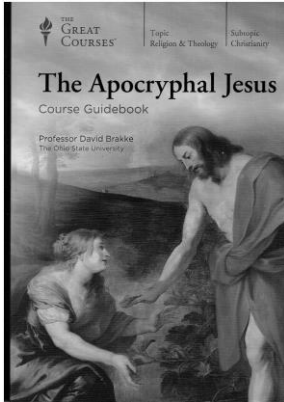
KUUF social leaders say the annual KUUF picnic will occur on

- Sunday, Sept 15  
- 1 pm.

At the Marsin Center (Oskar, MI suburbs).

Bring a place-setting and a dish to pass. Drinks will be provided. If you have musical skills, bring your instrument.

## ***The Apocryphal Jesus* a New “Great Courses” DVD Series, to Begin on Friday the 13th**



This series focuses on what the ancient but non-Biblical books say about Jesus. Everyone is welcome to attend just one, or all in the series.

Meetings occur on Fridays, from 11-1 in the KUUF office; bring your lunch. Starts September 13th, immediately after

the Koffee Klatch at Roy's.

## **Contemplating Nature: Its Friends and Its Foes**



By Emmy Lou Belcher, visiting minister

I have been staying at a friend's cottage for ten days. It is on a bluff above Crystal Lake, near Traverse City.

The cottage is surrounded by trees – hemlocks, maples, beeches and a grand old oak that shades the deck overlooking the lake.

Each night we put out the remains of our dinners for the critters. If we are lucky, we will spot the two adolescent brother foxes that come for meat scraps. Last night an opossum sorted through the remnants of strawberries. If our resident dog barks, we probably won't get a peek before the wilder animals scurry away.

Living with a dog coordinates a lot of our time: walks, meals, water dish refills, baths, attention when ignored, being startled when stepping on a stray, squeaky toy, being greeted at the door when we return from an errand by a large, curly black creature that wants to take up the entire threshold as we try to enter.

This situation reminds me that this world is not mine; I share it with other living things. What I do with my life affects us all in some

way and to some extent. The poet Mary Oliver writes how seeing a heron rise from the water, gliding above it, reminds her of how she is beautiful too. And seeing a strip-mined mountain reminds her of the hurt our human lives are doing day after day to the web of life.

What reminds you of your beauty, and what calls you to recognize your power to destroy?

Outside my window the tumultuous writhing of leaves announces a storm is coming. The rain is needed. The winds will thrash all they pass. How do we sort the needed from the destructive? How do we move toward kindness before the destructive traps us? [Rev. Belcher will be our guest speaker on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>].

## **Mid-August Congregational Meeting Results**

Strategic Task Force members conducted a congregational meeting on Sunday, August 18th, after the potluck lunch. They invited the Fellowship to help implement *action plans* that are part of KUUF's new strategic plan.



over the previous two weeks. Around 25

*KUUF members contemplate the work groups available for action plan efforts. Photo by Bill Fink.*

The board-approved strategic plan had been made available in the weekly *Digest* to the Fellowship

people attended the meeting.

More opportunities for individuals to volunteer via email will occur in the near future, according to Lora Repp, spokesperson for the group. "Our thanks to those who were able to attend the meeting and have already signed up to help," Repp said. Other members are Bill Leder, Sharon Levine, Connie Sherry, and Paul (ex officio).

## Finding Fresh Fall Footpaths to Fellowship

The Green Sanctuary committee *challenges us* to find a new “green” way to get to church this fall.

You will have nine chances (the nine total Sundays for September and October) to try walking, or walking part-way, or biking, or carpooling, or carpooling part-way. You will get a “gold star” for each attempt!

A map of members’ addresses is being prepared to help with the car-pooling.

## The Todd Eklof Controversy

In his sermon on August 18, Paul discussed a current controversy in the UUA over statements by Reverend Todd Eklof, who felt the national organization might well be taken advantage of by some groups composed of members who are marginalized socially and financially.

Rev. Eklof self-published a book of some 130 pages outlining his concerns. He distributed copies of this book at the recent General Assembly in Spokane.

Paul pointed out in his sermon that a similar controversy occurred in the turbulent 1960s, when the UUA voted to spend significant funds on certain marginalized groups.

Jack Jobst, who wrote a history of the first UUs in the Copper Country, recalls that this controversy contributed to the breakup of the first Copper Country KUUF organization.

In response to Rev. Eklof’s statements, he was chastised by nearly the entire UU ministerial population., and some even suggested that he should consider resigning from UUA.

Here is the URL showing the response to Eklof’s charges and listing the 500 ministers who signed the letter. Some of the listed names will look familiar to KUUF members.

<https://www.muusja.org/reprint-an-open-letter-from-white-uu-ministers/>

Paul says he will discuss this controversy and answer some questions for those who wish to follow up on it.

## KUUF Tales of the South Pacific

Melanie and Dave Watkins reported having a terrific time during their visit with Don Arkin in the Marshall Islands. Don hosted them on his boat (where he currently resides) for a fun week of sailing, snorkeling, and scuba diving.



*KUUF Summer Member, Don Arkin, shown here in the Marshall Islands.*

*Photo by Dave and Melanie Watkins.*

The Marshalls are just north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean.

Melanie and Dave also enjoyed meeting Don’s friends and learning about his sustainability projects (including gardening, composting, and traditional navigation), and they hope to return some day to help address the country’s water and sanitation challenges.

Don will not be returning to the Keweenaw this summer—for the first time in many years--but he has plans to return in summer 2020. In the meantime, he remains on the lookout for more visitors.

## Heidi Bresnahan Joins KUUF



Heidi Bresnahan, daughter of Paul and Audrey Frair, has returned to the Copper Country, and joined the KUUF.

Shown here with Lora Repp of the

Membership Committee, Heidi signed the membership book. Photo by Bill Fink.



### **Barry Pegg Memorial**

Jake Pegg, son of long-time KUUF member, Barry Pegg, who died earlier this year on the West Coast, offers some words about his father at the memorial, held

at BHK on July 20th.

### **Mugging It Up at BHK**

KUUF members gathered at the BHK Community Room on Saturday morning, July 27, to decorate stoneware mugs and contribute funds toward the Green Film Series.

Miriam Pickens donated her hand-thrown mugs, and all the glazes for this project, as well as arranging the conference room to look like an actual potter's studio.

Pickens invited potters Elaine Eikenberry and Lindsay Heiden to help with technical questions. Lindsay and Finlandia University will fire the mugs. The event raised \$365 in support of the Green Sanctuary Film Series, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.



***Keweenaw Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship  
PO Box 276  
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### **'Mary Oliver' Poetry Series To Begin September 11th**

Participants (open to all) will meet at BHK on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM, and continuing each month on a Wednesday evening. Each meeting will feature a participant reading his or her poems.

An open-mic segment will allow audience members to read their own works or favorite poems. Musical interludes will be provided by UU members Oren Tikkanen, Tom Hiltunen, Sharon Levine, and Chuck Young. Wil Shapton will emcee.

Paul Mitchell will be the keynote poet to initiate the series, which is intended to enhance both the appreciation of, and the writing of poetry. It will feature both established and beginning poets, and provide a comfortable setting for reading of new works.

Organizers will provide a brochure with details, and a schedule at an upcoming Sunday service.

The readings are open to the public, and all those who love poetry are welcome