



# yUuper Newsletter

**Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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



**Sunday Mornings at 10:30 May 2020; Vol. 35, #5**

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

## Sunday Schedule for May 2020

### May 3: Grow An Extra Row; A KUUF Project

You've heard a little about this new initiative at KUUF, "Grow An Extra Row." It's about gardening a little extra this year and giving the produce away to folks who don't have a garden and could benefit from fresh vegetables (and flowers!)

I won't be talking too much about the gardening part. I'll be talking about how this fits in KUUF's Mission and Vision. \_Paul.

### May 10: Zoom Forum: "Machine Learning Used to Determine Best Medical Practices"

An especially timely topic with the search for effective COVID-19 treatments, machine learning is another path towards a solution. Patient-specific treatment requires determining which treatment has the best chance of success for an individual patient, based on all available information. Machine Learning provides tools to help "learn" which treatment is most effective for a given patient, based on the specific symptoms. This presentation introduces the relevant ideas, using real-world medical examples. Speaker: Prof. Russ Greiner, PhD.

**Note:** Zooming will begin at 10:15 AM for those who wish to visit before the forum.

### May 17 --- The Permanent and Transient in Unitarian Universalism

Borrowing from Theodore Parker's sermon, "The Transient and the Permanent in Christianity," I will see if I can build a reflection on the permanent and transient in our faith from today's vantage point. \_Paul

### May 24: What Shall We Do With All This Beauty?

Pulled from the James Baldwin Essay, "The Fire Next Time," I will discuss what we can do with all this beauty, a question which Baldwin closes his essay. I'm thinking we might be looking at some relaxation of the *Stay At Home Order* at the end of May or June. We can look at Baldwin's question as we regain pieces of our lives. \_Paul

**NOTE:** KUUF Board meets 5/24 at 1 on Zoom.

**May 31:** The Finks will coordinate this fifth Sunday with topics such as current issues involving the Fellowship, and ideas for future community involvement.

## May Amelia Deals With Life

*The Newsletter staff thought readers would be interested in how May Amelia Shapton's life has changed with the virus lockdown, finishing high school, and making plans to attend Yale Univ. in the fall.*

I applied to colleges on my own and using QuestBridge (QB), which is a company designed to shortcut the application process for high achieving students.

QB has college application connections with about 40 schools, and QB would send copies of my materials to 12 that I picked from their list. I had not initially thought about Yale.

I sent to QB essays, SAT scores, and financial info; I did not visit the Yale campus.

I began working with the Yale application in the fall, and they sent me an email with an account on their website and a pin # I can use to see if the school has everything they need to consider me for admittance. Now since I have

been accepted, I can fill out a housing application and see videos of the campus.

I learned that four people from the UP were admitted to Yale for next fall. One is from Houghton, and two from Marquette. The school set up a Zoom meeting with a staff member and the four of us.



I won't learn what classes I will have for fall until I get to campus, a week before school starts. I will probably take some placement tests then.

I am hoping to major in political science with the goal of being in the Foreign Service. In

partial preparation for this major I have taken French, the only language my school offers.

I am co-Valedictorian of the 2020 Lake Linden/Hubbell graduating class, and I learned that commencement will occur later in the summer. My school will have a graduating class of about 35.

I'm finishing my high school classes on-line. My school is struggling with organizing the completion of spring classes. Sometimes I get an email with directions from school, sometimes through snail mail, and sometimes info is on the school website.

I am taking easier classes this semester. My more demanding classes are Physics and French, but I am also taking creative writing and band, yearbook, and software coding.

For distance education, my school uses a product called Odysseyware. The teacher assigns lessons, and the product contains sections which must be answered; it also contains quizzes and tests. To use Odysseyware I go to a website and log in. The software can be a premade class, but ours is not. It focusses on the most important parts of a class. I am only taking physics with this software.

The Yearbook work is mostly finished. The staff all had one assignment: take pictures while on quarantine.

For creative writing the teacher assigns at the beginning of the week a story we should compose, such as a journal-write, or maybe a type of poetry. She gives us a prompt to get us started. I use a Chromebook to complete the work.

Currently I am behind in finishing my classes because I work at Walmart during the day, then do my paper route, eat dinner, and pack my lunch for the next day. I do the schoolwork on my days off from Walmart.

At Walmart I fulfill customers' called-in grocery lists. Other employees carry the groceries out to the customers' cars.

## **The Draft Covenant Moves Toward a Vote**

By Janeen Stevenson

The Covenant Task Force thanks everyone for the feedback received. Work began on the Draft Covenant in January of 2020 and is hoping to bring a final manuscript to the annual meeting for a vote of approval by the fellowship. The committee continues to work closely with the KUUF Board to help make this happen.

## **KUUF Teams up with Portage Lake District Library**

By Lora Repp

As is the case in libraries around the country, there are individuals in the Copper Country who use Portage Lake District Library as a de facto day shelter. PLDL staff are providing personal hygiene kits to those in need and, along with other social service agencies, KUUF is helping to fill those kits.

We are providing toothpaste and toothbrushes from our pantry in Paul's office.

The pantry also serves families in the Rapid Rehousing Program, but with this many demands, our dental hygiene supplies will soon be gone.

Please help restock the pantry by dropping off toothbrushes and toothpaste at the Trinity office.



## KUUF Canvass Surpasses Goal

For the first time in KUUF history, the 2020 Canvass not only met its goal, but passed it by several thousand dollars.

Several friends told the canvass committee that asking for funds at this time could not be successful. Instead, however, KUUF supporters pledged generously. At the end of the drive, donations exceeded the \$80,000 goal with a final pledge total of \$86,360. Fellowship members celebrated this achievement with party hats and noisemakers during the April 26 Sunday virtual service.

The canvass committee, Lora Repp, Elen Maurer, and Barry Fink, would like to thank everyone for their generosity and commitment to our Fellowship.



*Former KUUF member Merle Kindred joined us via April on-line virtual meetings.*

Since my departure from Houghton for British Columbia, Canada in the fall of 2009 I continued communications and business consultancy work in Kerala, India into 2016 with the

Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development (COSTFORD). When that work ended I checked Cuso International (Canada's equivalent of Peace Corps) having served two years in Jamaica in the late 1970s.

A traveled to Guyana for a local youth organization for six months in 2017. While fulfilling that assignment, I did much birding in this biodiversity hot spot with over nine hundred species.

I'm currently working on revisions for a book on Guyana based not only on my recent South American experience, but also my thoughts after spending fifty years of doing this work in five different areas of the world.

## KUUF Board News

Compiled by Elen Maurer

The KUUF Board of trustees met via Zoom on Sunday, April 25. The full agenda included a report from the Membership Committee about their work, and conversation about the challenges and benefits of our continuing virtual meetings. Our tech support people are learning about security and interactive features to enhance our connections.

Board members celebrated the successful conclusion of this year's Canvass and will use the pledge total to inform decisions in May when finalizing the annual budget.

The Board reviewed the final draft of the covenant and voted to present the document at the annual meeting with a supportive recommendation.

The Nominating Committee brought their recommended slate of candidates for next year's Board and officers. The slate was approved and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Lora Repp summarized progress on the Strategic Plan. She will present this at the annual meeting.

The Board discussed an evaluation of our Ministries (including Lay Minister Paul.) An ad hoc committee will prepare a survey for gathering congregational input.

The next Board meeting will be May 24.



*Karen Kraft, daughter of Susie and Ken Kraft, long-time KUUF members from the past, joined us for recent services from their home in Colorado. She is shown here with husband Paul.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank you to the Caring Committee

During this pandemic, the committee members reached out to me, and some others who may be isolated and finding it difficult to cope with the stay-at-home order as I am. I got three different gift bags dropped off at my door, including a wide assortment of food, tea, books, a candle, soap, lotion, toilet paper, and thoughtful cards. I am very grateful for the work of the committee, and glad to be remembered and appreciated in these difficult times. We will all get through this together.

Sincerely,  
Bob Fiandt

### 21 Years Ago at KUUF: March 1999

*In those days, KUUF met only twice a month, on the second and fourth Sundays. Keith Johnson was President of the Board*

Week 2: At 9:30 the Fellowship experienced a concert of meditative music performed by Rev. Petr Dolak. He followed that at 10:30 for a service, "Leaving the Kingdom of Time." Bill Fink recalls him visiting us from Meadville Lombard. Rev. Dolak used recording devices to accompany his guitar playing. Hospitality was covered by Joan Chadde, Howard and Wilma Zollinger.

Week 4: Adult Forum: "Some UU Organizations and What They Can Do for U" Charlotte Allen, speaker. Joan Chadde gave the Children's RE using the topic "Holidays and Holy Days." Cindy Harrison gave the Youth RE, "Religion in Life." Elen Maurer and Jan Dalquist performed hospitality. The Fellowship welcomed Ida Butler-Ehle, her parent's first child.



Keweenaw  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship  
PO Box 276  
Houghton, MI  
49931