



yUuper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Sunday Mornings at 10:30 June 2020; Vol. 35, #6

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

Sunday Schedule for June 2020

June 7: "KUUF's Prophetic Not Partisan Voter Registration Campaign" AND Some Thoughts on Our Ongoing Congregational Response to the Pandemic This is a combo-sermon about some practical realities. The IRA ("I Registered Absentee") campaign is set for the beginning of June and we will describe that effort.

Second, I willll talk about the decisions we will be making in the coming months concerning in-person services and other pandemic-related issues. I wanted to offer some preliminary thoughts before the annual meeting (June 14) so that we might be thinking about it before that discussion.

June 14: Forum: "Return to Guyana: Birding as a Bridge in 2018." Merle Kindred will discuss her experiences working in Guyana, which is a birder's paradise, with over 900 species available to birders with binoculars. See more information on this talk on page 3.

June 21: "Relational Identity." Paul will explore stories and discussion about how relationships shape us and serve as a source of perpetual renewal.

June 28: "What Shall We Do with All This Beauty?" The title, from the James Baldwin Essay, "The Fire Next Time," is the question with which Baldwin closes his essay. We will talk about Baldwin's thoughts and writing, and also use Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker's essay about Baldwin's writing and seek the wisdom these two offer us for our current worldwide situation.

KUUF Sets Agenda for Annual Meeting on June 14th (via Zoom) at Noon

Per the KUUF Bylaws, a quorum of 33% of the voting members of the Fellowship is required. The agenda will include the following:

- Election of the Board and Nominating Committee for 2020-2021
- Discussion of ministry evaluation results
- Approval of the 2020-2021 budget
- Discussion and approval of the Covenant
- Discussion of UUA recommendations for worship services
- Strategic planning report
- Committee reports

The full agenda and the Annual Meeting minutes from 2019 will be posted on the KUUF website (under the Members Only section) by May 30.

Instructions for joining the meeting will be available from the KUUF website, as well as the weekly bulletin.

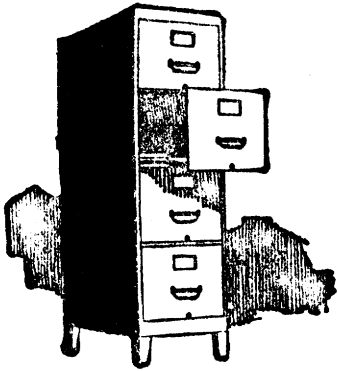
Submitted by Dave Watkins, Board President



Paul Mitchell shows his skill with a non-motorized tillage machine. Several KUUF members hope to grow vegetables for the area hungry. .

Membership Committee Meets Many Challenges

Editor's Note: To encourage participation in the work that makes KUUF function, the Newsletter often describes each committee's responsibilities.



In April, Linda Belote presented to the Board, a description of the Membership Committee's efforts, which include tracking the status of members, maintaining a visitors list, welcoming visitors, orienting and

informing new members, reporting numbers of members and friends to UUA annually, maintaining a library of informational brochures, and hosting New-to-UU events.

What the committee does NOT do is "proselytize" or actively recruit new members, she said. "That is the responsibility of every member of the fellowship."

She explained the coded and uncoded directories, discussed the new members' information booklet that the committee produces and distributes, described welcoming activities including a visitor's welcome letter and packet, and education for the congregation about welcoming visitors, and explained the semi-annual New to UU programs (not held this spring due to stay-at-home regulations).

The coded directory lists people as voting members, general members, or friends, depending on whether they have signed the membership book in the presence of a board member, and on whether they have made a contribution of record of time, talent or treasure during the preceding year.

The Membership Committee normally meets monthly. Its members, in addition to Linda Belote, are Jennifer Donovan, Lora Repp, Bob Drake, Grace Parikh and Jessica Anderson. Those with questions about the Membership Committee should address them to Linda Belote, Lsbelote@mtu.edu.



Pete Ekstron, Lora Repp, Paul Mitchell and Heide Bresnahan, operating on windmill power, sort of, prepare to till a row of veggies to share with the hungry.

KUUF Farm Team Encourages Planting that Extra Row of Veggies

Several KUUF members met after the snow melted to prepare a few rows of veggies on the land near Heidi Bresnahan's home, and at other locations. The hope is that those unable to enjoy Copper Country farm veggies might find useful the resulting produce.

The group remains hopeful that others might join them in working the land, or toiling with another row of plantings in their own garden

KUUF May 24th Board Meeting Results

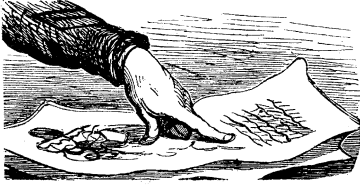
The KUUF Board of Trustee met on Sunday May 24, via Zoom. Here is a report on topics discussed.

The Board received a report from Linda Rulison about the work of the Caring Committee and shared thoughtful conversation about their work and coordination with Paul during these challenging times. More information about the Caring Committee's report will appear in the July *Yuuper Newsletter*.

The Board also spent time preparing for the Annual Meeting scheduled for June 14. It quickly approved the budget presented by Bill Leder, Chair of the Finance Committee. The generosity of members in response to the canvass means

the budget is robust, without the need for painful cuts or reductions in programs.

The Board completed the agenda for the meeting and discussed the procedure and content for an evaluation of Paul's ministries. The board will meet in a special session on June 7th to finalize the annual meeting preparations.



The Board gave serious consideration to the UUA's guidance on gathering in-person when Covid-19 subsides. The UUA recommends we plan for the possibility of continued online programming for a full year. Members discussed our access to BHK space, our rent agreement, and other concerns.

Paul described the effort to get people to register to vote by absentee ballot. This is a non-partisan issue (despite current news) which strives to engage the public's attention and ensure everyone has ballot access without endangering their health. This work is part of the "UU the Vote" effort and will kick off in early June. This is an example of the prophetic work we can do to affect systemic change.

Submitted by Elen Maurer

Return to Guyana 2018 with Merle Kindred

Merle Kindred, our Forum speaker in June, was an active member of KUUF from 2000 until her return to Canada in 2009. During this time, she earned a PhD in Rhetoric and Technical Communication from MTU.

Merle has engaged in international development all her adult life, focusing on education, health care, energy use in the building environment, and most recently, ecotourism.

She has worked in the US Virgin Islands, the US, Jamaica, the Bahamas, India, and Guyana and has presented and published internationally on the technical and social aspects of her work.

In 2017, Merle was with Cuso International, Canada's version of Peace Corps, on a 6-month posting in Georgetown, Guyana updating strategic planning with a local NGO. Recognizing an unmet need, she drafted a placement position that focused on ecological and economic development for two remote Indigenous villages, and she returned as a Cuso volunteer for another 6-month posting in 2018.

Her presentation focuses on the second posting and her time in the indigenous territories of Wakapoa and Akawini in Region 2 of Guyana.

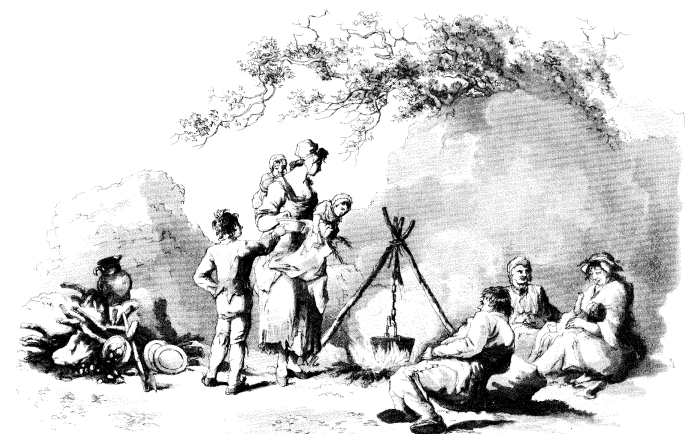
Consider the Lilies: A KUUF Book

Review by Bob Fiandt

Note: Although we are unable to visit the KUUF Library at this time, the Newsletter would like to share reviews of Bob's favorite books, when space is available. The editor has read this particular selection and enjoyed it.

Do you like to meditate about nature? If so, then you might enjoy this month's book selection. I will discuss one of our many meditation manuals.

These small, thin volumes have been published annually by the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1961. Consider the Lilies: Meditations, by Stephen M. Shick (2004, 56 pages), is worth reading. It contains 36 separate meditations, none longer than two pages. Many are autobiographical.



The ongoing theme is nature, in all its forms, with additional comments about humanity, and

the relationship between the two. Shick also makes references to Christianity. His metaphors are thoughtful, and often very poetic. Frequently, I needed to stop and ponder what he was trying to say.

Here are some comments about the book, from other reviewers (taken from the back cover): "Whether of a bird, stone, raindrop, or leaf, each luminous miniature contains an entire world, observer and observed completing one another in such a way that the soul gains texture and nature preaches grace."

"These meditations, born of Shick's finely honed mystical naturalism, are exquisitely rhythmic. They lure us outdoors to soak in silent, wondrous, somber reflection and they push us inside, to excavate riches from our inner realms."

When the BHK is open again, we will have one copy ready for check-out.

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

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

On Facebook:

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

Koffee Klatsch: Every 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 AM. If interested in joining, notify Bill Fink for the Zoom details.



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