



# Yuuper Newsletter

**Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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



**Sunday Mornings at 10:30 Aug 2020; Vol. 35, #8**

(Contact Paul Mitchell ([pmitchtools@gmail.com](mailto:pmitchtools@gmail.com)) for Zoom details)

## Sunday Schedule for August 2020

### August 2: What Shall We Do with All This Beauty?

The title is lifted from the James Baldwin Essay, "The Fire Next Time." 'What shall we do with all this beauty' is the question with which Baldwin closes that essay. We'll talk about Baldwin's thoughts and writing, and also use Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker's essay about Baldwin's writing and try to look at the wisdom they offer on our current worldwide situation. \_PM

**Aug. 9: (Forum) Jessica Anderson** will present "The Cult of True Womanhood," the notion that in order to be a *true* woman, one must believe that *true women* are pious and submissive daughters/wives/mothers, and only concerned with home and family. Why did some women rebel at and some women embrace this notion? How does this belief play out across suffragettes and their detractors?

Suffragettes suffered from campaigns designed to divide and abolish their movement, yet there was also a growing contingent of female suffragettes that wanted to expand their mission to include the rights of People Of Color, men, women, and other "undesirables." How did this goal conflict with the main tenets of the original suffragettes?

### August 16: Move Forward Teams At KUUF

In recent weeks, KUUF has formed three Move Forward Teams. They are focused on creating specific and meaningful actions that will keep us moving forward in the lifelong work of "dismantling racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." That quote is

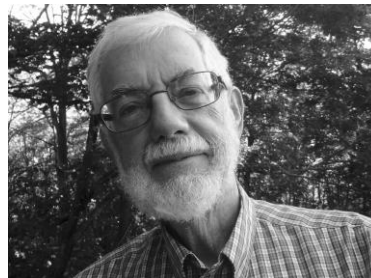
from the proposed Eighth Principle, and we will talk again about its possible adoption, first as a congregation and then as the UUA. \_PM.

Board meeting (virtually) today at noon.

### August 23: Grow an Extra Row & Celebrating Green Sanctuary at KUUF.

It has been a busy year for our Green Sanctuary Committee. This morning we will check in on the *Grow an Extra Row* Project and several other Green Sanctuary projects. We will also talk about our vision of building our beloved community through practical projects like those of the Green Sanctuary. \_PM

**Aug. 30: Picking Up Odds and Ends, PM.**



## Yuuper Newsletter Ends; Editor Retires

By Elen Maurer

Jack Jobst has edited the *Yuuper Newsletter* for over ten years, and he has decided to retire, just as the newsletter itself has ended its run.

Jack reflected on his tenure as editor, and the lasting value of the *Newsletter*.

Some older KUUF members will recall the single page ditto-reproduced *Newsletter* initiated by Ken and Susie Kraft in 1984. After Susie's death, Jack began helping Ken with the monthly *Newsletter* tasks. With Ken's passing Jack

inherited the role of editor, finding it a good fit with his own skills and interests.

Jack came to Michigan Tech in 1978 with a grad degree in American Lit from the University of Missouri. In addition to his lit courses, Jack taught several Technical Communications classes, and directed the program for eight years; the *KUUF Newsletter* editorship offered him an opportunity to put his teaching concepts into practice.



Jack instituted several improvements: increasing the length of the newsletter, adding unique graphics, and photographs (some he took himself; others

graciously donated by Bill Fink).

Jack initially followed the Kraft's method of printing and stapling (if necessary) the *Newsletter*; but later, when he arranged for professional printing, the publication took its current four-page format, printed on one sheet of heavier, 11 by 17 inch sheets.

Over the years, Jack appreciated receiving submissions from the ministers, committee chairs, and general members who had something important to say. He occasionally raised writers' ire when editing made their pieces shorter, but Jack was mindful of the journalist's directive for success: "short paragraphs and a lot of white space."

One time, the *Newsletter* provoked a stir when Jack included a letter to the editor, stating unfavorable comments about KUUF's salaried leadership at the time.

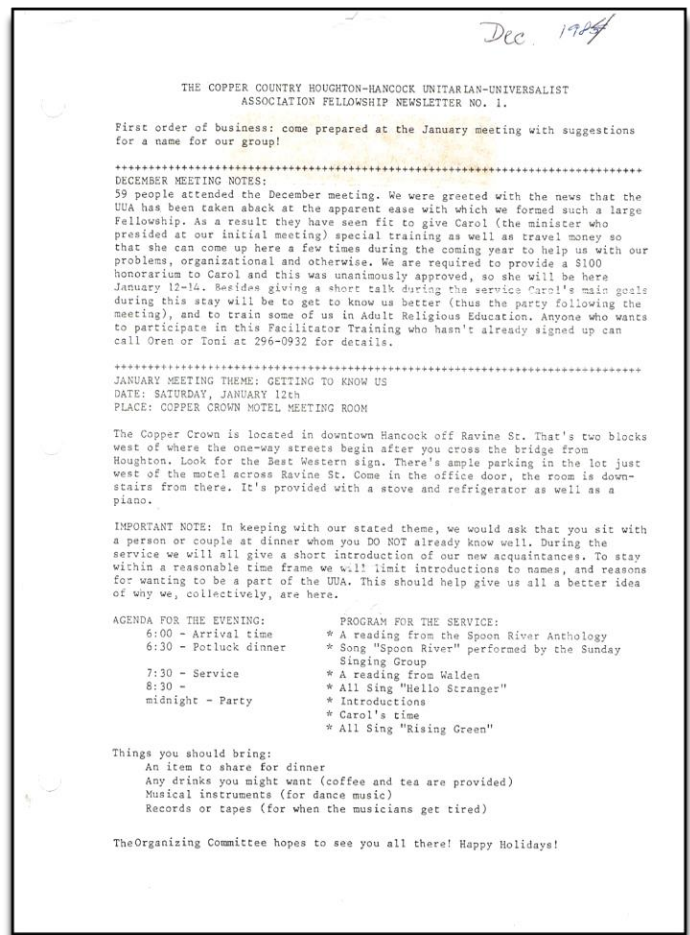
Overall, however, Jack says, "I did enjoy it, and I learned a lot myself."

Jack often reminded us of the *Newsletter's* continuing value., especially regarding its usefulness as an historical record. The Krafts retained a copy of every issue they published, and Jack has done the same, collecting all issues and filing them in loose leaf binders. Through the efforts of everyone who contributed to the newsletter, KUUF has the wonderful resource of our history preserved through the events and news reported through the years.

Jack will continue as an archivist, collecting Board meeting minutes and retaining our institutional history.

Looking ahead, Jack urges the Board to consider how best to retain these records. For now, the weekly Digest is automatically saved and will serve as our institutional record of events.

Please join your Board in extending a heartfelt thank-you to Jack Jobst for his many years of service to KUUF and for giving us the legacy of the *YUUpper Newsletter*.



*"The Copper Country Houghton-Hancock Unitarian-Universalist Association Fellowship Newsletter No. 1," postmarked 2-Jan-1985 and with a 20¢ stamp on the back. The content advertises a social potluck dinner at the Copper Crown Motel in Hancock on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. "Bring a dish and musical instruments."*

## A Brief History of KUUF's Earliest Days as Reported in the Newsletter

Original members in 1985 spent early meetings organizing a congregation. For a start, they needed a name. One person offered "New UU," as a possibility, recalling that a UU group had preceded them in the 1960s.

Rev. Carol Hepokoski's name makes it into the second newsletter, indicating her importance in getting the group organized. She tells everyone that they should develop five committees: Space, RE, Membership, Finance, and Program. The



chairs of these five will become the Steering Committee. Jim Boyce, who had experience leading a UU group downstate, agrees to chair this key committee.

Concerned about membership feeling powerless, the newsletter offers this: "Please do not feel shy about speaking up; all of our decisions will be made as a community."

Members of the Space Committee, presumably, look around for somewhere the group could meet. With only a few financial contributions to spend, the group needed someplace inexpensive, and they found it in the Tech Nursery building, in the Daniell Heights Housing area, with furniture designed for kindergarteners. But it was cheap. The first annual budget refers to \$600 needed to support the "Building Facilities" for a year.

By March of 1985, Newsletter #3 announces a four-session introductory program to UU-ism, with sessions offered on three different days, and led by Janet Marr, Toni Tikkanen (Oren's wife), and Chris Woodward. John Clark, as Treasurer, joins Jim Boyce in staffing the Steering Committee's leadership.

The first proposed budget comes in at a little over \$3,000, but no one knows if the members will contribute such an amount. Newsletter #5, reminds everyone that "Some of the things our congregation wants to do are dependent on our ability to pay for them." Ah yes, the annual appeal of every KUUF Finance Committee.

Names that appear now include Keith Baldwin, Larry Evers, and George Love. The latter two have attended a UU workshop in Wausau, WI, along with six other congregations.

Newsletter #6 announces a June 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday service coordinated by Oren Tikkanen on the topic of "The Earth and Environment."

We also learn that the monthly meetings will be on each second Sunday at 11am., and the Program/ Worship Committee needs more members, especially women. Lee Lebben is waiting to hear from people interested in helping this committee.

By July, Newsletter #7 announces that Carol Hepokoski will lead the month's service, followed by a picnic in the Boyce's backyard. The following day, also at the Boyce's, Carol will conduct a Monday workshop on **Rites of Passage** for those interested in assisting with weddings, funerals, and memorial services.

On Tuesday, Carol will help organize **Religious Education for Youth**, with another workshop.

By the following month, the newsletter sports a slightly more professional look, with headings offering info on the *Sunday Service*, the summer *Picnic*, a *Class for Children*, and other items. A later heading states that a copy of the proposed **Bylaws** will be available for review.

And so it goes. The incipient UU group is on its way, getting organized, discovering what areas need member participation, and, of course, how much it will all cost.

Much will change over the next 35 years, and some things will remain the same. The group membership will show frequent turnover, but a hardened leadership group consisting of the Krafts, the Baldwins, the Boyce's and Clarks, among others, will keep it all together. And always, the *Newsletter* will be there to keep track.



### Letter to the editor:

I would like to take a minute or two, to express my gratitude to Jack for his diligent work month-after-month, year-after-year, to consistently produce an outstanding newsletter. I am sure that the rest of the

congregation would agree with me.

By moving to a completely electronic format, we should save a considerable amount of time and money.

On a personal note, I thank Jack for editing my library articles, and teaching me much about the writing process. He makes me look like a terrific writer. I am glad that he will continue to help me with my writings in the *Digest*.

Finally, I wish Jack the best of luck as he continues with his retirement.

Sincerely,  
Bob Fiandt



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### 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, but other Fridays are also available if enough interest appears. Official dates this month are August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Bill Fink if you wish an invitation with the Zoom password.