



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

April 2013

**Sunday Services**  
10:00 and 11:30 am

**228 Gougler Ave.**  
**Kent, Ohio 44240**  
**Phone: 330-673-4247**  
**Fax: 330-677-4772**  
**[www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org)**

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[minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net)

**Minister's office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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MaryBeth Hannan

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**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

Our worship theme for April is growth. Over the last few weeks I have been trying to conceal the fact that my belly has begun to grow. I am now ready to tell you that I am pregnant! I still can't believe it myself even though I am now at the end of the first trimester. After experiencing so many losses in our journey to parenting, it is hard to believe that all is going well. But it is and if all continues to go well, our baby will be born somewhere around September 30.

This news may be a surprise to many of you who know that we have been waiting for an adoptive placement for over a year. We have been actively engaged with the adoption process and had a couple encounters we thought would lead to a forever child coming into our family. However, the truth is that there are many more people who want to adopt than there are infants who need adopting. We were starting to worry we might be waiting for a match for several more years. It began to feel to us if there was another way to have a baby we just had to explore that path.

Several years ago when we realized we were having trouble conceiving we sought out fertility treatments, but there was one treatment we didn't try because it is so incredibly expensive and not covered by my (or most) insurance. Thanks to Evin's employment with the Ohio Meadville District and Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church, we felt we could deal with the financial cost of giving that option a try. The baby that is now growing in me was conceived with Evin's eggs and donor sperm. My relationship to the child will not be genetic, but it will be biological. We talk a lot in this church about how there are many ways to grow a family. We are so very grateful for the scientific and technological developments that made it possible for us to be blessed with this way of growing our family.

After the first round of fertility treatment and before trying to adopt through a private agency, we spent a couple years trying to adopt through the foster care system. That experience was filled with love and heartbreak both. I suspect the meaning all these experiences hold in our lives will continue to grow and change as we to grow and change. It seems to me growth often doesn't happen in the ways we plan for or hope for. Life brings us experiences both bitter and sweet. We can't control what life brings. Our only choice is whether or not we will allow the experiences that come to help us grow, even if that means growing in ways we never expected. I wonder, how are you growing these days?

*Melissa*

## Upcoming Sermons

24 March

### *God's Becoming*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Joel Slater

One of the most innovative developments in recent theology has been the development of a field called Process Theology. According to this view, everything is interconnected and God is always in relation, always becoming in relationship with all. This morning we'll unpack this view of God and consider its implications.

31 March

### *The Poetry of God*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

Our celebration of Easter will be infused with song and stories, marked by beauty and centered in a broad, poetic frame. The first service will be created with people of all ages in mind, the second service will be created for older youth and adults. In between we will have our annual egg hunt. Come join us for a wonderful morning.

7 April - Youth Sunday

### *Change and Growth as Young Unitarian Universalists*

Led by the Youth

Through music, readings, ritual and individual reflection, our high school youth will offer the congregation a window into what it means to grow up UU. Join us for this beloved annual worship experience. *See p. 4 for comments about Youth Sunday from Karen Lapidus.*

14 April

### *Like This Service*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Max Grubb

A colleague recently asked me whether I have ever used the teleprompter app on an iPad when preaching my sermons. I didn't even know a teleprompter app existed! There are so many technologies being devised to help us work, learn, connect and play better and more efficiently. How do we decide when technological developments can help and when they might actually hinder our growth?

21 April

### *Growing Greener*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly

Join us for our annual celebration of Earth Day! This year we will lift up a few of the many ways individuals and communities are exploring to grow greener lives and a greener planet.

28 April

### *Does Life Long Learning Have to Be ALL My Life?*

Rev. Elaine Strawn and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

Continuing Education requirements never end...neither does spiritual development. We will try to integrate psychological and spiritual ideas to understand where we are in the scope of things. Rev. Elaine Strawn is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County. Along with Melissa, she is participating in a three congregation pulpit swap this morning. Melissa will be leading services at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, PA.

Jan Noden

**First Quarter Half Moon**  
mixed media



Jan Noden has artwork displayed at Summit Art Space.

## Moderator's Musings

Spring, that time in the church year when we can look back to assess how we did in reaching this year's goals. Annual reports will be due May 1<sup>st</sup> to Mary Beth in the Church's office. All committees and Church officers and trustees should also review the by-laws for their area to determine if any language needs to be updated. If so, revised by-laws need to be presented to the Board for their April meeting, the third Wednesday of the month.

During the spring and summer, there are many opportunities to deepen UU roots while using our wings to explore new places and encounter new people.

District Assembly (*also bottom of page*):

2013 District Assembly, April 26-27, 2013

Joint District Assembly with St. Lawrence District

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Peter Morales, President of the

UUA Niagara Falls Convention Center

Celebrating 50 years of both the OMD and the SLD!

General Assembly:

2013 General Assembly, June 19-23 Louisville, Ky

A Meeting of Congregations

Summer Institute:

Social Justice as a Spiritual Practice: A Central UU Path with Rev. Art McDonald, July 14-20, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio

Youth Service Learning Trip:

July 7-13, Appalachian Folklife Center in Pipestem, WV

Further details can be found on the Ohio-Meadville District home page: [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org)

Another interesting experience is to visit other UU congregations while on vacation. The Slater's have joined UU worship services in the Detroit and Cincinnati areas and in Waco, Texas. All very different, all intriguing UU experiences.

Yours in faith, *Kathie*

## See the mighty Falls!

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a one day UU Niagara Experience following District Assembly in Niagara Falls this year. This is an opportunity to encounter the Falls up close. For information visit our web site :

<http://firstuunf.org/UUNEX2013.html>



Kathy Kerns examines a pie at the Stewardship display with Sandy Eaglin while the video promoting Stewardship runs in the background.

## Surprise Friends

Sign up for this program begins at coffee hour on March 24 and continues through April 7. On April 10 adults find out what child you are paired with. Notes are exchanged April 21, 28, May 5, 12. Friends are revealed on May 19.

Surprise Friends: please remember to leave your notes Sundays April 21 through May 12. Make sure you are there for coffee hour on May 19 to meet your Surprise Friend in person. In the past, Surprise Friends have exchanged small tokens of friendship during the special revealing celebration. Can't wait to see you there!

## District Assembly

This year our Ohio-Meadville District, in a historic move, is having a joint District Assembly with St Lawrence District. And the Rev Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, is the keynote speaker! This promises to be an energizing event not to be missed! Deadlines are fast upon us. Some partial schol-

arships are available, and must be applied for by March 29. If you would like more information about workshops and timelines, please go to [www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da). You may also contact Marion Yeagler, Ohio-Meadville District Board of Trustees.

## Library Donations

The Library Committee is pleased to receive donations that reflect the categories of our collection. The categories listed below may help you to select donations from your own library for the church collection. Please, when making a donation, be sure to give us your contact information, particularly your phone number and e-mail address so we may acknowledge your donation. As another reminder: **please** return any books you have had for over 2 weeks.

### Categories

Biography  
BLGT (Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender)  
Buddhism  
Celebrations and Passages  
Christianity  
Church Leadership  
Family Life  
Humanism  
Inspiration  
Meditation  
Men's Studies  
Philosophy  
Religious Studies  
Social Justice  
Spirituality  
Theology  
Unitarian Universalism  
Women's Studies  
World Religions

## New Member Spotlight

Meet one of our newer members, Cynthia Borders. She came to the Kent UU church on her search for a spiritual home. Cynthia finds our church a comfortable place where she can be around like minded people who share her passion for justice and service to others, and she is looking forward to getting more involved at church.

Cynthia works as a nurse and loves her job. She has several hobbies including travel, gardening, reading, hiking, kayaking, and writing poetry, and she is also a fan of folk music. Cynthia lives in Mantua. Her family (3 children, 5 grand children, and her father) all live in Ohio, with many residing in the local area.

Please welcome Cynthia to the congregation when you see her around church!

## Our Amazing Teens Plan for Youth Sunday

*"As Unitarian Universalists, our call to the work of youth ministry rests on our spiritual commitment to build the world we dream about—a world in which our faith communities welcome people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds to join hands in nourishing our spirits and healing the world."*

- from the Youth Ministry Working Group Report, UUA 2009

I recently spent a rather pleasant Sunday afternoon with our high school youth and their advisors, planning for the upcoming Youth Sunday worship service. The title of the worship service is, "Change and Growth as Young Unitarian Universalists", fitting with the April worship theme, Growth. Until that afternoon, they had spent just a small amount of their Sunday morning Youth Group time considering what they would share with the congregation during their annual opportunity to lead worship. Their ideas were still in seed form--just starting points for readings, music, and thoughts for their reflections.

Rather than spending Youth Group time in planning, it has become their tradition to gather (with pizza) for a marathon planning session--focused and driven. What a joy it was for me to sit back and witness as the ideas flew around the room, some falling flat on the floor while others being picked up and embellished by other youth and transformed into meaningful parts of the worship liturgy. It was truly a kind of dance! There was excitement and enthusiasm. Our youth are looking forward to sharing their lives, their thoughts, their journeys and their spirituality with the members and friends of our congregation.

Four of our youth are graduating from high school this spring. Though I am filled with joy for them, I am also a bit worried. Are they prepared? Are they well-equipped to take action to shape their lives to be meaningful? Hopefully, they are prepared with a firm foundation in our Unitarian Universalist values. Hopefully, they have the skills to make good choices and will do so. Hopefully, they know that they are loved and respected and hopefully, they know that wherever their paths lead them, they will always be welcomed home.

In faith and with love, Karen Lapidus  
Director of Religious Education





## Book Review

The church library has just acquired the 2013 UUA Meditation Manual which will be available April 1st in the Meditation category. While helping with the data management of our Library, Andrew Bores noted that Meditation was our most used category. This is partly because our worship associates who help the minister in the Sunday services look for worthwhile selections to read in the service.

This year's Meditation manual is *Falling into the Sky: a Meditation Anthology*, Abhi and Abhimanyu Janamanchi, eds. (Boston, Skinner House Books, c 2013).

Abhi Janamanchi is senior minister of the UU congregation in Clearwater, FL. Abhimanyu Janamanchi is a life-long UU who has served as youth observer on the UUA Board of Trustees and the UUA Nominating Committee. The Manual is a selection of prayers, meditations and short essays by UU Ministers, lay people, theologians, poets, philosophers and activists. They each provide personal insights into the workings of the inner self to help us move into a realm where calm replaces busy-ness, peace overcomes anxiety, and compassion delivers the soul from selfishness.

*Martha Kluth*

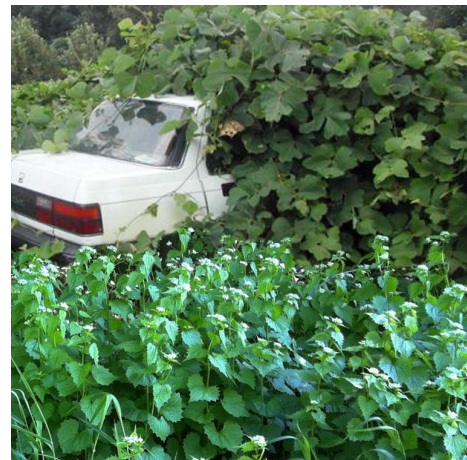
## Recent Simple Gifts

Adrian Achtermann, in appreciation for the blessings MB has brought into my life.

Elaine Bowen, in honor and celebration of Pat Pownall on her birthday, March 5. I miss you dear friend.

## Annual Garlic Mustard Pull

Join us on Saturday, April 20th from 9am-11am to pull invasive Garlic Mustard from the parks along the river. This weed chokes out native species and must be pulled before the prolific seed heads open. Afterward, saunter downtown for the Who's Your Mama? Earth Day festival, knowing you've done your part. Meet in the church parking lot across the street from the church and ask Andrew Rome for more information.



Garlic Mustard  
is gonna get your  
Mama...

**UNLESS YOU GET IT FIRST!**

## Accessible Parking

The parking lot behind Franklin Township Hall is being designated as a handicap accessible parking area for Sunday mornings during both services. We are asking all others to please park across the street or in the gravel lot behind the church. We appreciate your assistance with our trying to be more accommodating to those who have physical challenges. Thank you.

## Attention All Leaders and Committee Chairs

All Annual Reports to be included in the Annual Meeting packet are due May 1, 2013. Please submit or email reports to MaryBeth at [uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uukent@sbcglobal.net). Annual Meeting packets will be available to the congregation on May 15. The Annual Congregational Information Meeting is scheduled for May 30 @ 7 PM and the Voting Meeting will be held on June 2 @ 12:30 PM.



## Stewardship Campaign is Off and Running!

Our Stewardship Campaign is in full swing and the pledges are coming in strong. We've heard wonderful heartfelt stories about how this church, OUR church, has inspired our members to give and contribute of their time and talent because of what they receive in return. We've heard how an increase in overall giving can add so much to our community. We've sold PIE raffle tickets and given away several delicious pies!

If you haven't committed to your pledge yet there is still time to do so! The campaign doesn't end until March 24th. Don't forget this is for next fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2013 until June 30, 2014. If you aren't at the 3% giving level yet and can make that stretch to give 3% of your adjusted gross income that would be ideal and really help with future planning.

If you have already turned in your pledges we thank you!! If not you can turn in your pledge cards during the offertory on Sundays or at the Stewardship table during coffee hour. If you need more information or just want to chat with fellow members we have some dessert nights still available. You can sign up for one of them at the Stewardship table during coffee hour.

Thank you, *Your Stewardship Committee*



Diane Lenihan tries out an ice chair at the "Make Mine With Ice" festival at Home Savings Plaza.

## Book Group

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm in the home of Kathie Slater in Kent. Please bring a non-dessert snack to share.

This month we are reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (young adult fiction, 2006). It is 1939 Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and it will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel Meminger's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden by the snow. It is *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, left there by accident and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library; wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up and closed down. In May we will be reading *Breakfast with Buddha* by Roland Merullo. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



John Noltner gave a talk at church about his book "A Peace of my Mind." John gathered photos and inspiring stories of people that create community and a sense of shared experience. John's exhibit of photos travels the country.

## Out of Bounds: Moving Beyond Our Boundaries

Join us for this historic joint District Assembly with keynote speaker the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the UUA. UUs from both the St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville Districts will gather at the Niagara Falls Convention Center in Niagara Falls, NY April 26-27, 2013. Full information, details, and registration is available at the OMD website - <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/program/> ***da Hurry, advanced registration closes April 15th!***

### Are You Ready for Leadership School?

UULTI - the UU Leadership Team Institute is back with 2 offerings this summer - UULTI by the Lake July 31-August 4 in Cananadagua, NY and UULTI on the Hudson August 14-18 in Stoney Brook, NY. Youth can explore their leadership skills at Goldmine Youth Leadership School West, July 31-August 4 also in Canandagua, NY or Goldmine Youth Leadership School East, August 20-24 in Stoney Brook, NY. Details can be found at [www.cerguua.org/uulti](http://www.cerguua.org/uulti) or [www.cerguua.org/goldmine](http://www.cerguua.org/goldmine)

### The WV Youth Service Learning Experience is Back!

Last year 20 youth had an amazing experience working in

the Appalachian mountains of West Virginia providing services to families in need and learning about the unique culture and environmental challenges of the area. This year we return for new experiences the week of July 7-13. Registration is now open for youth who are interested. Adults interesting in chaperoning may also sign up. Learn more at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/590-youthcamp2013>

### General Assembly 2013

This year's General Assembly is in Louisville, KY, an easy drive from all the congregations in the OMD. This year's theme is covenant and the social justice focus will be environmental justice. Local ministers from West Virginia and Kentucky are already working on programs and opportunities in this year. We'll be electing a new moderator as well as other positions. Learn more about the schedule, registration, housing and more at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

*Beth Casebolt*

District Administrator

Ohio Meadville District

[office@ohiomeadville.org](mailto:office@ohiomeadville.org)

## Spring Forth With the Giving of Books.

The time of year has come once more when Robins sing in the rain, the flowers poke their heads up from the warming earth and books appear as if by magic in Fessenden Hall. Yea, the Annual UUCK Book Sale is nigh, riding in on the southern winds, returning with the geese who had flown south but two short seasons ago. As you perform the ancient ritual of Spring cleaning, please set aside all your gently used books, DVDs, and CDs to donate to the Annual UUCK Book Sale. Just leave them in the designated space in Fessenden Hall between the dates of April 14 and 30 and the book sprites will whisk them away, only to be returned on that foretold day, May 4, where they will take their honored place in supporting the growth and well being of the UUCK. In addition we will be hosting a bake sale table as well. Please consider contributing your favorite home baked cookies, brownies, muffins and other goodies. You may drop them off in the kitchen on Friday May 3rd or Saturday May 4th. Please label them "Book Sale" so we know they are intended for that purpose. Thank you in advance for your generous, heartfelt donations.

*John Bores*



Marion Yeagler and Ann VerWiebe set up the crepe dinner, an auction item, while Joel Slater prepares to inhale a crepe.

## **District Assembly is Coming**

2013 District Assembly, April 26-27, 2013

Joint District Assembly with St. Lawrence District

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA

Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY

Are you trying to decide to attend District Assembly 2013? Don't know if there will be something for you or your congregation? Here are some highlights from our programming broken down into theme areas:

### **UU Community:**

Multi-generational Coffee House - do you have a talent to share?

Uplifting Opening Worship led by SLD ministers

OMD/SLD Joint Bridging Ceremony led by our youth and OMD Ministers

Where else can you sing, dance, laugh, and cry with hundreds of UUs? The future of Unitarian Universalism, CERG (our region) and our districts

Keynote address: Breaking Down Walls, Rev. Peter Morales

Breaking Down Walls Keynote Talkback Workshop

CERG Information Session Workshop

### **Lifespan Faith Development/Youth/Young Adults:**

Could You Be a Youth Ally? Workshop

Youth Service Trips: How to Make It Happen Workshop

Youth Caucus Social Justice Issues

Addressing the New Civil Rights Issue: Global Warming Workshop

Fracking, An Assault on the Web of Life Workshop

Our Place in the Web of Life Workshop

Courageous Love Awards

Social Justice Solidarity Communion Service

Congregational Staffing

Embracing Change: Finding the Right Minister Workshop

Strong Staff, Strong Church Workshop

### **Personal Spiritual Development:**

Gould Lecture: Polity, Pine Trees and Process Theology, Rev. Douglas Taylor

Leader? Who Me? Workshop

Stewardship of the UU Soul: Spiritual Leadership Through Small Group Ministry Workshop

Stewardship

Beyond the Annual Canvass Workshop Congregational Leadership & Mission:

Power of Shared Ministry Workshop

Moving from Mission to Action Workshop

### **Right Relations:**

The Difficulty of Being Just: Including People with Disabilities in Congregational Life Workshop

Let's Talk About It! Living Our Covenant in a Sexually Healthy Faith Community Workshop

Registration is now open. Childcare is available if registered by March 29. You can find the full schedule and all the details for District Assembly on our website at [www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da)

Delegate information and the annual report will be sent out to congregations in mid March.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the district office. I will be very happy to help you. You can contact me at 740-297-6966 or [office@ohiomeadville.org](mailto:office@ohiomeadville.org)



## April Church Events

<b>31</b> 11:30 Pancakes 12:30 Pancakes part ii 7-9 AA FH	<b>1</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi (no fooling)	<b>2</b> 7-9p OWL F	<b>3</b> 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>4</b> 7-9 Annex re- served 7-8:30 Singalong F 7:30-9 AA	<b>5</b> 7-10p Ted Voneida show church re- served	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 2-5 church reserved 12:45-2:45 TED Talk F 7-9 Concert S 7-9 AA FH	<b>8</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>9</b> 12 p Retiree lunch 7-9p OWL F	<b>10</b> 6:30-8:30 RE F 7-9 Choir rehearse 7:30-9:30 Board A	<b>11</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9-12a SPAN walk; Fessenden reserved 1p-12a OWL overnight; church reserved
<b>14</b> 12a-9a OWL church re- served 1-3:00 Finance A 7-9 AA F	<b>15</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi 7-9 Fundraising F	<b>16</b> 7-9p OWL F	<b>17</b> 6:30-9 Membership F 7-9:00 COM Nursery 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>18</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 2-7:00 Fessenden re- served
<b>21</b> 7-9 AA FH	<b>22</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>23</b> 7-9p OWL F	<b>24</b> 7-9:00 Finance A 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>25</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>26</b> 6-8:00 church re- served 8:00 Concert church reserved	<b>27</b> 2:30-6:30 church re- served
<b>28</b> 11:30 Pancakes 12:30 Pancakes part deux 7-9 AA FH	<b>29</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>30</b> 7-9:00 Care Team A	<b>1</b> 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>2</b> 7-8:30 Singalong F 7:30-9 AA	<b>3</b> Fessenden reserved- Book sale setup	<b>4</b> Book Sale

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall  
A- Eldredge Annex; F- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; L- Library; S-Sanctuary; N- Nursery;  
FC- Family and Community Services bldg.

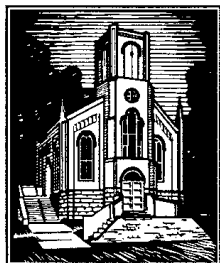
*Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after March 21*

A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at  
<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at [www.uukent.org](http://www.uukent.org).



Theology meetup day, in which people met others with similar beliefs by gathering around cards depicting their belief.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
228 Gougler Ave.  
Kent, OH 44240



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*



Rehearsals for Ted Voneida's Treasure Chest of Humor show on April 5 are going rather . . . humorously.