



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

March 2006

**Sunday Services**  
9:45 & 11:30 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240

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

**Minister's office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday

By appointment

**Office Manager:**

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**Office hours:**

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Tues. 9 - 11

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**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

Someone mailed me a newspaper clipping about the program. That was my first introduction to Kent Hogwarts. Since then, I have heard people speak in admiring tones about the magical experience on several occasions. This weekend I got to visit Kent Hogwarts, along with my new puppy Migo. We were warmly welcomed into the Hogwarts community, a community aglow with imagination. I attended interesting and fun classes and visited house common rooms – both places where students and teachers practice bringing religious values to life. I was invited to eat lunch (the chocolate coated wand was my favorite) and witness Wizard's Chess. Migo was even made an honorary member of Hufflepuff House by the sorting hat! Experiencing such a warm welcome has got me thinking.

Many of the guests who visit our churches on Sunday mornings come because they too have heard people speak in admiring tones. They have heard friends talk about their own experience in Unitarian Universalist churches. Someone once mailed them a news clipping or a copy of a sermon and their interest was piqued. Sometimes it is a few weeks, sometimes a few years before they finally walk through our doors on a Sunday morning. They come as strangers. What kind of hospitality do they find in our community? Do they feel warmly welcomed? Are they invited to be a part of our magic? The answers to these questions go a long way in determining whether or not our guests will return for another visit.

It is easy to welcome a cute and friendly puppy who is just desperate to say hello to you and lick your face. It isn't always so easy to know how to welcome the stranger – especially the shy stranger. It isn't always easy to know what to say to that person who is standing alone in coffee hour, wondering if there is a place for them in this religious community. I recently came across some advice for practicing hospitality that I think bears repeating. These tips for welcoming guests to our churches are excerpted from a longer list by Dino Hayz<sup>1</sup>, Director of Religious Education at our congregation in Davenport, IO:

- Wear your nametag and keep it on during coffee hour.
- Say, "I don't believe I've met you. What is your name?"
- Ask "what brought you here today?"
- Really listen to their answers.
- Notice what they're looking at...a bulletin board, pictures...ask what catches their interest.
- Ask if they have any questions (may I help you find something?)
- Invite them to coffee! Invite them into the community.
- Respect their personal space.
- Greet everyone, not only newcomers.
- Talk to their children, find the Religious Education director and introduce them.
- KEEP IT SIMPLE; 'the weather' is always a good icebreaker.
- Be in the moment with them...let it come naturally.

Coming to a new church for the first time can be a daunting experience. We have magic here – part of the work of hospitality involves helping people find a way to be part of the magic. See you in church.

<sup>1</sup>For the full list please see Phil's Little Blog on the Prairie - <http://home.earthlink.net/~psdlund/>

*Melissa*

### March sermons

- 5 March *Hunger Enough* Melissa Ziemer  
 Many are those whose work is devoted to cultivating our appetites. This morning is a chance to remember the abundance that truly satisfies.
- 12 March *Moral Ambiguity or The Problem with Righteousness* Melissa Ziemer  
 This sermon is inspired by conversation with Clinton Hobbes, winner of the chance to choose a sermon topic at our service auction. Special musical guest Pieces of East will add depth and rhythm to our worship (see page 5 for more information about the band).
- 19 March *Human Spirit, Holy Spirit:* Renee Zimelis – Ruchotzke  
 Student minister Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke will engage issues raised in the Religious Humanism course she just completed at Meadville Lombard Theological School: What does it mean to be a humanist? Can you be a humanist and still use a language of reverence? What is mystical humanism? What is the relationship between Religious Humanism and Unitarian Universalism?
- 26 March *Wholly Family Sunday* Melissa Ziemer, Michelle Culley and members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
 What makes a family? You are invited to come explore this and other important questions about family during this special intergenerational service celebrating families of all kinds.

### Classroom Changes (Again?)

I will apologize up front for making more changes than any Children's Religious Education program should attempt to make in one year, but hopefully this change will help relieve some of the Sunday morning stress.

This year we have had the children in Kindergarten through fifth grade meet as a group in the room next to the sanctuary (I have heard this room called the "ready room"). This worked well in that it was easy to direct kids to that room as they entered the building. It was also easy to direct first time visitors to this room. After a short worship on Sunday mornings, kids would be sent to their appropriate classrooms for the day. The difficulty with using this room as a starting point on Sunday mornings is that it is the center of the most activity on any given Sunday. Musicians, Worship Associates and the Minister often need this room to regroup, center or practice a late change in the service.

So, in the effort to free up the room next to the sanctuary for service preparations, kids from Kindergartners to fifth grade will begin their Sunday mornings in the largest room upstairs, the Performing Arts room. This is the room on the third floor at the end of the hall. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will still begin together with a short worship, but we will begin in the Performing Arts room before going to the other rooms.

This room change will also be helpful for activities during the week. It is hoped that the room next to the sanctuary will become the Reading Room for the church. It is hoped that this room will house comfy chairs and books of interest to our shared faith on a variety of topics—a UU Reading Room! There are already bookshelves in this room. This way that room can be used as an accessible room for all kinds of meetings during the week without disturbing children's worship space.

And one more change.... The Youth Group (kids in grades 6-12) have been meeting during the first service in the annex. Members of the Youth group have expressed that they would really like a space to call their own. So, they have suggested that they would like to reclaim the small room at the top of the winding staircase (at one point this was "Hal's Office" and before that "Karen Lapidus' Office") At the moment, this room is the catch-all room for items without a home (aka: the junk room that really needs a paint job!) The Youth are in the process of organizing a working overnight event to transform this room. I look forward to this change and agree with the Youth that they really need a church home. Stay tuned!

*Michelle Culley*

### Invitation to Congregational Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend a congregational information meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The agenda will focus on suggestions by the congregation for improvements to the church's organizational structure and by-laws which were adopted in May 2005. Topics of discussion will include the process for adopting congregational statements of conscience and the establishment of an endowment fund. No voting will be conducted, as this meeting is intended to be a forum for discussion prior to voting at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. Members and friends of the church are welcome.

*Christie Anderson*

### Family Fun Night at Northfield Park

Spend an exciting evening at one of America's premier harness racing facilities. Watch the horses run, have fun with friends, and contribute to a good cause! The Thursday Men's Group is sponsoring this fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent.

#### Your \$25.00 per adult ticket price includes:

Free Admission to a night at the races

Free parking

Free racing program

All-you-can-eat private buffet in the Clubhouse Mezzanine

A chance for a trip to the Winner's Circle

And more - games and tours are being planned

Make it a family event! **\$10 ages 5 to 12 years, 4 years and under FREE!**

Make your check payable to Jim Scott, Treasurer.

Date: **Saturday, March 25, 2006**

Time: **5:30 – Midnight**

Place: **Northfield Park**, 10705 Northfield Road (Route 8)  
Northfield, Ohio 44067 (Two miles north of Route 82)

You must reserve your spot! To **RSVP**, contact one of the following:

*Jim Scott:*

*Brad Bolton: Larry Cole:*

*Bob Erdman: Joel Slater:*

#### Hogwarts Photos Now Online

The latest wizardry of our Hogwarts group can be seen at <http://www.proftalon.smugmug.com/>

- 1) Open the "Hogwarts Winter 2006" gallery.
- 2) Smile.

*Professor Talon*

#### District and Denomination Annual Meetings.

Susan and Mac Goekler will be driving their van to both of our annual meetings and welcome anyone to ride along with us.  
Details -

#### Ohio-Meadville District Meeting

Columbus, OH April 22nd (Sat)

Our UUA Commission on Appraisal will be conducting workshops on Theological Diversity.

#### UUA General Assembly

St. Louis, MO

Leaving June 20th (Tue) and returning June 26th (Mon)

Mac Goekler

#### Celtic Clan

3/6 7 PM Essex of Tallmadge

3/13 7 PM Longmeadow Care Center Ravenna

3/17 7:30 Concert at the Church for St. Patrick's Day

3/20 7 PM Brookside Assisted Living Ravenna

3/27 No Practice

#### March is National Nutrition Month

... as well as the annual Harvest for Hunger campaign to restock post-holiday empty shelves in food pantries. Let's remember our own Kent food pantry with generous donations of the "Super Six" items needed:

- 1) boxed cereal
- 2) peanut butter
- 3) canned soup
- 4) canned tuna fish
- 5) canned vegetables
- 6) canned beef stew (or other "meal in a can" items)

All non-perishable items are welcome but no glass jars/bottles due to potential breakage.

Look for the big blue basket in the church foyer area (sometimes it moves!) and please help the hungry of our community - every can, every box, every dollar and every person makes a difference.

Thank you,

Elaine Yehle Bowen, R.D., L.D.

#### Save the Date for Melissa's Ordination !

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent will ordain Melissa Ziemer and install her as the minister of our church on May 7, 2006 at 3:00 pm. All members and friends are invited. More details will follow.

#### Book Group

**Mar. 14** - 7 pm at the home of Marion Yaegler,  
. We will read *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

**Apr. 11** - 7 pm at the home of Kathie Slater,  
In Kent. The selection will be *The Temple of My Familiar* by Alice Walker.

*Martha Kluth*

### Banner Design Contest

The Ohio-Meadville District Board is sponsoring a banner design contest to create a new district banner. Why a new banner? In the years since the current banner was created, it's been used a lot and is beginning to show its age. We'd like to preserve the banner in our archives before it falls apart, so we need something new.

The OMD Board will select the top three designs at their March meeting. Those three designs will be presented at the OMD Annual Meeting. The design selected by the attendees at the OMD Annual Meeting will be the winner. It is our hope to have the new banner finished in time to be used at UUA General Assembly in June and OMD Summer Institute in July.

#### Design guidelines - The design must:

- fit in a space that is 93 inches high and 32 inches wide
- have the district name on it somewhere
- be in color
- reflect the district's location/states in some manner
- identify the district as a Unitarian Universalist community in some way.

#### Keep in mind -

- Banners are usually viewed from a distance, such as the back of the stage at Summer Institute or the second floor balcony railing at General Assembly. Small details will be lost.
- The banner will be sewn out of fabric and the design needs to translate to the fabric medium fairly easily.

#### Submission guidelines

- The submitted design should be 10 1/8 inches high by 3 1/2 inches wide (this is 1/9th of the actual size)
- Include your name, address, phone number, email address, and congregation
- You can mail your design or email your design. Emailed designs must be attached to the email in jpeg or pdf format.
- If you would like to sew the banner if your design is selected, please let us know. We do have someone who is willing to sew the banner, so this is not a requirement.

All submissions must be emailed or postmarked by Friday, March 11th. Send submissions to:  
Beth Casebolt, OMD Secretary,

### Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Celtic Clan

The Celtic Clan will be playing traditional acoustic Irish music at 7:30 PM on 3/17 at the church. Concert will be family friendly and fun. This is a fundraiser for the church: suggested donation \$5 to \$10, children free. For more information call Trish McLoughlin or email -

### Out to Lunch Bunch

March 5 - Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast, Kent  
Roosevelt High School  
March 12 - China City  
March 19 - El Campesino  
March 26 - China City

### Get Involved in the Work of Social Justice

The Social Justice Committee invites you to work with us for social justice. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities for adults and children. We also encourage you to donate each month to the special offering for social justice projects. In January our church raised money for Freedom House, a shelter for homeless veterans in Portage County. In February we raised money for the Community Action Council Emergency Heating Fund, to assist people in Portage County who have heating emergencies.

The Social Justice Committee continues to bear witness for peace and to speak out against torture and for human rights. We recently collected signatures on petitions to amend the Ohio constitution in order to raise the state minimum wage. We are providing information to church members about important bills before our state legislature and initiatives that will appear on the November ballot. Visit the social justice table during coffee hour any Sunday to find out about our work. You are also invited to join our Social Justice Committee. Read the *Thread From the Web* for information about when we will meet next. Here are the names of people you can contact if you want to get involved with church social justice projects:

- Volunteer at the County Clothing Center - *Caroline Arnold*
- Help with a weatherization program for the homes of low and moderate income residents of Portage County - *Swanny Voneida*
- Help to create a social justice library for the church - *Ted Voneida*
- Work to end hunger in Portage County - *Elaine Bowen*
- Work for equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in Ohio - *Vivien Sandlund*
- Work to abolish the death penalty in Ohio - *Mac Goekler*

Respectfully submitted

*Vivien Sandlund, Chair, Social Justice Committee*

## UU Online Classes

Available at the Unitarian Church of the Larger Fellowship  
[www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) (click on **Resources**)

### **Our Way of the Spirit**

**Taught by the Rev. Roy Phillips and Linda Giesen: starts March 6 and runs 6 weeks**

This course uses texts from our Unitarian and Universalist history to invite participants into dialogue with the great thinkers of our liberal faith. As they encounter the historical threads of Unitarian Universalism, students are asked to reflect on the *ways* in which their own beliefs match, diverge from or expand from the thoughts of these historical figures. \$40.

### **This I Believe: A Writers Journey**

**Taught by the Rev. Amanda Aikman; Starts April 26th and runs six weeks**

This gentle but powerful class invites participants to encounter their most deeply-held beliefs and values through an experience of writing as spiritual practice. In six online sessions and intensive between-session writing exercises, participants will develop a multilayered statement of personal belief, emphasizing storytelling about love, work, justice, nature, and encounters with the Holy. Participants will then refine this material and craft it into a well-developed short essay suitable for sharing in "Quest" or submitting to National Public Radio's "This I Believe" essay program for possible broadcast. This is not a critique class; emphasis will be on writing from the heart and supporting each other in our work. Amanda Aikman is a UU minister, spiritual director, and playwright. \$40

### **Children's Literature: The Joy of Great Picture Books**

**Taught by the Rev. Keith Kron: starts approximately July 20th and runs 8 weeks**

A story when nothing goes right and no one seems to notice. A mouse who collects memories. Frightened cats who help people overcome racial differences. A student gets angry at her teacher and learns about forgiveness. A caring elephant hears what no one else hears. The world of picture books has much to offer us, delightful stories, spectacular illustrations, moving messages. We will explore some wonderful children's picture books (3-5 per week) and their meanings and uses in our lives and in our Unitarian Universalist faith. The course will involve obtaining and reading these books, responding to questions for further thought about each book, and examining themes and uses for these books in our lives and the lives our families. Family participation is encouraged. \$40

For information about these courses and more, contact Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)  
[www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) (click Resources) or call 617-948-6166.

### **New church sexton**

Pam Whittington has accepted our offer to be our church sexton. The job of a sexton is to not only clean, but also help us take care of our historic building. Pam will be with us 10 hours a week. Please welcome our newest staff member!

### **Special Concert/Services by Award Winning Group "Pieces of East"**

Drawing from American Folk and Indian classical cultures, Pieces of East's unique Folk/Pop songs have earned them fans around the world. The group blends Eastern timbres and Western structures, presented with stunning musicianship and soaring vocals. Voted "Best World Music Band" 2003 and 2004 at the South by Southwest Music Festival .

Pieces of East will be in concert on Saturday, March 11, 8 pm at the new Musica at Mocha Maiden, 17-19 Maiden Lane Akron, OH 44308. Cost is \$7 Advance and \$9 Day of Show. Tickets are available at Woodsy's Music in Kent, Square Records, Mocha Maiden (330.374.1114), or checks can be made payable to: Richard Roberts. Add Musica to the memo line of your check and mail to the Mocha Maiden address above. Tickets will be confirmed and held at the door on the evening of show. Check the concert venue at: [www.1akron.com](http://www.1akron.com). Guest Artist: Hal Walker, UU church of Kent.

On Sunday March 12, Pieces of East will be Guest Artists in the morning services at the UU Church of Kent and in the 4 pm service at the UU Church of Akron . Check out the group at: [www.piecesofeast.com](http://www.piecesofeast.com)

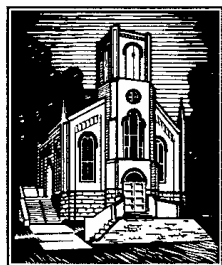
*Rich Roberts, UU Church of Akron*

### **Among Ourselves**

With this article we would like to introduce a new addition to our monthly newsletter columns. "Among Ourselves" will be another way for us to stay connected to each other. Here we will list any of the remembrances from the Embracing Meditations in our Sunday services that remain timely, as well as other items of celebration and concern submitted by members and friends. If you would like to contribute something for this article, please inform our minister, Melissa Ziemer, by the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month.



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



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### March Calendar

\* Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall  
*The calendar will not reflect additions or changes after 2/21*

- |         |  |          |  |          |   |
|---------|--|----------|--|----------|---|
| 1 Wed.  | 9:30 AM Yoga<br>6:30-10:00 PM Baking event<br>7:30 PM Women's choir<br>8:30 PM Campus Circle                       | 12 Sun.  | 5:00-6:30 PM Yoga Fundamentals<br>6:30 PM Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Choir<br>7:30 AA                                      | 21 Tues. | 5:15 PM Yoga (Moderate)<br>7:00 PM Yoga (Challenging)   |
| 2 Thur. | 4:15 PM Yoga<br>6:00 PM Yoga   | 13 Mon.  | 10:15 AM Gentle Yoga<br>5:15 PM Gentle Yoga<br>7 PM Longmeadow Care Center<br>7:00 PM Tai chi *                          | 22 Wed.  | 9:30 AM Yoga<br>7:30 PM Women's choir<br>8:30 PM Campus Circle  |
| 3 Fri.  | 7:00-10:00 PM Fundraiser Concert   | 14 Tue.  | 5:15 PM Yoga (Moderate)<br>7:00 PM Yoga (Challenging)<br>7:00 PM Book Group (Yeagler's)                                  | 23 Thur. | 4:15 PM Yoga<br>6:00 PM Yoga  |
| 5 Sun.  | 11:05 AM Children's Choir<br>5:00-6:30 PM Yoga Fundamentals<br>6:30 PM Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Choir<br>7:30 AA   | 15 Wed.  | 9:30 AM Yoga<br>7:30 PM Women's choir<br>7:00 PM Congregational Information<br>mtg. (Sanctuary)<br>8:30 PM Campus Circle | 24 Fri.  | 6:00 PM Bunko Game Night<br>(Fessenden)   |
| 6 Mon.  | 10:15 AM Gentle Yoga<br>5:15 PM Gentle Yoga<br>7 pm - Celtic Clan @ Essex<br>7:00 PM Tai chi *                     | 16 Thur. | 4:15 PM Yoga<br>6:00 PM Yoga   | 25 Sat.  | 5:30 Night at the Races, <i>pg. 3</i>   |
| 7 Tues. | 5:15 PM Yoga (Moderate)<br>7:00 PM Yoga (Challenging)  | 17 Fri.  | 7:30 PM Celtic Clan Concert, <i>pg. 4</i>  | 26 Sun.  | 11:05 AM Children's Choir<br>5:00-6:30 PM Yoga Fundamentals<br>5:00 PM Wedding<br>6:30 PM Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Choir<br>7:30 AA |
| 8 Wed.  | 9:30 AM Yoga<br>7:30 PM Women's choir<br>7:15 (7:00) PM Board Meeting<br>(Eldredge Annex)<br>8:30 PM Campus Circle | 19 Sun.  | 11:05 AM Children's Choir<br>5:00-6:30 PM Yoga Fundamentals<br>6:30 PM Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Choir<br>7:30 AA         | 27 Mon.  | 10:15 AM Gentle Yoga<br>5:15 PM Gentle Yoga<br>7:00 PM Tai chi *  |
| 9 Thur. | 4:15 PM Yoga<br>6:00 PM Yoga<br>7:00 PM Men's Group<br>(Eldredge Annex)  | 20 Mon.  | 10:15 AM Gentle Yoga<br>5:15 PM Gentle Yoga<br>7 PM Celtic Clan @ Brookside<br>7:00 PM Tai chi *                         | 28 Tue.  | 5:15 PM Yoga (Moderate)<br>7:00 PM Yoga (Challenging)   |
| 11 Sat. | 12-4 PM Luncheon (Auction Event;<br>Fessenden)   | 29 Wed.  | 9:30 AM Yoga<br>7:30 PM Women's choir<br>8:30 PM Campus Circle   | 30 Thur. | 4:15 PM Yoga<br>6:00 PM Yoga<br>7:00-9:00 PM Eckhart Tolle Meditation Group   |
| 12 Sun. | 11:05 AM Children's Choir<br>12:00 PM Covenantal Dinner<br>(Fessenden)   |          |  |          |   |