



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



**December 2006**

**Sunday Services**  
9:45 and 11:30 AM

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**Kent, Ohio 44240**  
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**Website: [www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org)**  
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Rev. Melissa Ziemer  
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**Minister's office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

It was beginning winter,  
An in-between time,  
The landscape still partly brown:  
The bones of weeds kept swinging in the wind,  
Above the blue snow.

It was beginning winter,  
The light moved slowly over the brown field,  
Over the dry seed-crowns,  
The beautiful surviving bones  
Swinging in the wind.

Light traveled over the wide field;  
Stayed.  
The weeds stopped swinging.  
The mind moved, not alone,  
Through the clear air, in the silence.

Was it light?  
Was it light within?  
Was it light within light?  
Stillness becoming alive,  
Yet still?

A lively understandable spirit  
Once entertained you.  
It will come again.  
Be still.  
Wait.

- Theodore Roethke

It is beginning winter. Once again the world has turned and we enter the darkening time of the year. Change greets us. Here it comes whispering, calling, pointing, encircling. Here it comes reliably round - familiar and strange, both at the same time.

Our answer forms in the gut, in the heart and takes its shape in the eye, the mind, the hand . . . That is how it begins.

But its end lies not in mere accommodation. Its end lies in the patience of pondering and wondering and waiting. Its end lies in the inspiration of imagination, in the art of creation. Its end lies in transformation of our lives, our communities, our world. This is our holy work. May we turn to it in faith and hope and love.

Peace,

## December Sermons

December 3, 2006 *Be Here Now*

Rev. Melissa Ziemer and Worship Associate Heidi Shaffer

The holidays often evoke both a sense of anticipatory excitement and anxiety nurtured by the hectic pace of the season. In this meditative service we will reflect on the spiritual discipline of living in this very moment.

December 10, 2006 *Compassionate Practice*

Rev. Melissa Ziemer and Worship Associate Mike Kreyche

This service will be inspired by the work of the Rev. Bill Schulz and by the lecture he delivers to members and friends of our congregation on December 9, 2006.

December 17, 2006 *The Ground of Our Hope*

Rev. Melissa Ziemer and Worship Associate Christie Anderson

How do we find hope? How do we sustain hope? What is the source of hope in the Unitarian Universalist tradition? Come join us for a theological and experiential exploration of hope.

December 24, 2006 *The Empty Present*

**Please note – we will have one service only at 10:30 am**

Rev. Melissa Ziemer and Director of Religious Education Michelle Culley

For those who celebrate Christmas, the hour draws near. In this special intergenerational service we will celebrate the fullness that can be found in emptiness.

Please plan to join us after the service for a special coffee hour to celebrate our outgoing Director of Religious Education, Michelle Culley. This is an opportunity to thank Michelle for her hard work and caring leadership and to wish her well as she embarks upon the next chapter in her life. Everyone is invited!

December 24, 2006 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

Rev. Melissa Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

6:30 pm A special family friendly service of lessons and carols to welcome the spirit of Christmas into the world.

8:30 pm A special service of lessons and carols to welcome the spirit of Christmas into the world.

December 31 *To Be announced*

**Please note – we will have one service only at 10:30 am**

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## Message from the Moderator

**What a wonderful Auction!** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this such an enjoyable successful event. A special thank you goes to Leslie Barrett and Beth Wills the leaders of the event. Thanks too to all the people who worked hard behind the scenes to make things run so smoothly and to everyone who came and shopped so generously.

We have much to celebrate this year. Our church is alive with energy and wonderful programs for children and adults. Just some highlights: The Small Group Ministry Program has attracted many attendees and is an enriching experience in spiritual growth and friendship. Our two youth groups are thriving. Children's RE is growing. Hogwarts programs continue to amaze and delight. Our choirs are inspiring, often singing original UU songs by Hal Walker and Margo Milcetic. Our Pastoral Care team reaches out to our members when in need and provides an opportunity to make a difference. New adult education/exploration opportunities are available. I am running out of space and I have not mentioned our uplifting and inspiring minister and lay led services.

As predicted in my previous message it is now confirmed by our financial team, that we will end the year with an on paper deficit. This means that our costs exceeded our income this year. Fortunately we had funds in reserve so we could pay bills and salaries.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their pledge as promised. Thanks also to everyone who has raised their pledge for 2007. It is not too late to make a pledge of funds towards the 2007 church year. I hear from our finance team that there are still opportunities to fund our operating budget. If you have not yet made a pledge and wish to, you can contact Beth Wills. Are you ready to join in and help keep our church growing and vital?

Do contact me if you have concerns or questions. If I cannot help, I will direct you to the right person or committee.

In Faith,  
Trish McLoughlin

## Transcend, Transform and Transvision Let's Look at Our Views on Transgender

What: Transgender Workshop  
When: Sunday January 28, 2007  
Where: UU Church of Kent  
Time: Lunch at 12:45, workshop 1:30 to 5:30 pm

Kat Holtz will be leading a workshop designed to provide basic information about transgender persons and the issues they face. It is for all who want to learn how to be supportive of the transgender people who are our friends, family members, co-workers, members of our churches and community.

We will:

- Clarify the differences between biological sex, gender identity, gender roles, and sexual orientation
- Examine the diversity of people who fall under the "transgender umbrella"
- Discuss the many issues facing transgender persons and explore ways to expand support and understanding
- Engage in a panel discussion with members of the transgender community

Kat Holtz has worked for over 10 years as the HIV/AIDS Prevention Specialist at Townhall II. She is also one of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) trainers for the Ohio-Meadville UU district. In addition to HIV testing, she has presented programs on HIV prevention education and various sexuality topics to adults, adolescents, and instructors. We will discuss sexually explicit concepts, but with lots of humor and chocolate.

Adults and youth are welcome. Child care will be provided for a small fee.

There will be a simple lunch available in Fessenden Social Hall for \$2 after 2<sup>nd</sup> service at 12:45. The workshop will begin at 1:30 in the sanctuary. We will have breaks and snacks and fun!

Please contact Kat with any questions.

Please register by Sunday January 14 for both the lunch, workshop, and child care by contacting Judy Brannan (Church Secretary) at the church .

## Holiday Storytelling Tea

All members and friends who consider themselves to be elders, elders or just plain experienced in living are invited to a holiday storytelling tea on Tuesday, December 19 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Fessenden Hall. Coffee, tea and sweet treats will be provided. Bring your favorite holiday story to share (stories from books or magazines or your own experience are welcome). Come for all or part of the time. Please call Judy Brannan, church secretary, to tell us you'll be coming so that we can arrange to have enough food.

## Fund-an-Item Update

The Service Auction "Fund an Item" was an overall success. There are enough funds to complete the sanctuary seating to the new style. The new seats will also include some with arms to accommodate those who need them. Although the hope was to be able to fund a playground in addition to the seating, we did not meet the necessary goals to be able to afford both. However, the pews are being ordered and will be here in 12-14 weeks!

## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

We often refer to our committee as UUSC, but that acronym does not spotlight "SERVICE". Our UUSC is about serving UUs, and providing UUs an opportunity to serve. In my mind -- faith in action. We have many UUSC items posted on our Social Justice Board -- check it out next coffee hour. Over the years, I have suggested that when we send in our Guest at Your Table gifts that we check the "membership" box. Because any unrestricted gift can count towards membership. With membership, we get discounts at Beacon Press, mailings, Action Alerts, our UUSC newsletter "Rights Now". Many of you have joined UUSC and I am pleased, very pleased to announce that with 25% of our Church Members now belonging to UUSC -- we have been awarded a "Creating Justice" banner, a well earned award. The following is a table showing that membership in UUSC is not costly --

\$10 (minimum for Student/Youth Membership)

\$20 (minimum for Senior Membership)

\$20 (minimum for Dual Student/Youth Membership)

\$40 (minimum for General Membership)

\$40 (minimum for Dual Senior Membership)

\$75 (minimum for Dual General Membership)

Although you can become a member at any level, gifts of \$75 or more from individuals or families are eligible to be matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY, dollar for dollar. Susan and I always select the Dual General Membership -- thus doubling our impact on all the needy areas that UUSC impacts.

We also have more great news! Vivien Sandlund has accepted to be Kent's UUSC Local Representative (thanks Vivien!). Susan and I continue on a UUSC Regional (OMD) Coordinators.

In addition --- Susan and I have organized "Ohio UUs for Legislative Advocacy" and are being sponsored by UUSC in this effort. Our latest effort was to help get Ohio Issue 2 "Raise the Minimum Wage" passed. If you would like to join with us (no membership fee), please let us know.

*Susan & Mac Goekler*

## Africa fund

When Mac and Susan Goekler did a service on African Spirituality over the summer, the special offering that day was collected to purchase textbooks and put wiring and lighting into the school in the village where they have a relationship. They will visit Gomoa Mprumem in Ghana, West Africa again over the holidays. Because of new weight restrictions on luggage, they will not collect items to take, but are still accepting donations of money. If you wish to contribute, you can send a check to the church and mark Africa fund on the memo line. The deadline is December 12.

If you have questions, contact the Goeklers

## Good news about our roofs!

Some of you may have noticed that two roofs were replaced at our church. The back porch roof at the Annex and the back porch at the Church both were removed and replaced. A local contractor generously donated his time to do this work and so saved us from having to do it ourselves. Of the \$1,100 estimate I received, we are only being asked to pay \$200 for the material (which we would have had to pay even if we had members volunteer to do this work). While the Annex roof was opened, we also insulated the roof of the back porch which will help us use this space as part of the Annex renovations. Because our church and offices are old buildings, I am consistently challenged to maintain them in a professional manner within the budget that is allocated. The finance team has always somehow found a way to pay for unexpected repairs. But if you are able to contribute to help offset the costs of the roof projects, it would be very much appreciated. Just think to yourself, how much is it worth to not have me call and ask you to climb on a ladder and rip off an old roof on a Saturday?

*Michael Bruder*

## "After the Ecstasy, the Laundry"

We are excited about the upcoming visit by Bill Schulz to our church on Saturday, December 9. Bill will celebrate with our congregation our first 140 Years of Standing Witness. Bill plans to arrive in Kent at 5PM, and we will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and good conversation with him in the Founders Lounge. Dinner will begin at 6PM in Fessenden Hall. Our dinner is being generously donated and prepared by Elaine Yehle Bowen and Bill Bowen, with help from Bonnie Esparza. Bill's talk at 7:30 in the sanctuary will address the religious dimensions of human rights work, with references to Bill's experiences here in Kent as a young minister. His talk is entitled "After the Ecstasy, the Laundry." Tickets for the dinner are now sold out. The talk is free and is open to the public, but you need a ticket to get in. Check with Vivien Sandlund for tickets to the talk. Child care will be provided.

## Commissioned Lay Leader Program Update

At the September congregational meeting, members voted to support my application to participate in the Commissioned Lay Leader (CLL) Program offered by the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA. I am pleased to report that I was accepted into the training program and my mentor will be Reverend Wayne Arnason of the West Shore UU Church. I am looking forward to working with my fellow UUCK church members during my training as I pursue the following objectives: 1) Actively participate in lay led worship by serving as emergency backup for Sunday morning worship, offering to conduct lay led services as needed, and assisting the Minister in the development of individuals conducting lay led services, 2) Assist with rites of passage by preparing to serve as backup for weddings and memorial services, helping to incorporate rite of passage ceremonies into worship services and offering suggestions on ritual practices, and 3) Increase spiritual opportunities for the congregation by preparing a book of devotions for personal use by congregants and developing an adult spiritual discovery course. I am excited about this learning opportunity and the potential to broaden my relationship with the church family who means so much to me. Thanks for your support!

*Christie Anderson*

## Membership News

We added two wonderful new members to our church community in October, Pat Nelson and Pat Book. Please join us in extending an enthusiastic welcome. You'll see their pictures downstairs on the membership bulletin board.

Thinking of signing the book? Please contact Kay Clatterbuck or watch the Thread from the Web in December for more information.



## Elves Workshop

Sign up your children (ages 3 and up) now for some holiday fun with their friends at church on Saturday December 2 from 3-6 pm. Parents drop kids, who get to help build a gingerbread-type village with graham crackers and candy. Children can also write letters to Santa, make holiday cards, and do other holiday-related activities. This fun event will be staffed by our trusty and fun-loving senior high youth. (Also overseen by a few wonderful grownups.) The cost is \$10 per family. The kids will get in the holiday spirit and hang out with church friends, parents can go shopping or just enjoy the break! Fun for all! YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER by Wednesday November 29. Sign up at coffee hour or by contacting Beth Straubhaar.

## Save the Dates!

This winter and spring our minister will be leading us through a process to renew our vision and mission and to establish a congregational covenant. The Master Plan Committee will be lending support to the process. More information will follow in subsequent newsletters, but for now we ask that you reserve the following dates in your 2007 calendar:

Saturday, January 20 from 10 – 3  
 Saturday, February 10 from 10 – 3  
 Saturday, March 10 from 10 – 3

This process will help us lay the foundation for our work together for the next 5 years. All members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend these important sessions.

## CUUPS Meeting Schedule

December 4, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Founder's Lounge.  
 December 11, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Founder's Lounge  
 December 16, 2006, 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary – Intergenerational Winter Solstice Celebration  
 January 8, 2007, 7:30 p.m.  
 January 22, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join our group. Watch for our Pagan 101 classes starting in 2007. To be placed on our email list or for further information please contact Beth Straubhaar.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual OMD Winter Institute

### President's Day Weekend February 16-19, 2007

This relaxing and "schedule and stress free" weekend is an intimate gathering for UU's of all ages. There are frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing. For those that choose to stay in their slippers all weekend, there is a beautiful lodge with its many cozy corners and fireplaces. The pool and hot tub are truly a wintertime treat. There are fellow UU's always ready to play board games or to join in the community jigsaw puzzle. We have wonderful community worship services and great conversations.

It is at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge. The park has a beautiful lodge with an indoor pool, game room with pool tables, ping pong tables and video games, lounge and hiking trails. The lodge is handicap accessible. To register go to the [omdsi.org](http://omdsi.org) website for a registration form. Also you will need to call Salt Fork to make a reservation at 1-800-ATAPARK. Ask for the Unitarian Universalist rate. Hope to see you there.

## Change in Director of Religious Education

As some of you may already know, I have had to make a very difficult decision recently. I have decided that the time has come for me to resign from my position as Director of Religious Education at this church. This decision to leave my beloved position in this community was not one that I have taken lightly nor was it a decision that was made in haste. It was the result of lengthy meditations about my role and my purpose in this faith community.

One of my professional goals for this year has been to define for myself and for this community the role of a DRE. This defining process included a great deal of reflection about what it means to be an effective leader. I have come to the understanding that a leader is someone who possesses the ability to be both a visionary, boldly leading a group into a future beyond anyone's highest expectations and—at the same time—be ever mindful of the 1,001 rather mundane details of the job. Not an easy task, for sure.

My work in presence of this community has been a gift to me. I have learned so much about myself. I am not sure that would have happened in another setting. It has been rewarding beyond measure to witness the children of this church grow and struggle to untangle the Mystery of Life. I will miss the children and their families very much. I have always been so grateful and slightly awestruck by the many adults who agree to spend so many Sunday mornings teaching and being with the kids. Their dedication to building the future of Unitarian Universalism will continue to inspire me.

During this time of transition I have begun the process of seeking employment in other fields. I do not think that many would be surprised to learn that my future will involve work with horses and with children or teens in some way.

One of my goals in leaving is to be as minimally disruptive as possible to the Religious Education program. Attendance appears to be on the rise with energy levels following. I will continue to be available to teachers, children and families through the end of this calendar year. My last day in the office will be Friday December 22, 2006.

In Peace and Love, *Michelle Culley*



## Calling All Santas!

The Social Justice Committee has been good this year, and we really, really wish you or someone would donate to us an LDC or DLP projector, so we can show even more movies at the church! Perhaps you, Santa, have tossed aside your old projector, and you'd like to donate it to our church. If so, our stocking is ready. Please contact the Social Justice Committee if you have a projector you would like to donate.

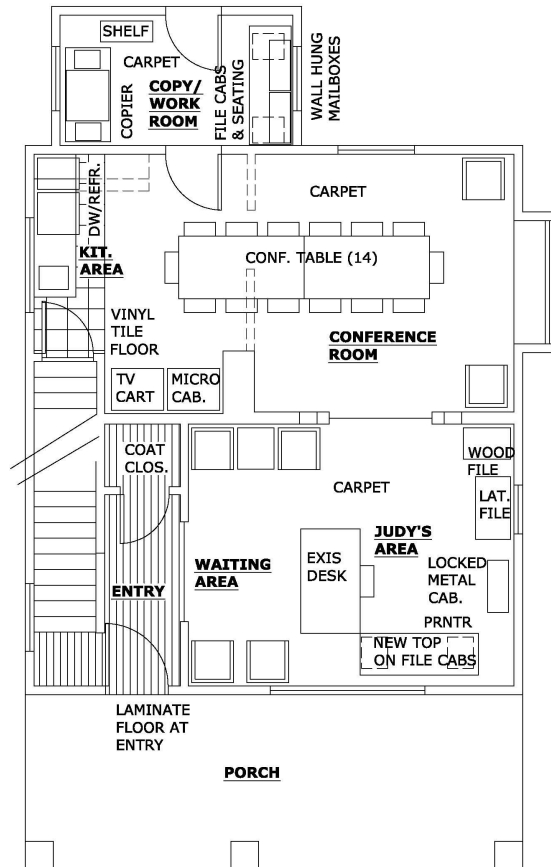
## Renovation Update

Several months ago we received a Chalice Lighter's grant to help our congregation. This program is sponsored by the Ohio-Meadville District to help UU Congregations grow. Individual UU's commit to donate to other congregations within the district when a request is approved. Thanks to the hard work of Mac Goekler who submitted the proposal, we received approximately \$2,400 to expand our meeting space at the Annex.

Since the grant has been received work has been progressing behind the scenes for the Eldredge Annex renovation. I have met with our church staff to review and design the modifications (see plan at right). The new layout will provide an improved meeting space that will allow 14 people to meet at one table. We will also improve the reception, waiting and work areas of the Annex.

Now comes the fun part. I am planning a renovation party for Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 4:00. This is a great way to help the church, have some fun and get know other members. We will have some pizza for lunch to keep up our strength. Although it would be appreciated, volunteers do not have to commit to the entire day, 1-2 hours will be very helpful. We will be doing some minor demolition, furniture moving, some painting, carpentry and electrical work. Do not worry about your skill level; there will be work for everyone. This is a very exciting project and I hope to involve as many people as possible. Please contact me if you are interested.

*Michael Bruder, Trustee for Buildings and Grounds-*



**Eldredge Annex Renovation Floor Plan**

## Winter Solstice Celebration

The Kent UU CUUPS Group invites you to celebrate the Winter Solstice with us on Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is an intergenerational service, but childcare will be available for younger children. Please join us for an evening of song and celebration.

*Beth Straubhar*

## The Gift of Social Justice

This holiday season, why not give the world your support for social justice? Consider joining the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which is our UU social action organization. You can also give someone else a membership in UUSC. The church Social Justice Committee is encouraging everyone in our congregation to join UUSC. By doing so, you will support their critically needed social justice work around the world. Please visit their website at <http://www.uusc.org> and become a member today.

*Vivien Sandlund, Church Liason to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*

## Opportunities in Ministry

It is not too late to apply to be a Worship Associate or a Pastoral Associate for a term beginning this winter. If you'd like more information about these opportunities for service and spiritual development, please contact Rev. Melissa Ziemer for more information.

## Holiday Cheer . . . . .

. . . can come to the hungry of our community in the form of a food basket from Kent Social Services. Please donate non-perishable items to our two church collection baskets. Suggestions include canned fruit & vegetables, canned soup, boxed stuffing & potato mixes, canned or pouch gravy mix, gelatin & cake/dessert mixes. No glass jars or bottles, please.

If grocery shopping isn't your "thing", cash donations to provide for perishable items are always needed and welcome. Checks may be made out to Kent Social Services, 1066 S. Water Street, Kent, OH 44240 with "food pantry donation" on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued generosity,

*Elaine Yehle Bowen*

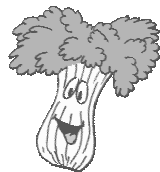
## Pagans and Winter

Here in Northeast Ohio, December seems like a strange time to be thinking about the Sun. Yet the return of the Sun is exactly what we celebrate at Winter Solstice, or Yule. Winter Solstice is the longest night of the year, and, come morning, the sun climbs just a little higher and stays a little longer in the sky each day. The Holly King, who has ruled the waning year since Litha, or the summer solstice, give way to the Oak King, who rules the waxing year. The two kings represent the eternal cycle of life, death, and rebirth.

Many of the traditional symbols of Christmas also have Pagan associations with Yule. Holly, ivy, and mistletoe are all symbols of returning fertility and everlasting life. The custom of decorating an evergreen tree in your living room is directly descended from the ancient tradition of Yule logs – once large logs of ash which were kept burning for 12 hours, then evergreen trees decorated with lighted candles. Even gift-giving originated in the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia, when masters and servants traded places and everyone exchanged gifts of coins, honey, and figs. And Pagans feasted at Yule to express their hopes for an abundant season of growth with the return of the sun.

Whether you celebrate Yule, Christmas, Channukah, Kwanzaa, or some other midwinter holiday, we wish you and yours all the best the season has to offer!

*Beth Wills, Kent CUUPS*



## Neighbors in Need

Please remember to not forget our neighbors in need of food. When you are at the grocery or discount store, please consider picking up an extra can of fruit or veggies, box of cereal, pasta or potato mix, a jar of peanut butter or a can of tuna or soup for the Kent Social Services food programs.

Our collection baskets are located on the ground level opposite the elevator and on the second floor outside the sanctuary. Please fill to overflowing!!! There are so many who need our help.

Heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to Esther Duncan who regularly gathers our generous donations, loads the bags in her car and delivers them to KSS for use and distribution. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Blessed be,  
Food donation reminder-in-chief,  
Elaine Yehle Bowen

## UU Educators theme of Nov. 26 Service

The November 26th service, entitled "Light At the End of the Tunnel" will be devoted to the general topic of Education. The presentation, sponsored by the Committee for Social Justice, will center on two themes: 1) The role of our church founders in the establishment of Kent State and Akron Universities, and 2) The role of UU educators in reforming educational aims, philosophy, and practices in this country from the 19th to the 21st century.



## Tai Chi

Beginners 8:00 PM every Monday in Fessenden Hall

Intermediate 7:30 PM Monday

Advanced 7:00 PM Monday

Beginners are invited to start on any date—come wearing loose clothes.

Taught by Susan Goekler, certified instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta GA. For questions, contact her.

## Yoga Schedule at Church

Sundays - Heidi/Barb

5-6:30 pm - beginner/moderate yoga

Mondays - Heidi Shaffer

10:15 - 11:45 am - gentle yoga

5:15-6:45 pm - gentle yoga

Tuesdays - Margot Milcetich

5:15-6:45 pm - moderate yoga

7-9 pm -challenging yoga

Wednesdays - Heidi

9:30-11 am - moderate yoga

Thursdays - Heidi/Megan

4:15-5:45 pm - gentle/moderate yoga

6-7:30 pm - moderate yoga

## "Read the header" prize winner

Every month there is a different UU quote in the newsletter header. Last month I decided to see if anyone actually reads them, so I entered "First person to tell me they read this gets a prize." At least four of you read it, for that's how many got back to me. The winner was Renee Z. Ruchotzke, who emailed me 43 minutes after the newsletter was sent out. She won locally made chocolate from the editor's favorite chocolate store in Chagrin Falls.

*Brad Bolton*

## From Your Social Justice Committee

We on the Social Justice Committee are celebrating the passage by voters of the Ohio Fair Wage Amendment, which will raise the minimum wage in Ohio from \$5.15 to \$6.85 an hour. Members of the Kent UU Church gathered signatures to put this measure on the November ballot, and we are thrilled that the measure was approved by Ohio voters. We now turn our attention to the issue of health care for all. The Social Justice Committee has created a task force to work on promoting universal, affordable health care for all people. Susan Goekler will chair this task force.

The Social Justice Committee has decided to fund the church's membership in the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, which is a national interfaith effort to end the use of torture. Our congregation has already endorsed unanimously a resolution against the use of torture by anyone for any reason. The church board recently approved the Social Justice Committee's proposal that our congregation join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. For more information about this effort, you can visit their website at <http://www.nrcat.org>.

We on the Social Justice Committee are renewing our efforts this holiday season to help end the war in Iraq, to bring peace to the Middle East, and to bring our troops home. You can join us as we appeal to members of Congress and the President for an end to the war.

Our social justice film series continues with a showing of two films on Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 7PM in the church sanctuary. We will show the acclaimed documentary "Why We Fight." This award-winning film by director Eugene Jarecki takes us inside the American war machine and examines the origins and nature of American militarism. Also on December 2nd, we will show "Outlawed," a film distributed through Amnesty International about the practice of torture by the U.S. and other governments. "Outlawed" is a half hour documentary that tells the stories of Khaled El-Masri and Binyam Mohamed, two men who have survived extraordinary rendition, secret detention, and torture by the U.S. government working with various other governments worldwide. The film screening is free and open to the public. Child care will be provided. In January, the Social Justice Committee plans to show a film entitled "The Road to Guantanamo," about the Tipton Three, a trio of British Muslims who were held in Guantanamo Bay for two years until they were released without charge. In February we will show "The Empty Chair," a documentary about the death penalty.

We extend our thanks to all of you for your generous donations each month to our special offerings for social justice projects and programs. In October, we raised \$460 for the Darfur Relief Fund of UUSC. Our November special offering went to the Portage County Community Action Coalition's Emergency Energy Conservation Fund, to help lower income families cope with heating emergencies this winter. Our December holiday

special offering will go to the Townhall II Medical Clinic, which provides medical care to people in Portage County who are uninsured and who cannot afford to pay for medical care. For more information about the Townhall II Medical clinic, visit their website at [http://www.townhall2.com/medical\\_clinic.htm](http://www.townhall2.com/medical_clinic.htm).

Your generosity and hard work help to make the world better. Together we make ours a justice-seeking congregation. *Vivien Sandlund, Chair, Social Justice Committee*

## The Pew Give-away

Now that we have raised enough funds to complete the new pews in the sanctuary, we need to find homes for the old ones. Some members have made donations and taken some pews home and four were sold on eBay, but the rest are available free for the asking on a first come first serve basis. I do ask that you take an entire row (four or six seats). If you want a smaller section, perhaps several members can get together to dismantle them into individual pieces, however they share supports so a four seat row would yield three individual seats and a six person row would yield five seats and the finished end panels would not be on every seat. If you are interested please contact me.

*Michael Bruder, Trustee for Buildings and Grounds*

## New Adult RE Class Building Your Own Theology Part II

Please note that this class will meet during the SECOND service on January 7 at 11:30 a.m.

Last summer, we explored BYOT Volume I. It is not necessary that you participated in this class to begin this one. .

There are 10 sessions in the book. The first meeting will be an organizational meeting only. Please be thinking about whether or not you want to meet weekly, bi-weekly, etc., and how long (number of weeks or months) you want the class to run.

We will have a few of the books to look through. We recommend ordering the book AFTER the first session meets.

We will meet up stairs and in "art" classroom. This class is open to all members and friends of the church.



## December Church Events

					<b>1</b> 1:15-4:00 Kent Homeschool Net- work	<b>2</b> 3-6 Elves Work- shop (p. 4) 7:30-10:30 So- cial Justice Movie (S)(p. 8)
<b>3</b> 11-11:30 Board Listening Session (S) 11:10-11:30 Children's Choir (EA) 12:45-2:30 Social Justice mtg. 3-6 Hanging of the Greens 6:30-8:30 Small Group Ministry mtg. (EA) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7:00 AA (FH) 7:30-8:30 Women's Choir (S)	<b>4</b> 10:15 am Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30-9:30 CUUPS mtg. (F)	<b>5</b> 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challeng- ing Yoga	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Yoga 7-9 pm Small Group Ministry Facilitators mtg. (EA)	<b>7</b> 4:30 Yoga 6:15 Yoga 7-9:00 OWL 7:15-9:15 Board mtg.	<b>8</b> 1:15-4:00 Kent Homeschool Net- work	<b>9</b> 7:30-11:30 pm Bill Schultz (S&F)(p. 4)
<b>10</b> 11:10 Children's Choir (EA) 1:00 Congregational mtg. (F)(p. 10) 4-6 Yoga Massage (F) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7:00 AA (FH) 7:30 Women's Choir	<b>11</b> 10:15 Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30-9:30 CUUPS mtg. (F)	<b>12</b> 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challeng- ing Yoga 7-9 Our Many Lives (EA)	<b>13</b> 9:30 Yoga 7:15-10:15 Board mtg. (EA)	<b>14</b> 4:30 Yoga 6:15 Yoga 7-9:00 OWL 7-9:00 Men's Group	<b>15</b> 1:15-4:00 Kent Homeschool Net- work 7-9:00 "Why We Fight" movie (S) 7-11:00 Hogwarts Yule Ball	<b>16</b> 8-4:00 renova- tion begins (EA)(p. 6) 7-9 Winter Sol- stice Celebra- tion (S)(p. 6)
<b>17</b> 11:00 Congregational mtg. (F) 11:10 Children's Choir (EA) 4-6 Restorative Yoga 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7:00 AA (FH) 7-9 Small Group Ministry (EA) 7:30 Women's Choir	<b>18</b> 10:15 AM Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Tai chi	<b>19</b> 2-4 Holiday Tea (F)(p. 3) 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challeng- ing Yoga	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Yoga 1-3 Praxis (EA)	<b>21</b> 4:30 Yoga 6:15 Yoga	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>10:30 Morning Service</b> 6:30 Family Worship Service 7:00 AA (FH) 8:30 Adult Worship Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challeng- ing Yoga	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Yoga	<b>28</b> 4:30 Yoga 6:15 Yoga	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>10:30 Morning Service</b> 7-9 AA						

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall  
\*EA- Eldredge Annex; FH- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; S-Sanctuary  
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after November 15

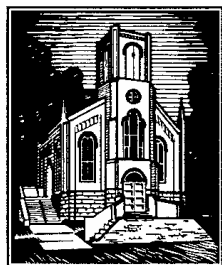
### New Calendar System

Since we're now a busier congregation, we've begun using an on-line calendar that you can access directly at [www.localendar.com/public/kent](http://www.localendar.com/public/kent), or through our website at [www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org). We can update it as often as necessary and you can consult it any time day or night.

Don't have Internet access or really hate computers? Not to worry, paper versions of the same calendar will be available in the weekly *Thread from the Web* and monthly *Chalice Flame* newsletter.

*Judy Brannan*

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



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### **Board Listening Session**

There will be a Board Listening Session on December 3, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Board Listening Session is your opportunity to bring your concerns or questions to the Board. Please plan on attending.

### **Out to Lunch Bunch**

Dec 3 On Tap, 4396 Kent Road, Stow  
(next to El Campesino)  
Dec. 10 China City  
Dec. 17 El Campesino  
Dec. 24 China City  
Dec. 31 El Campesino

### **Congregational Meeting**

The discussion and informational Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This is an important meeting to attend as we will be looking at our church's financial future as we discuss the budget for 2007. The voting Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. We need a quorum to pass the budget, so please plan on attending both of these very important meetings.

### **Book Club News**

We will meet on Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm at the home of Linda Bunyan. If you would like to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 6:30. The book will be *Unwise Passions* by Alan Pell Crawford. This is a non-fiction account of the life of a well-known woman of 18th century Virginia.

### **Celtic Clan December Schedule**

12/4/06 7pm Stow Glenn Assisted Living  
12/11/06 7:30 Practice in the sanctuary  
12/18/06 No Practice  
12/25/06 No Practice

### **New U Classes**

Like to learn more about our church and becoming a member? Or just want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? There will be a four week class offered starting on January 28, running for four weeks through February 18th. The classes meet during second service, 11:30-12:30 in the Eldridge Annex Building next to the church. Please contact Kay Clatterback for more information. Newcomers are very welcome.