



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

May 2008

**Sunday Services**  
9:30 and 11:15

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

**Minister:**

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer  
[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:**

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 1:30

**Religious Ed. Director:**

Diana VanWinkle

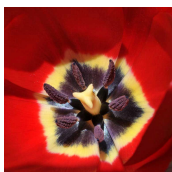
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**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

Dear ones,

I am very excited to present to you the final draft of our new covenant and revised mission and vision. These three statements are the culmination of a full year's work of planning, conversation and deep reflection. The most recent step in this process involved the circulation of working drafts of the statements to all members of the congregation. The Master Plan Committee invited written proposed amendments to the draft statements and did receive several thoughtful proposals. We discussed the amendments thoroughly and considered them carefully keeping in mind the work that we as a congregation have done together over the course of this last year. In the end there were some amendments we incorporated in word, some that we incorporated in spirit and a few that we chose not to incorporate (though we did appreciate the feedback and the conversation that it provoked).

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*Final Draft of our Covenant*

We affirm that each life has brilliance and, when joined with others in loving community, has the power to transform. We pledge ourselves and our resources to this journey.

This covenant inspires and challenges us to dwell together in right relationship. We promise to extend hospitality, nurture community for all ages, encourage spiritual growth, honor our diversity, and practice kindness.

*Final Draft of our Mission*

Through spirited worship and open-minded religious exploration, our mission is to inspire people to live caring lives of meaning and purpose. We seek to encourage curiosity, strive to create peace and justice, and care for the living Earth with reverence and gratitude.

*Final Draft of our Vision*

Our vitality and passion call us to restore and expand our space to equal the energy of our dreams. As we do we are better equipped to carry on our historic legacy and embrace our potential for connection, service, programming and outreach.

You will be invited to comment on these proposed drafts at the congregational conversation meeting on Saturday evening May 10 and asked to vote on them at the congregational voting meeting held between services on Sunday May 11. At that time I hope we will also be able to celebrate this accomplishment with one another and thank the members of the Master Plan Committee (Rhonda Richardson, Jane Krimmer, Mary Lou Holly and Bill Eldredge) and the members of the Committee on Ministry (Kim Marfy, Saul Flanner, Kathie Slater and Jay Grech) who guided this process through from idea to fruition.

In faith,

## May Sermons

May 4 *Spring Reborn – A Beltane Celebration*

Members of Kent CUUPS and Celtic Clan

Beltane is a celebration of life. Traditionally this holiday is associated with bonfires, maypole dancing, and festooning the village and houses with garlands of newly sprouted twigs and flowers. Join the members of our CUUPS group as we celebrate this joyous occasion with song and ritual.

May 11 *Mothers of War*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

In honor of Mother's Day and in celebration of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Justice Sunday, we will focus our attention today on the mothers of war. What are their stories? How can we make a difference for them and their children?

May 18 *Race, Politics and the Kitchen Table*

This morning we will take up Barack Obama's recent invitation to conversation on race. Our service will explore the controversy around the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's now famous sermon sound bytes by placing them in the context of black liberation theology and wondering about what it all means for us. *After the second service we will screen Obama's speech on race and politics and invite you to engage in conversation with one another. We won't be sitting around the kitchen table for the conversation, but you can have coffee or tea if you like. We will begin the screening at 12:45 and finish our conversation by 2:00. All are welcome.*

May 25 *Art - truth versus TRUTH*

KSU professor Gingr Vaughn assisted by Linda Mishler

Gingr will discuss a sculpture of the Hindu god Shiva, Michelangelo's Pieta, a Tibetan Sand Mandala and Mark Rothko's Chapel with Barnett Newman's Broken Obelisk.

Zoe Johnson  
Lauren Edmonds  
Maia Maida  
Easter at church



## OMD Summer Institute

### Tai Chi and Ancient Chinese health

The Chinese master with whom Susan Goekler studied will be in Kent May 17 – 19. He is available for individual consultation on Chinese herbal medicine, meridian balancing, and Chinese martial arts – tai chi and Kung Fu. If you are interested in making an appointment with him, contact Susan. He will be at the regularly scheduled tai chi class at the church on Monday, May 19. He will present a clinic on Saturday night, May 17.

Planning for Ohio-Meadville (OMD) Summer Institute 2008 at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is in full swing. Theme speaker Meg Barnhouse is set to wow the Unitarian Universalist crowds that are expected to converge on tiny Gambier, Ohio, from July 13-19. This year, in a push to make SI a "greener" event and to help our budget, we will be posting the Summer Institute brochure on [www.OMDSI.org](http://www.OMDSI.org) and on [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org). If you are willing to read the brochure online and not get the expensive paper copy via snail mail this year please e-mail us at [omdsi2008@gmail.com](mailto:omdsi2008@gmail.com)

*Dave Murray, SI 08 Chair*

## Message from the Moderator

“... These are the last words I have to say, It’s always hard to say goodbye,  
But now it’s time to put this book away, And that’s the story of my life...”

From Billy Joel, *Famous Last Words*

I write this column as my two year term on the church Board, with one year as Moderator, comes to a close. Reflecting on my experiences, I am struck by how much the congregation has continued to grow the last few years, and I don’t mean only numeric growth. Certainly we have grown in absolute numbers, as our membership tops 200 for the first time in church history. We have also grown in programming, with many new opportunities for spiritual development and social connections. The church Board also recently deliberated on the question of how we can grow our paid staff to support the activities at our church. This continues to be an exciting time for our church, full of promise and possibilities, energy and ideas. This is no small achievement, as many organizations wither or stagnate due to an inability for members to grow and adapt in response to change. As our recent work on mission, vision, and covenant illustrates, our congregation is a generally healthy place where members and leaders are open to new ideas, are not afraid to tackle challenges, and appreciate the need to listen and work together as we support one another on our spiritual journeys.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as your Moderator this year. I appreciate your faith and trust, and in turn took seriously the responsibility to be mindful of the interests of the whole congregation. As is often the

case, there was a mix of challenges and successes. There were opportunities to encourage and support other leaders, to develop greater patience, and to work with others in the development of new initiatives for the congregation. Serving as Moderator has allowed me to gain a “big picture” view of the church, and in the process I have developed an enormous appreciation for the dedicated work of our staff and many lay leaders. Details about the activities of the Board this past year are included in my report in the church’s Annual Meeting Report.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the other members of the Board of Trustees for their contributions. As church activities and budgets grow, volunteer time commitments have also increased, which can place a strain on volunteers given their other obligations and interests. I very much appreciate the time and effort my Board colleagues devoted to church service this past year, as well as their co-operative spirit. Many thanks to Rhonda Richardson, Lori McGee, Beth Straubhaar, Bob Erdman, Jim Scott, Joel Slater, Randy Ruchotzke, and Bret Orsburn. I owe a special thank you to Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, with whom I met monthly to develop the Board agenda and explore other matters in the congregation. I am confident our continuing Board members will serve as positive role models for those who will soon join the Board, and I am pleased to “pass the baton” to our next Moderator, Rhonda Richardson, whom I anticipate will be a very good steward for the congregation.

in faith and fellowship, *Kathy Kerns*



## UUA Marketing Campaign in Time Magazine

The May 12 issue of TIME (available on newsstands May 2) – the highly popular “TIME 100” issue — will carry a UUA ad with the headline, “My God is Better Than Your God,” (a version of this ad ran in the Time December 31<sup>st</sup> “Person of the Year” issue). This full page ad will also include a free DVD offer. The TIME 100 issue features 100 people whose power, talent or moral example help to transform our world. It is one of the most heavily read issues of the year; it’s a perfect issue for our ad.

From UUA

## Lay Leader Development

Are you a newer member looking for ways to become more involved in church activities? Are you an established member looking for opportunities to develop your leadership gifts?

Please consider attending the Ohio-Meadville District Leadership Workshop on Saturday, May 17 in Findlay OH. The workshop runs 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Registration forms are available on the information table in the Founders Lounge, along with applications for lay leader development funding to pay the \$20 registration fee and mileage. Registration deadline is May 10.

If interested in carpooling, please contact Rhonda Richardson.

## Summer Small Group Ministry

Are you new to the church and curious what this program called SGM is all about? Would you like to try it for a limited engagement before the big fall sign-up? If you answered yes both times, Summer Small Group Ministry is for you!

SGM is a 2 hour meeting of 6 to 8 people, guided by a trained facilitator, who will explore and discuss a theme or topic related to our UU religious & spiritual lives.

2 groups are being formed for the summer, one on Wednesday evenings facilitated by Elaine Bowen and one on Thursday evenings facilitated by Linda Mishler. Wednesday night dates are set for 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/23, 7/30 and 8/6 from 7 to 9 PM in Kent at a location yet to be determined. The Thursday session will meet every other week during the summer for 6 sessions; dates are not yet set.

While attendance for every session is not mandatory, we ask for a commitment of at least 5 sessions for continuity of the group process. For further information or to sign up, please contact Elaine Bowen (for Wed. session) or Linda Mishler (for Thurs. session).

### Sacred Circle Cancelled

For the time being, there will be no Sacred Circle on Sunday mornings between services. If you have inquiries, please contact Susanna Smart.

## Library News

We now have a library link on the church website. Our chair, Lynn Kindsvatter, has written an introduction about the work of our library. To this is linked our current wish list. The library is not a church budget item, but, at this time, relies on gift monies and donated books. It is our hope that individuals or committees will determine from time to time that it would be a good thing to buy a book or books for the library. Donations may be made to memorialize a loved one or just in the spirit of generosity. Unless you wish to be anonymous, donor's names, and, if appropriate, the name of the person to whom the book is dedicated, will appear on a permanent bookplate inserted inside the book's cover. Donations are tax deductible. Go to the church website to see the current wish list.

*Martha Kluth*

## Bill Schultz Memorial Peace Parade

The entire Kent UU community is invited to join the friends of Bill Schultz in a special celebration of his life at 4:00pm on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. A Dixieland band will lead a Peace Parade at 4:00pm that will proceed down East Main Street, across Main Street Bridge and down to the riverside park where a tree will be planted in Bill's memory and a brief service observed.

Bill Schultz worked throughout his life in the causes of peace and pro-active conflict management both in his personal life and his many years on Kent City council. The memory of his life and work will be honored with an event that brings together the citizens of Kent with the Kent State University activist community.

The Bill Schultz Memorial Peace Parade will be joined by marchers from the Kent State May 4<sup>th</sup> commemoration led by the Kent State Anti-War Committee and the Portage Peace Coalition. Feel free to bring posters and signs reflecting your personal belief in the power of peaceful expression. Friends are encouraged to gather in front of the Kent Stage approximately ten-fifteen minutes before 4:00pm so that the entire procession can be ready to march at 4:00pm. East Main Street between Depeyster St. and Water St. will be closed to allow for the combined march.

Beginning at 3:00pm on May 4th, musician Andy Cohen and his Dixieland band will lead a small procession from Bill's house on Oak Street, through the neighborhoods, past city hall, arriving at the Kent Stage on the corner of Main and Depeyster at 4:00pm.

Please contact Jeff St. Clair if you'd like to take part in this procession and for further information or input.

*Jeff*



Handbell choir practice in Religious Education.



## Important Background for Annual Congregational Meetings

On **May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**, we will have our annual congregational information meeting. We will be discussing the items scheduled on the agenda for the voting meeting the next day, **May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.** The agenda items are: By-law revisions, elections, Mission/Vision/Covenant statements, and a Health Care Resolution (see Resolution below). There are quite a number of By-law revisions this year, including: our new Mission/Vision/Covenant statements, changes in some Board duties, terms of elected Officers, duties of the Executive Committee, duties of the Treasurer and Trustee for Finance, terms for committees that report to the Board, and other minor changes in wording to reflect current practices in the church. The exact wording of the changes will be available for review in the annual report. Absentee ballots will be available from Kathy Kerns.

Please keep in mind that our time is very limited in the voting meeting because it is between services. If you would like to discuss any of the agenda items, you are strongly encouraged to attend the information meeting.

*Lori McGee*

## Congregational Resolution Calling for Universal Access to HealthCare

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, affirm the Unitarian Universalist principle of the worth and dignity of every individual. We believe that such an affirmation requires us to call for our nation to guarantee everyone a right to high-quality health care, as set forth in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We believe that the best way to accomplish this is a national, publicly-funded, comprehensive system of universal health care coverage. Until such is passed, we call on the legislature of the state of Ohio to enact legislation that would provide publicly funded health care coverage for all Ohioans.

*Susan Goekler*

## Meditation Group Cancelled

The Wednesday evening meditation group will no longer be meeting. It may start up again if there is sufficient interest. Contact Trish McLoughlin if you would be interested in attending a group in the future.

## OMD Chalice Lighter Problem

The Ohio-Meadville District Office recently discovered that their server did not register those Chalice Lighters who signed up online during months of January to the present. The problem is now corrected but there is no way to reconstruct the information about those who signed up during that time.

If you tried to register online for Chalice Lighters during the last three and a half months, please return to the website and register again (you will not be duplicated) or you can send in a hard copy registration using the brochures at your church. Or you may call the OMD Office if you have any questions: 740-252-5980. The website is [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org) and Chalice Lighters is noted under the Programming list.

The OMD Office thanks you for your patience and understanding.

## Religious Education News

The religious experience is alive and well at UUCK! Children and youth have learned about Egypt, birds, Pesach, Daniel Chester French, how to play hand bells and more.

### A glimpse of what is to come

What do juggling, problem solving, games, loyalty, Beatrix Potter, May Day, play dough, drumming, UU principles, friends, and learning all have in common? Come to Religious Education at 9:30 am and 11:15 am throughout the month of May and experience UU RE (Unitarian Universalist Religious Education) Kent style!

**May 4<sup>th</sup> - Beltane.** Children and youth will join the adults in the sanctuary for the first 15 minutes of the service. The children and youth will proceed to their respective class rooms upon leaving the sanctuary.

### May 11, 18, and 25 -

9:30 am – Religious Education will occur in their respective classrooms.

11:15 am - Children and youth will meet in Fessenden Hall to explore drums and drumming. Making drums and learning about rhythm will be top of the list!

**June 1 - Teacher recognition.** We will recognize those who have given their time and talents to teach our children and youth this year!

*It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression & knowledge - Albert Einstein*

Peace - *Diana VanWinkle*, Director of Religious Education

### March Financial Corner

	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	REVENUES less EXP
MARCH ACTUAL:	\$15455	\$18600	-\$3145
MONTHLY PLAN:	\$13517	\$17367	-\$3850
YEAR-TO-DATE MAR:	\$55892	\$53038	\$2854
YEAR-TO-DATE PLAN:	\$49402	\$55724	-\$6322

Once we removed the duplicate entries from 2007 accounting, it still looks like it was a very good year: Revenues exceeded budget by about \$24,000, Expenditures exceeded budget by about \$8000, so the net [Revenues less Expenditures] was \$16,000 over budget. The Annual Report will show more detail, but by any measure it was a very successful year financially.

In March, as in January, Revenues were significantly above plan. Some expenditures were delayed from February. This and high snowplowing costs resulted in March expenditures being higher than the monthly plan. But year-to-date [Revenues – Expenditures] are nearly +\$3000 vs. a plan of -\$6322. We are doing well this year so far compared to both the annual budget and the monthly plan. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

But the difficult period will still be the summer months. Anything each of us can do to accelerate our pledge payments so that most of our yearly pledge is paid by July would be a big help. Also, if you are interested in setting up regular monthly payments automatically through your bank, this can be done, we think without charge in most cases. Contact me for details.

We are preparing Contribution Statements for the first three months of 2008. You should be receiving yours soon. Contact me if you have any questions on your report.

*Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance*

### Substitute Newsletter Editor Opening

There is an opening for the prestigious position of Substitute Newsletter Editor. The job entails generating the monthly church newsletter if the regular editor is unable to do so. Some training recommended. Contact Lori McGee.

### UU University at General Assembly 2008

*Ministry in the Borderlands* addresses the struggles, challenges, rewards and satisfaction of working across religious identities within our congregations and our wider communities. Keynote speaker, The Rev. Nick Carter is actively engaged in interfaith and inter-religious cooperation for action. His keynote addresses begin with the Unitarian Universalist experience and focus on the ways we can bring Unitarian Universalist gifts to healing religious strife in the world.

If your congregation is working with other religious traditions or considering how to get involved, Nick's stories, ideas and activities will help you develop a good plan of engagement. If you are looking for models to engage the religious and theological diversity within your congregation the lessons will apply. Registration and more information on the UUA website: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)



**Kathie Slater presents Liz Erickson her Unsung Hero award at the annual District Assembly, Pittsburgh**

### Tai chi --

a non-impact "meditation in motion." Although you can study it for a lifetime, by coming you do not make a commitment for any number of sessions -- come when you can. You are welcome to start any Monday night. Wear loose fitting clothing, as it is participatory. Questions? Contact Susan Goekler, certified tai chi instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta, GA.

7:00 Advanced

7:30 Intermediate

8:00 Beginner

## May Church Events

<b>27</b> 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 11:15 Life of the Church (EA) 12:30-2:30 Financial mtg. (EA) 12:45 Earth Day Lunch (FH) 3-5 Hogwarts mtg. (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	<b>28</b> 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan- Stow Glen	<b>29</b> Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9 COM (EA)	<b>30</b> 9:30a Yoga 6-8 Finance Comm. (EA)	<b>1</b> 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9 Worship Associates	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH)
<b>4</b> 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 11:15 Life of the Church (EA) 1-3:00 SGM (EA) 4:00 Bill Schultz parade (p 4) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	<b>5</b> 10:15a gentle Yoga 1:30-4 Financial Ops. (EA) 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-9:00 Clan- Woodlands	<b>6</b> Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 6-9:30 SGM Facilitators 7-9:00 Challenging Yoga (EA)	<b>7</b> 9:30a Yoga	<b>8</b> 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9 Men's group (EA)	<b>9</b> 5-6:00 Wedding rehearsal	<b>10</b> 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH) 5:30-7 Program Comm. 7-9:00 <b>Annual Congregation mtg.</b> (p 5)
<b>11</b> 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 10:45 <b>Congregation mtg. - vote</b> 12:30-2:30 Financial Ops. (EA) 1-3 Wedding 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	<b>12</b> 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan- 4 Seasons	<b>13</b> Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Our Many Lives (EA)	<b>14</b> 9:30a Yoga	<b>15</b> Newsletter deadline 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga	<b>16</b> 6-7:30p Prenatal Yoga (FH)	<b>17</b> 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH) 6:30-9:30p Tai Chi clinic (p 2)
<b>18</b> 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 12:30-2:30 Social Justice (FH) 12:30-3:30 Financial Ops. (EA) 1-3:00 SGM (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	<b>19</b> 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan- Kent Health Care	<b>20</b> Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	<b>21</b> 9:30a Yoga	<b>22</b> 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga	<b>23</b> 6-7:30p Prenatal Yoga (FH)	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	<b>26</b> 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 6-8:00 Financial Ops. (EA) 7:00 Tai chi	<b>27</b> Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Living by Heart (FL)	<b>28</b> 9:30a Yoga 7-9:00 Living by Heart (FL)	<b>29</b> 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga	<b>30</b> 6-7:30p Prenatal Yoga (FH)	<b>31</b>

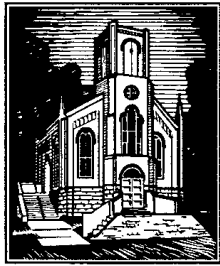
Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall  
 \*EA- Eldredge Annex; FH- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; L- Library; S-Sanctuary; N- Nursery  
 Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after April 22

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).

### Church Picnic June 8

The church picnic will be held immediately after the 10:30 service at Plum Creek Park on June 8. There will be only one service that day. Remember to bring your food and coolers with you to the service.

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



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

### Book Club Gatherings

On Tuesday, May 13, at 7 pm we will meet at the home of Betty Kendrick. The selection will be *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Set during the Depression, this well-received historical novel follows the experiences of a veterinary student who joins a traveling circus.

On Tuesday, June 10, at 7 pm we will meet at Kathie Slater's. We will read *The Rockefeller Women: Dynasty of Piety, Privacy, and Service* by Clarice Stasz. The book shows how this elite family displayed Protestant social consciousness in their significant contributions.

### Out to Lunch Bunch

All are welcome to join with other UUs for a Dutch-treat lunch and lively conversation following each second service in May at China City in University Plaza.

### Celtic Clan

Celtic Clan May Schedule:

5/5	7 pm Woodlands at Robinson
5/12	7 pm Four Seasons Kent
5/19	7 pm Kent Health Care
5/26	No practice



**Gordon Vars presides over the retirement celebration of Emliss Ricks, local nature preserve manager.**