



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

July 2010

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

Yesterday morning I stopped by the Kent branch of the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. While the Kitchen Witches were busy cleaning up lunch, students and their professors were busy learning about a wide variety of lessons revolving around their study of Africa. One of the herbology professors took time to show me around her classroom, explaining the lesson about the importance of Baobab trees in the African savannah and the many uses of gourds. At the end of her course each student had an opportunity to plant gourd seeds and to consider how they might use their gourd once it was ready to be harvested. I peeked in on other classes and found students engaged in learning songs, exploring African culture, creating picture boards and observing chemical reactions. As the busy headmistress Professor Dazzleswift hurried past me, she stopped briefly to say that Hogwarts students had decided to contribute their own money to help with oil clean up efforts in the Gulf. She wondered which organization the Unitarian Universalist Association recommended we support.

I was touched by the childrens' impulse to help. Truth be told I have been so busy being angry and dismayed by the enormity of this environmental disaster that my thoughts had not yet turned to ways we might be able to help. The children of Hogwarts reminded me to cast a larger vision. I checked the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth website and learned they are recommending we direct financial contributions to the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) Gulf Coast Oil Spill Fund. In the short term, funds will be prioritized for support of the human victims of the spill. In the long term, funds will be used to address the ongoing environmental, cultural and economic impacts of this catastrophe. GNOF has the highest possible rating on Charity Navigator and will be using 100% of donated funds for relief efforts. You can learn more about them and link to their partners who are coordinating hands on volunteer efforts at their website: <http://www.gnof.org/programs/gulf-coast-oil-spill-fund/disaster-on-the-gulf-coast/>

Along with the devastating impact of the oil spill, my thoughts have been focused recently on the devastating impact the new anti-immigrant law will have in Arizona when it goes into effect on July 29. I talked with you about my strong opposition to this law and my belief that we are called to witness in solidarity with immigrants in the sermon I delivered on May 16. If you missed it, you can listen to it on our website at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/kentuupodcast>. If you also believe this law is unjust and feel called to make your opposition known, I invite you to join in a solidarity vigil in downtown Kent on Saturday morning July 24 from 9:30 to 10:30 am at the gazebo across from the Home Savings Bank Plaza. I am working with Vivien Sandlund, the new coordinator of our Immigrants Rights Task Force and also reaching out to inter-faith partners in the region who might like to witness with us at this vigil. Look for more details in upcoming editions of the Thread from the Web.

As the formal church year comes to a close, my thoughts have also been directed toward planning for the fall. Christie Anderson, Elaine Bowen, Kristofer Sperry and Marion Yeagler are all finishing their terms as members of the Worship Associate

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Upcoming Sermons

4 July

Doubt Was Our Foundation

Cal Frye and worship associate Susan Goekler

In 1776, this country's Founders created something new, never before seen in political affairs. They had faith in their noble experiment, but not blind faith in either the structure or the outcome. Their faith instead was in the power of experiment and the spirit of Liberty, what Judge Learned Hand called "the spirit which is not too sure that it is right."

7 July Vespers - 7:00 pm

The Summer Day

Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education

The poems of Mary Oliver are akin to gospel in many Unitarian Universalist circles! Her reverence of nature and keen observations delight and inspire us. We'll reflect upon the splendor of July via Oliver's poems and consider what it is we plan to do with our one wild and precious summer.

11 July

Patience is a virtue? Are you sure?

Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker

Description: "What are you waiting for?" sounds like a call to action. But what happens when there is no action to take? What happens when all you can do is wait? Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker know a little about waiting and slightly less about patience, but they're going to share what they do know during their multimedia summer service. Explore patience as a spiritual practice and find out how to use ritual, humor, and storytelling to find joy while you wait.

25 July

Summertime Surprise

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

I am waiting to see what surprises this summer will bring before I write this sermon. I can tell you our services this morning will be a celebration of life. Come share the blessings.



Mark Eckman and Kay jump over the witches' broom at Hogwarts for good luck in their marriage . . . as if they need it.

Expansion Team Report

At the congregational meeting June 12, the Expansion team gave a presentation explaining the options they have been exploring. The congregation is outgrowing the current space. We need to have more space for classrooms and would like a larger sanctuary so we could return to one service. It would also be nice to have a kitchen and enough space for church dinners, and we need to ensure we have adequate space for staff. Parking is also a problem. One option the committee is considering is to expand the current facilities. The prior Capital Campaign Task Force a couple of years ago suggested that the maximum we could raise was \$600,000. With that amount of money, the most space we could build would be 3,000 square feet. To do all we would like to have would require about 4,000 square feet. A second option is to relocate the church. This is a difficult option to consider, as it would mean leaving our present location, and of course a decision to move to a new place would have to be approved by the congregation. The Expansion team has considered some possible spaces, all of which were either more than we could afford or would require extensive renovation. Recently a property came to our attention that might meet our space needs at a price we could afford and that would require only modest renovation. That space is the Twin Lakes Country Club. The Club is in bankruptcy, but the property is owned by another entity and is not in receivership yet. It has over 8000 square feet with a mix of large spaces that include a space large enough for the congregation to meet in one service and smaller spaces that could be offices and classrooms. The clubhouse and the 2.5 acres that it sits on are for sale. The country club members would like to keep the golf course itself. Recent photos of outside and inside the club can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/28jt343>

At the conclusion of the Expansion Team's presentation, a straw poll revealed that those present thought we should proceed with investigating the Twin Lakes property and see if it seems feasible. There is a time issue because without a sale, the property will also enter into bankruptcy sometime this summer. A second team known as the Due Diligence Team, has been appointed

to explore the Twin Lakes property possibilities. With the approval of the congregation, the team would conduct negotiations, if it seems warranted. As the idea of relocating the church requires thoughtful deliberation, we want to provide opportunities for the exchange of information. If you have suggestions or questions you would like this group to investigate, or comments to share, please notify the Due Diligence team through the church moderator Kristofer Sperry. That group will bring its findings to the congregation at the upcoming special congregational meetings. If you have questions about this report, please contact any member of the Expansion Team (Kathy Kerns, Randy Leeson, Randy Ruchotzke, and John Brannan).

Susan Goekler

Melissa Continued from p1

team. It has been a great pleasure to work with each of them and I look forward to their ongoing contributions to our worship life through vespers and lay led services.

This summer I will be looking for three new members to join our Worship Associate team. If you'd like to explore what this church leadership role is like, please feel free to talk to any outgoing or current Worship Associate who would be glad to describe their experience on the team. If you are comfortable speaking in public, are committed to sharing the good news of Unitarian Universalism and would like an opportunity to grow spiritually through this service to others, I invite you to let me know of your interest. Together we will then explore whether this role is a good fit for you and also a good fit for the needs of the congregation at this point in time.

I will be away attending the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association Annual Meeting and our General Assembly (GA), on two weeks of vacation and attending our Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute (SI) through July 17. I will be available by cell phone for urgent concerns while at GA and SI. Our Commissioned Lay Leader, Christie Anderson, will be responding to urgent concerns while I am on vacation from June 28 – July 10.

May your summer be filled with just the right amount of rest and adventure and may the long days and warm nights refresh your spirit.

Yours in faith,

Melissa



Between the People There are No Borders

Our nation was built by immigrants from many lands. A century ago, nativists who opposed immigration denounced the newcomers as threats to the republic. They pointed to the skin color of the immigrants, to the languages they spoke, to the poverty they suffered, to the religions they practiced, and they called for closing the border to the immigrants and for deportation of some. These strangers were many of our grandparents and great grandparents. Despite the hostility they encountered, they stayed, they worked hard, and they built our industries, worked our mines, and grew and harvested our crops.

Today we still see many newcomers working long hours picking the vegetables that we eat, cutting and processing our chickens and our beef, making products that we use. Today, we also see a revived nativist movement that aims to drive the immigrants out and to strip them of rights protected by the constitution. Today nativists again claim that the immigrants threaten our republic, and they scapegoat the immigrants for the nation's economic troubles. They have pushed through laws like the recently passed Arizona law that requires police to question and possibly detain anyone they suspect of being in the country without legal documents. Nativists are calling for children born in the United States to undocumented immigrant parents to be denied citizenship, despite the fact that the 14th amendment to the U.S. constitution guarantees citizenship to anyone born here.

We Unitarian Universalists have proclaimed that we are Standing on the Side of Love in support of immigrant rights and immigrant families. Our UU first principle calls us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and this includes immigrants regardless of their citizenship status.

As part of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, we in the Kent UU Church are forming a task group to support the rights of immigrants and to work for immigration reform. The Social Justice Committee invites interested church members and friends to participate in this group. We need to stand together to resist the assault on immigrants and immigrant families. If you would like to participate or just to learn more, please contact Vivien Sandlund.

Book Group News

On July 20 at 7 pm we will meet at the home of Bonnie Harper. (3rd Tues. this month due to SI). The book will be *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. This story is an epic journey from the Mexico City of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover.

On August 10 we will meet at 6:30 pm at the home of Annie Brightbill. We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 5:30 pm. The book will be *The Story of Edward Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. This is a very successful first novel that tells the story of a mute boy, his family, and his cherished dogs. Details will be available closer to the date.

On September 14 we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Kathie Slater. We will each share a book of our choice about a place--one where we have traveled this year, one where we would like to travel, or one that fascinates us.

Tai chi

Tai chi will not meet during July and August. We will resume in September.



The wonderful wine dinner, a fall auction winning, held at Kristofer Sperry's Myrddin Winery.

Summertime, Summertime, Sum-sum, Summertime!

When the *Chalice Flame* goes to press, the summer Religious Education program will have already begun. The program, *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*, will be lively, fun and informative. Each class stands alone and each class will be lead by a different pair of volunteers. The program aligns with our church's Green Sanctuary initiative and is intended for children age 4 through grade 8 (the middle school youth will have a helping role). The *Time for All Ages* portion of the worship service is on summer break, so children should go directly to the program at 9:30 in Fesenden Hall. There will be no program or supervision of children age 4 and older during the 11:15 service, but nursery care for infants up through age 3 will be provided during both services.

Next week, I will be traveling to Minneapolis for the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly. Because I missed GA last year and I have not participated in much professional development this past year, I am especially looking forward to this gathering of Unitarian Universalist lay and professional leaders. I will be spending most of my time in workshops on various topics related to lifespan faith development. I am especially looking forward to learning more about the emerging trends in faith formation, service learning opportunities for youth and retaining our children. There will be many opportunities for me to network with my religious education colleagues both informally and formally, including the annual membership meeting of LREDA (the acronym for Liberal Religious Educators Association). I always return from GA with new ideas and renewed energy!

Next month, I will be at Summer Institute as I have been every summer since 1990! I am looking forward to being with all the folks from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. This will be a time away from the Sunday-to-Sunday pace of planning and preparing to connect with each other in ways we can't "back home".

I hope you are all have a lovely summer and enjoy whatever it is you plan to do!

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education

It Came From the Library

Andrew Bores has been working very diligently on getting the library database up-to-date. He has also made a chart of our subject areas in the library with their corresponding color codes. This was done with the help of his computer-savvy son, John.

Book from the library featured this month: *The Joy of Living: Unlocking the Secret and Science of Happiness* by Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche (Harmony Books, 2007). This review came from Jon Kabat-Zinn. "An extraordinarily clear book on the whys and hows of cultivating mindfulness effectively in our lives. It makes use of the idiom and exciting discoveries of modern science in ways that are easy to understand and entirely relevant to the meditation practices themselves."



Scenes from the recent Hogwarts gathering of wizards.



Financial Corner

FY 2010 STATUS: As always things vary, quite a bit: In the May 30 intake we had donations of under \$1600, we had donations of over \$4750 on June 6, the budget plan was \$3300/week, and the average of the last many [non-special] weeks was over \$2800. When asked "How are we going to end the year?" I respond with "what are the remaining 3 weeks of donations and expenses going to be?" But in all seriousness, it still seems likely to me that we will end up with a few thousand dollars more at year end than last year, in spite of the roof expenses, which are now paid for!

Please review your donations for the fiscal year vs. your pledge. If any questions, contact me. Remember that checks dated after June 30 will not be applied to FY2010. As always I will be happy to answer any questions on the Contribution Report, and/or discuss any changes that might be needed, in the names on the Report, or any items that do not look correct.

FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING: I was thrilled to hear that Susan Goekler, who was instrumental in defining the new financial structure, was willing to be appointed temporarily to the new position of Church Treasurer. She clearly understands the position and the duties since she led the development of the position, after working with us all to analyze the financial processes and duties. Later, a qualified permanent Church Treasurer will be appointed, the duties of all involved refined as we proceed using the new structure, then, in accordance with bylaws, the appointee will be a candidate for election at the next Annual Meeting. Thanks Susan. It will be great to have someone up to

speed in the position right away, and this process allows time to train the permanent Church Treasurer.

I look forward to continued involvement in FY2011 as the Volunteer Bookkeeper, and to working with others to make this new organization a success. With Susan in the key position of Church Treasurer, I think we can make this a smooth transition while continually improving the financial operation.

This is my last report to the congregation as Trustee for Finance. I thank all those whom I worked with on the Board and in the congregation over the last 30 months for their help, advice, and identification of issues in the financial area. Together we made big strides in improving the financial processes of the church, which will provide a strong basis for our further growth and development. Particular thanks to Gene Wenninger, Treasurer, and Beth Kuemerle and Eric van Baars, Financial Secretaries, who made my job easier by doing theirs so well.

Bob Erdman

Twin Lakes Country Club

Because of our investigation of the purchase of the Twin Lakes Country Club we want to make sure that we have the chance to discuss this as a congregation. We are hereby giving the 2 weeks or more notice for the following special congregational meetings: June 27th, July 4th, and July 11th at 12:30 in the sanctuary. We may not need them- but we have made notice, so that we can if we want to. For sure, we will meet on June 27th. Please be especially mindful to read your ennus and the newsletter or to check the church calendar to keep in the know about the twin lakes property. The church calendar can be found online here:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent>

Kristofer Sperry, Moderator



Melissa and Tyler, the newest foster child.

Kent Social Services Needs Our Help

All the kiddos are home from school, unemployment remains high and people struggle to put food on the table year round. We can help our neighbors in need. Please donate non-perishable, unopened food items for the food pantry at KSS. Always in need are the following: PB & J, canned meals with pop-top or peel-back lids (such as ravioli & hearty soups), tuna, canned fruits & vegetables, pasta & spaghetti sauce, cereal, macaroni & cheese mix, dry potato flakes and 100% juice.

If you prefer, Acme gift cards are in need. Our church sells Acme cards between services on Sunday during coffee hour - we have them in several denominations and they can be donated to KSS. These help clients purchase perishable food items (fresh produce, milk, cheese, eggs, meat) or inedible items not allowed by the state food assistance program (paper products, personal care items, cleaning supplies etc.)

KSS is in chronic need of brown paper grocery bags for folks visiting the food pantry to pack and carry their groceries in. Food and bags may be left in the ground level closet by the elevator or in the large brown wicker basket in the foyer outside the sanctuary.

Please help in any way you are able . . . we can make a difference - one can, one bag, one dollar, one person at a time.

Thank you for your generosity, *Elaine Yehle Bowen*



Thanks from Joanne

Thank you so much to all the wonderful members of the UU Church of Kent, "my church family", for the awesome send off to Mongolia! It was wonderful to see, hug and be the recipient of so many good wishes, and so much love. In addition, I really, really appreciate all the cards and it was so very thoughtful to give me an envelope of cash! The cake was great too! I carry you all in my hearts on my journey! Remember you can follow my adventures on my blog.

Want to have a Collection at Church?

No, not for yourself, silly.

Seriously, how do you go about this?

Well, its really pretty simple: There is a new Collection Activity Form that Judy has available by the mailboxes in the Annex, or call to arrange to get one. Just fill it out and return it to the same mailbox a week or so before you want to start taking money. Once the account is set up, tell everyone the name of the collection, have them put the name on the check or PEW ENVELOPE, and turn in the money. Then the money will be there and accounted for until the person authorized says to spend it. That's IT!

Contact Bob Erdman or Susan Goekler if you have any questions. This is a great way to fund some special stuff, such as the SSL banner, Green Sanctuary, etc. The new Collection Activity Form just enables the church to keep track of all the good things we have going on around here.



Host a Korean Student in your Home

I work with international exchange students coming to the US for an academic and cultural exchange program. We are seeking volunteer host families to welcome students this fall. One of my incoming students is currently a Girl Scout in her native South Korea. However, she does not have a faith background. We're seeking a host family who can help her be involved in scouting and respect her religious choices. I know the Unitarian Universalist churches are so welcoming, perhaps we can find a host family in your congregation?

Eunji is 15 and speaks English. She hopes to be a doctor or teacher one day. She likes to draw, paint and make teddy bears. Her teacher describes her as versatile and courteous.

Eunji will have her own spending money and health insurance. She will attend the local high school where her host family lives. Volunteer families provide room, meals and loving support. There is no typical family! Single parents and couples with or without children can all enjoy welcoming a student.

Can you forward this information to your scouting coordinator or include it in your newsletter? We have many other students who are also seeking host families and they come from a variety of faith backgrounds including Christian, Buddhist and Spiritualist.

Many thanks for your help, we are a non-profit programming working with international teens for over 30 years.

Patty Grasty
Regional Manager
Pacific Intercultural Exchange

Out to Lunch Bunch

On the Sundays when there is not a pancake breakfast, some members of the congregation gather at China City in University Plaza (on Rt. 43 south of town) for lunch. Anyone is welcome to join us for a Dutch treat lunch and conversation. For more information contact Susan Goekler.

Paul Workman Hovancsek Memorial Fund Established

Several people have inquired where they might direct memorial donations in honor of Paul Workman Hovancsek. After considering the options and reviewing the many bills that are beginning to come in from the hospital, the funeral home and the cemetery, Mike and Stefanie have decided to establish a fund that will help them defray these unexpected and significant expenses. You can make contributions by check or cash directly to Home Savings Bank. Simply indicate that your contribution are for the Paul Workman Hovancsek Memorial Fund.



Many flowers were brought to the Flower Ceremony service.

July Church Events

27 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes reflux redux 12:15 Congregation mtg. S 7-9 AA FH	28	29 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	30	1	2	3
4 12:30 Congregation mtg. S p6 7-9 AA FH	5 7:00 Tai chi	6 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	7 7:00 Vespers S	8	9 6:30 COA mtg. EA	10
11 12:30 Congregation mtg. S p6 7-9 AA FH	12	13 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	14 10-1:00 Fes- senden in use	15 Newsletter dead- line	16	17
18 7-9 AA FH	19	20 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	21 7-9:00 Sunday Pgm. Com. EA	22	23	24
25 9:30 Adult RE EA 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes x2 7-9 AA FH	26	27 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	28	29	30	31

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;
CB- Christie and Brad's house

Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after June 20

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.

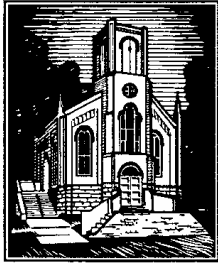


Reid Parsons imagines he is winning the Daytona 500 in the green car the youth are assembling for Summer Institute.



The green car takes shape at Colleen's house with the help of Alex Teagle and Tracey Parsons.

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



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Celtic Clan for July

7/5	No practice
7/12	No practice
7/19 7pm	Stow Glenn, Birch Hall
7/26 7pm	Hudson Elms Nursing Home



Willow Campbell and Camille Pavlicek Fauser
finally meet at the Secret Friends
party at church.



Joey Marfy and Liz Wagoner discover
they are Secret Friends.

Past Sermons Available for Listening

You can listen to past sermons in two ways.

Go to our church website - <http://www.kentuu.org/>
and click on "Podcast link" on the right side. Scroll down
to the sermon you want and click on "Play Now" to listen.
To save the sermon as an mp3 file which you can transfer
to your iPod, right-click on "Play Now" and choose "Save
Link As". Our website provides only the sermon and
other original content.

Brad Bolton