

Hopedale Community News

Volume 32, Number 7

January 2021

Sunday Services (via Zoom) – Service 10:30 am; open 10:20 am

Jan. 3rd -- “Flaming Chalice” This intergenerational service reveals a surprising fact regarding the UU symbol of the chalice and will be presented by our Co-ordinator of Religious Education, Genevieve O’Malley Knight, and some of the children from our Religious Education program: Flora Ruther, Lillian O’Malley, Clara Mortimore, Sylvan Ruther, Mira Davis and Winnie O’Malley. Service Leader: Celia Ellison

Jan. 10th -- "Dignity and Justice at a Food Pantry?" Ann Fuehrer, Executive Director of the Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services, asks us to consider the first two principles of Unitarian Universalism in the operation of a food pantry. Service Leader: Linda Amspaugh.

Jan. 17th – “Spirituality, Self, and Community: The importance of maintaining a spiritual grounding while navigating the expression of frustrations, fears, anxieties, and support from individuals and families working through a shared challenge.” Join Talawanda School Board member, Becky Howard, for this conversation. Service Leader: Drew Ruther

Jan. 24th -- “It is with much embarrassment that I return” Reflections on the story of Shoichi Yokoi. On January 24, 1972, two men checking their shrimp traps along a small river in the jungles of Guam encountered Shoichi Yokoi. Several World War II Japanese soldiers had been left behind on the Island of Guam, and Shoichi was the last survivor. Come join Diane Wright and Service Leader Patty Klingenberg as we reflect on the story of Shoichi Yokoi, and the ways in which each one of us may be hiding from something that is no longer a threat.

Jan. 31st – “A Bible Story for Unitarians: Jonah, the Great Fish, and Even Greater Questions” Muriel Blaisdell will discuss one Bible story compatible with UU values: that of the reluctant prophet, Jonah. Jonah’s story is about one person’s refusal to do the work he knows needs to be done and what happens as a result. Sometimes we have to sit a long time inside a fish (or whale) to learn what we already know. Service Leader: Valerie Elliott.

Notes From Hopedale President Curt Ellison

Facilities Planning

Twenty-six people attended the November 30 Congregational Meeting via Zoom to hear reports by Board members and review progress on facilities improvement planning. Robert Bell explained the conceptual thinking about building functionality that emerged during Needs & Feasibility Assessment Committee deliberations, and discussion followed. It appears that the Congregation clearly favors completing improvements for the lower level to support the RE program, installing an elevator, creating accessible concrete parking spaces, rehabilitating the driveway, and exploring mortgage refinancing along with fundraising to underwrite costs. Other comments deliberated possible kitchen locations, useable space for Sunday worship and prospects for enlarging it, appropriate locations for Sunday social hour, benefits of expanding

the entire east façade, increasing accessibility to all parts of the building and the approaches to it, and the timeliness of possible refinancing.

At its December meeting, the Board authorized creation of a Hopedale Facilities Fund. Donations to this fund will be dedicated to improving the building and property, both immediately and on an ongoing basis. The fund is expected to collect resources to pay the costs of approved construction and other facilities improvements, such as appropriate equipment and furnishings. Contributions by cash donation, stock transfer, 401K distribution, pledged donation, a multi-year giving plan, legacy bequest, or other means are welcome. All donations should be convertible to cash. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Hopedale committees have been invited to review a general concept for facilities improvements during late December and early January, and to return comments for Board consideration. As key stakeholders in the outcomes of facilities improvements, our committees may be able to provide useful insights that inform next planning stages.

If possible, in late January or February we would like to review a general concept for facilities improvements with the Congregation and seek agreement to pursue timely refinancing. If it takes longer than that to assure that key stakeholder concerns are adequately addressed, we will take the time to do so. Only after the Congregation approves financing will we engage an architect to turn a general planning concept into professional drawings. At that point we can expect more detailed consultation with and advice from the architect, so we can make decisions about such practical matters as which function goes exactly where, and especially, how different choices might affect overall costs. When both approved architectural plans and funding are secured, we can employ a contractor and begin construction.

Next Board Meeting

The Hopedale Board will meet *via* Zoom on January 11 at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to attend this meeting, email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513/461-1131 for the Zoom invitation.

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“The General answers his own phone. Must be a Unitarian.”

*– Col. Sherman Potter, M*A*S*H*

RE CONNECTION

Genevieveaok (at) yahoo (dot) com Genevieve O’Malley Knight, RE Co-ordinator 513-593-3275

Religious Education Committee: Jennifer Blue, Peggy Branstrator, Adriane Ruther, and Valerie Elliott, VP Religious Services

The Religious Education Committee will be meeting Saturday, January 2nd. Stay tuned for plans for winter and spring activities. Activities will include Adult R.E book discussions -- we have had a couple of people volunteer to share their recent reads. Please let Genevieve know if you'd like to share too.

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

By Liz Woedl and Libby Earle

Thanks to everyone who helped with the cookie exchange. With a match from the Social Justice Committee fund, we were able to send \$400.00 to TOPSS. Hopefully we can be social next December.

Beloved Conversations

Now is the time to begin thinking about if and how you want to be a part of a virtual course, Beloved Conversations. “*Beloved Conversations*—the signature offering of The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School—is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. In *Beloved Conversations*, we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together.” Use the link below to learn the details of the program.

<https://bcvirtual.meadville.edu/p/home>

In order to get a possible discount, **The Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati is offering to serve as a fiscal agent** for all Unitarian Universalists in Southwest Ohio who want to participate in the Beloved Conversations program that will be offered in early 2021 by the Meadville Lombard Theological School. More information on Beloved Conversations should be available in January, with registration starting in early February. Meadville Lombard has offered a 10% discount for groups of ten or more and a 20% discount for groups of twenty or more. We anticipate the expense before discount will be \$150.

Please speak to a member of the Social Justice Committee if you wish to participate but need financial assistance. Funds are available for one full scholarship.

Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

(jonwb@earthlink.net)

Citizen’s Climate Lobby

I have been writing about different environmental organizations in this space. An international environmental group that I want to describe this month is Citizen’s Climate Lobby (CCL). This non-partisan group is laser-focused on reducing climate change, the most pressing current world environmental issue.

CCL was founded in 2007 to advocate for national policies to reduce carbon emissions. They build on shared values to develop personal relationships with elected officials to support non-partisan approaches to solving climate change.

CCL founders studied solutions and in 2009 decided to support carbon fee and dividends as the fairest and most effective approach to slowing climate change. In 2018 they sponsored the introduction of *The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act*, House Resolution 763, to the US Congress. This plan sets increasingly higher fees on carbon emissions at their source and returns the money collected to taxpayers as a monthly dividend. Recent research shows that HR 763 will reduce emissions at least 40% in 12 years. It does not require lots of complex regulations and does not specify the methods used to reduce emissions. Because of concerns about increases in the price of goods and the burden this may place on households, especially low-income households, CCL studied these effects. This study showed that the lowest 40% of households by income will get more back from the dividends than they will pay in increased costs. Households of color will also benefit more. These graphs are published on the CCL website.

CCL has carefully cultivated a respectful, non-partisan approach in their advocacy. Co-sponsors of the bill join in pairs – one from each party. Lobbying groups include persons with different political views and emphasis is on shared values.

The nearest CCL Chapter is in Springfield and we share the same US House Representative. They meet with Rep. Warren Davidson's staff regularly to urge his support for HR 763. Their chapter chair did a Zoom presentation to Hopedale last June which is available to anyone who may be interested.

Action Item: Look up CCL on the web and learn something about it and share that with one other person. Then email Rep. Davidson and express your support for action on climate change.

Congregational Life

knightcm@miamioh.edu

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204

Sadly, in 2020 we lost two members of our community: Gisela Bahr in March and Wayne Copenhagen in early December. Since their health had kept them away from Hopedale the past couple of years, we had already been missing their personalities, talents and smiles for a while now. Please see their obituaries at the end of the newsletter.

Around Hopedale

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kiefer Bell – You may have seen Kiefer's picture in the *Oxford Press* three times this fall. He was named the Southwest Ohio Conference Runner of the year and he came in 20th at the state cross-country meet!

Evan Danielson -- Miami University's Department of Music annually sponsors the Concerto Competition, which provides an opportunity for students to perform a concerto or similar work with a large ensemble. This fall there were four winners (usually each playing a different instrument). Evan, who played Beethoven Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Opus 58, first movement, was a unanimous judges' choice and the only piano winner. Normally the winners would play with the Miami University Symphony Orchestra the following Spring semester. However, with no live performance this year, it is believed that Evan will be professionally recorded and this will be presented virtually as part of the Miami Performing Fine Arts series next semester.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH!

Staying Connected

Keep those cards and letters flowing!

Please remember to continue your caring outreach by sending cards to those we aren't able to see on Sundays and who may be even more isolated than most!

Directory

The new directory will be distributed by early January.

Message from our UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray In This Holiday Season, May We Simply Be

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we embark on this season of holidays and holy days, I hold you and our faith community in deep care. This season will be different than any we can remember. We cannot gather in our sanctuaries and sacred spaces, bedecked with greenery and poinsettias. We cannot gather close together in candlelight and song. Our dearly held traditions that bring so much joy to this season of magic and beautiful darkness will be pared down, virtual, even canceled altogether.

It's heartbreaking to think of going through this season without the company of extended family and friends. And for so many of us who have lost loved ones, our grief will be heavier during the holidays—especially in a year such as this.

It reminds me that it is more important than ever that we let the people in our lives know how much we care about them. We need each other now more than ever. I am grateful for the ways technology allows family and community and colleagues to gather and support each other across great distances. In this spirit, I offer this holiday video message to you and your congregation. I invite you to use it in an upcoming worship service. [Available at UUA.org]

Now is the time to lean in more to relationships of care and compassion, to lean in more to our interdependence. Gathering virtually, calling our friends, checking in on each other—it matters. One of the things keeping me rooted these days is remembering to take it one day at a time. It is so easy to focus on missing what cannot be or the difficult road still ahead in the pandemic. In staying attentive to the present, I am able to attend to my grief, while also being open to the affirmation of life that is still very much present.

My hope for each and every one of us, in the midst of a season so often marked by hectic to-do lists and the recreation of some “perfect holiday,” is that we give ourselves permission to rest, to simply be, rather than always doing. To tend to the grief and the joy that is a part of our lives. To make room in our days for our spiritual care and renewal.

Just as the earth takes time to rest in the winter, let us remember the gift of darkness that is part of this season—a reflective moment in the cycle of life. In the words of Buddhist teacher Stephanie Nobel:

“Dark is the rich fertile earth
that cradles the seed, nourishing growth.
Dark is the soft night that cradles us to rest.
Only in darkness
can stars shine across the vastness of space...
There is mystery woven in the dark quiet hours.
There is magic in the darkness...
We are born of this magic.”

I send you all my love and many, many blessings during this holiday season.

Happenings at Hopedale

RE Committee meets on Saturday, January 2nd at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

Sunday Service committee meets after the service (11:45 am) on January 3rd via Zoom.

Board Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Curt Ellison at ellisocw@miamioh.edu or 513-461-1131 for the Zoom invitation.

Beyond Hopedale

Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati

On May 9, 2021 UUCGC is hosting a virtual joint worship service with the other area UU Congregations. Not everyone knows the role of UUCGC. Libby Earle currently serves as secretary and Liz Woedl, recent past president, serves as a representative of Hopedale. The President of UUCGC, Dan Schneider of First Church, is offering the explanations he shared with his congregation:

Stronger Together

Unitarian Universalists are **stronger** and more effective working **together** than separately. Recently I became President of the **Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati** (UU Council or UUCGC). The UU Council meets quarterly and includes delegates from all six of the UU congregations in Greater Cincinnati. We share news and ideas on how to effectively achieve our missions and live the UU principles. I have been attending the UU Council meetings for more than eight years.

The UU Council originated in the 1960's as leaders of many diverse religious traditions came together to address serious issues facing our city. An interfaith organization, the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC), was formed to speak with a strong, united voice to address social concerns such as racism and poverty. Local UU congregations decided to form a local united organization so that we could be a significant part of MARCC.

As a part of MARCC, we participate in annual meetings with people from many faith traditions to choose two major issues to focus on for the coming year. Currently MARCC is concentrating on displacement/affordable housing/homelessness and on community-police relations/justice reform. In cooperation with the Catholic Archdiocese, MARCC has established an identification card that can be carried by any resident of Hamilton County and is particularly valuable for undocumented immigrants and recently incarcerated people. MARCC has established a court watch program that a number of First Church members have participated in, and judges and attorneys have praised the program for helping to shine light on our criminal justice system.

The UU Council has taken the lead on important joint UU projects. On March 4, 2012, Lee Meyer was the project chair for the March Forth for Justice event on immigration justice at the Sharonville Convention Center. The keynote speaker was Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, at that time Minister of the UU Congregation in Phoenix, Arizona. The UU Council coordinates local UU participation in the Cincinnati Pride Parade and in the Festival of Faiths. The council contributes financially to Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO), and at our September UU Council meeting UUJO representatives led a conversation on UU the Vote.

Local UU Council leaders and others met recently to discuss a united local participation in Beloved Conversations, an anti-racism program from Meadville-Lombard Theological

School that a few of our members have already been involved with. Each congregation may send three representatives to the Council.

Support Hopedale

Pledge payments or donations can be made to Hopedale UU Community by mailing them to our Treasurer: Richard and Judy Schlub, 2849 Stone Mill Way, Hamilton, OH 45011.

Remembrances

Gisela Bahr

Gisela Bahr, founding member of Hopedale, died Monday, March 16, 2020, at the Knolls of Oxford. We, at Hopedale, remember her as an early and prescient advocate for environmental sustainability who led our first efforts to embrace this issue as part of the central core of our collective spiritual practice. This effort extended nationally as well. In 1999, Rev. Fred Small issued an inspirational call to action at the UUA General Assembly, which energized a new audience of UUs with the idea of a national environmental program, with the overwhelmingly strong support of the youth representatives. At GA Gisela Bahr introduced a Study Action Issue on Responsible Consumption as a Moral Responsibility, which was adopted as a Statement of Conscience in 2001.

She was born in 1923 in Landsberg an der Warthe, then in Brandenburg, now part of Poland. She completed her PhD at New York University where her dissertation on Brecht's *Im Dickicht der Städte*, won her first prize for the best NYU dissertation of 1966. After completing her studies, she first taught at Rutgers University before joining the faculty of Miami University in 1972. There she chaired the Department of German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and finished her academic career as professor emerita of German in 1987.

Her passionate advocacy for voluntary simplicity included serving on the board of the UU Ministry for Earth. In 2018, The International Brecht Society honored Gisela E. Bahr for her life's work on Berthold Brecht. We will miss this multifaceted woman who enriched the lives of so many of us.

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Charles Wayne Copenhaver

Charles Wayne Copenhaver passed from his life of adventure and discovery on this earth into his next big adventure on the evening of December 1, 2020, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease and then a short battle with COVID-19 at Rosebud Village in Richmond, Indiana.

Born September 29, 1944, in Canton, Illinois, Wayne grew up on a farm, where he learned to love the land and began a life-long connection to the natural world. After graduation from Canton High School in 1962, Wayne earned a Bachelor of Science in Russian Language from Western Illinois University and a Master of Science in Russian Language from Indiana University, Bloomington. He taught Russian language for one year in the public school system in Richmond, Virginia, after which he served his country as a Conscientious Objector during the Vietnam War. His service was in the Medical Records Department at the Veterans Hospital in Indianapolis, where he worked as a medical

transcriptionist. After discovering Quakerism, Wayne lived and studied for three years at Pendle Hill Study Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1987, he settled into his studies at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana, where he earned a Master of Ministry degree.

Wayne lived a life of service to others, advocating for peace and social justice issues locally and in the wider world. He helped establish Neighbors East and West in Richmond which organically grew into the people-to-people diplomacy initiative with the Soviet Union, Richmond Sister Cities. As a fluent Russian speaker, Wayne led or co-led numerous trips to Serpekov, Russia, and several surrounding cities during the 1980s Cold War. He also worked tirelessly to provide introductory talks about the Russian people to regional school and community groups. Wayne was a founding member of several other social justice advocacy efforts in Richmond, including Community Builders Study Circle Program on Race Relations, the Conflict Resolution Center, and Open Arms Ministries, a community-wide coalition of local churches who work together to help the poor in Richmond.

In September 1988, he met Orlita Kissane, when she joined a tour group he was leading to Serpekov, Russia. They were married August 19, 2000, in the woods at Whitewater State Park, where Wayne had spent hundreds of hours hiking trails since coming to Richmond. With that marriage, he received the gift of two stepchildren and five grandchildren.

A true Renaissance man, Wayne was an excellent musician on a variety of instruments. He served as pianist and organist in many churches over his lifetime. Wayne also played recorder, flute, ocarina, and folk harp, having built his own. He was a singer, dancer, and storyteller. Wayne was a hiker/trailmaker, an artist, and a reader and writer of poetry and prose. He was a kind and gentle presence wherever he went and had a huge concern for the poor among us. And Wayne never shied away from saying what was on his mind.

A master gardener, he planted flowers wherever he lived, developing the most beautiful gardens, including at First Friends Meeting. A loyal member of the Whitewater Wanderers for many years, Wayne spent hundreds of hours hiking and clearing new trails in local wooded areas: Lick Creek Summit, Earlham woods, Springwood Park, and Middlefork woods. He possessed a wonderfully rich imagination and loved to study maps and travel to places far and wide. Wayne enjoyed camping, canoeing, and kayaking.

He worked at West Richmond Friends Meeting as administrative assistant and office manager for many years, then at Richmond First Friends Meeting, retiring in September 2013. While in those positions, Wayne continued to serve as a teacher and facilitator of learning and spiritual growth. He was ecumenical in the deepest sense of the word, always learning about new ways to bring people to a greater understanding of, respect for, and acceptance of each other. Wayne remained a teacher in his heart until his death.

He began his final job as a church pianist at Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community in Oxford, Ohio, in 2003. While there, Wayne also served as the church's first choir director. He and Orlita remained as fully engaged in that church community as possible until his retirement in May 2018. Over the years, one of his greatest joys was playing for weddings and funerals, and he worked conscientiously to make each as personal and meaningful as possible.

Wayne is survived by his wife of 20 years, Orlita Kissane; sister, Ardith (Ron) Geier of Williamstown, Missouri; two stepchildren, Michael (Agnes) Roberts of Puerto Rico and Jenney (Jeff) Holthouse of Syracuse, Indiana; five grandchildren, Lindsay (Ben) Crawford, Vivienne (Matya) Szabo-Roberts, Sam Stone, Orion Roberts, and Kate Bolinger; two aunts; many dear cousins, nieces, and nephews; and hundreds of close friends in many

places across the globe. He was preceded in death by his mother, Bernita Casson Copenhaver and father, Kenneth Copenhaver.

A Celebration/Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Donations in Wayne's memory can be made to: Open Arms Ministry, P.O. Box 1012, Richmond, IN 47374 or any charity that is important and meaningful to you.