



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

March 1, 2018

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



March 4

Non Lo So: Practicing Humility

We begin our exploration of humility, an often-misunderstood concept. Our culture loves big egos and can misinterpret arrogance and hubris as confidence. Join us as we look to humility as a sign of courage and high self-esteem and ask how might we practice humility?

-Led by Rev Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Leslie VanKuren

Focus Collection: Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio

March 11

Is My Compassion Showing?

We all need to practice and to benefit from compassion, particularly these days, but are we truly being compassionate? Does our willingness to accept compassion overshadow our willingness to extend it to others? Compassion is a major Buddhist teaching and practice, and will be examined from this perspective.

-Led by Venerable Shih Ying-Fa, Abbot of CloudWater Zendo, the Zen Center of Cleveland

Worship Associate: Mike Gold



March 18

Becoming Visible

We will explore the process of becoming more and more real in the world and what inhibits that from happening.

-Led by Dr. John Gordon, III, University Chaplain, Baldwin Wallace University

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

March 25

The Ground We Walk On

Humility comes from the same root word as humus. What would it be like to be grounded, to be rich and nurturing that we are like humus, the catalyst for the growth of ourselves and others? Come and join the conversation about how to cultivate humility and compassion.

-Led by Rev Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

The Forum

Message from your Minister

Humility

“Religion is to do right. It is to love, it is to serve, it is to think, it is to be humble.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

As I write this, my partner is working on our taxes. I am practicing being content to pay what I owe, because it is one way that I contribute to the good of the whole. I choose to imagine my money going toward Head Start, mental health clinics, Veteran’s services and other worthy ways that this democracy cares for those in need among us.

This is one way I am practicing humility this month. Though I live in a culture that celebrates arrogance, greed and self-centeredness, I believe in humility. I like to think of it as freedom: freedom from arrogance, freedom from having to be perfect or right all the time. I have found that those I admire most are modest about their accomplishments; they spend their energy appreciating and supporting others rather than aggrandizing themselves. They have room in their hearts for awe and wonder. So I try to emulate their priorities.

Modest does not mean weak. Humility does not mean a lack of self-confidence. I find humble folks to be both courageous and confident, as they go about doing what they are called to do without a lot of fanfare. They are the ones we count on, the ones we return to over and over again. They are the ones creating community and possibility.

How might you practice or cultivate humility this month? If you have a negative response to that question, to this word or to this theme, I invite you to get curious. Sometimes what we react to has something to teach us. Come to church and let’s explore together.

For some of us the winter has been long and hard. If that’s true for you, please call or email me. Let’s be together as we await Spring.

Know that you are loved,
Rev. Kristen

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Focus Collection for March: Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio by Nancy Peltola , Social Justice Committee

SWUU Church has Reproductive Health Organizations through our focus collections for many years. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court that recognizes the constitutional right to privacy for women to make their own personal medical decisions. Yet many right wing groups still try to undermine this right. PPGOH needs our support to fight against those who would like to see Planned Parenthood defunded.

Planned Parenthood, commemorating its 100th anniversary, operates 19 health centers throughout Ohio. PP offers reproductive health care services for women, men, and young people. It supports people of color, those with low incomes, and the LGBTQ community. Its mission is to strengthen individuals, families, and communities by providing health care and responsible decision making about parenthood, relationships, and sexual health.

Some services and numbers from their most recent annual report:

- PPGOH served 63,738 patients last year with birth control, HIV and STI tests, pregnancy tests, and cancer screenings
- Works to address abortion stigma — at least ½ of all American women will face and unintended pregnancy by age 45
- Runs a Peer Education Program to educate teenagers on a fact-based medically accurate sex ed. curriculum
- Runs the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies prenatal outreach program for at-risk mothers

More information is available at www.ppgoh.org, in the SWUU lobby, and on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Your donation during March allows PPGOH to continue to provide affordable, quality, confidential care to its patients. Every Gift Matters.

Urban Hope News by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Debby Gorencic and Jan & Scott Wehn took the healthy snacks to Urban Hope Sunday, February 11th. It was a successful visit as there was plenty of food to eat as well as wrapped food for the guests to take with them. There are some new guests at Urban Hope. Some of them have mental health issues, and need to be approached with extra kindness and empathy. A few seem angrier, and also need to be approached with extra care. It only reinforces how much we are needed. The majority are especially grateful, and we receive many “God Bless You’s!” Please know that your generous donations are needed and appreciated. Our next visit is Sunday, March 11. Please sign up to donate on the poster in the lobby. We have suggested foods on the chart, but any wrapped foods for take aways are appreciated, as well as fresh fruit and homemade treats. Thank you for your generosity. Please have the food at church by Sunday, March 11.

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**Join Us to Celebrate
El Tres De Marzo
A Service Auction and
Celebration of Mexican Culture
Saturday, March 3, 4-8 pm**

by Danelle Baker-Miller

By now, we hope you've heard about our service auction coming up Saturday, March 3, from 4-8 pm. Join us for great food, music, activities for kids and adults, and most importantly, our annual service auction! As part of this fundraiser, the Hospitality Committee and other SWUU members are serving a taco bar with Mexican desserts. If you choose to have dinner, the **cost for the meal is \$10 for adults (ages 13 and up) and \$5 for children.** SWUU members who join us for dinner will see these charges appear on their auction bill. Friends and other guests who will not receive an auction bill can pay cash.

Throughout the evening, we will have tickets available for activities, including a piñata, face painting, games, a dessert dance (formerly known as a cakewalk), a fortuneteller and the raffle baskets available in the sanctuary. Most importantly, the sanctuary will be the site of the auction where you can bid on services, hikes, parties, and other fun and valuable items offered by our congregation. The service auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year and contributes an important part of SWUU's operating budget.

Please plan to join us! We look forward to a memorable evening of fun and fellowship, not only to celebrate El Tres de Marzo but the spirit of our community at SWUU!

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Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

As I write this column, we are putting the finishing touches on our grant application to the Chalice Lighters program to fund the much needed repair (restoration, really) of our church steeple. Completing the application has been a fairly monumental task that has consumed most of February for several of us. I would like to give special recognition to Hallie Davis and Sherry Spencer who have done the bulk of the work. These forms can be overwhelming in what they request, but Hallie and Sherry went at it with gusto and got the job done. Please give them a hug if you see them at church and thank them for their efforts. We will find out in April if we were successful.

I would never call putting together a grant application package like this fun, but being a small part of it has been surprisingly inspiring. Much of what it asks for is evidence that your congregation is organized, thriving, and either poised for or in the midst of growth. And by growth, they are looking for more than just membership numbers. The inspiration came as I looked over all of our assembled 'evidence'. Did you know that we have the fourth highest pledge per member or friend in all of Ohio? Did you know that we are in the top four in percent attendance on Sunday? How about that we now boast 90 members and 47 friends? Want to read more?

- We have at least 3 new initiatives going this year aimed at welcoming and integrating visitors and friends
- We are well-staffed for a church our size, and are even looking to expand a bit
- We have stepped up our already impressive social justice activities by increasing our involvement with Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), by actively engaging in our Race and Resilience workshops, and now by joining forces with UU Justice Ohio.
- We have at long last started an Endowment Fund.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg! Imagine, all this and we are still one of the youngest congregations in Ohio (at the tender age of 30). We are indeed a thriving, forward-looking community. I am proud to count myself among you, and grateful to you all for all that you do. Well done everyone!

OH NO! I Missed the Auction

by Susan Paxson, FUNdraising Committee

The Tres de Marzo auction is on Saturday, March 3rd so the good news is that you haven't missed it yet. Of course, we hope everyone will be there, and if so, we hope you signed up for your dinner seating so we know how much food to prepare! But what if you realize you aren't going to make it, and you don't want to miss out on all of those great dinners and parties and hikes and services? All is not lost! You should have received your list via email last Sunday. If you didn't get it for some reason, let me know and I will resend it. If you see some items you would like to buy, just send me an email and let me know you would like to be on the list. This won't guarantee a spot but if there are spaces available, you will be put on the list at the end of the evening. If you are willing to take your chances, wait until after the auction and the items with spots left will remain out at church for at least two Sundays afterwards. Contact me at susan@paxson.us if any of this doesn't make sense or if you still have questions.

So Happy Fundraising to all and to all a good day!

The Forum



SWUU on the Web

For general information about SWUU, services, sermons, committees and the most up-to-date calendar of events, visit our website at:

www.swuu.org

Receive The Forum Electronically!

If you would like to receive The Forum via email, contact

forum@swuu.org

Join the SWUUList

If you would like to join a newsgroup focused on those issues of importance to SWUU, check out the SWUUList. Go to www.SWUU.org and click on SWUUList for details.

Sermons

If you would like to receive sermons via email or by mail, contact office@swuu.org

Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the Board Minutes via email, contact office@swuu.org, and put "Board Minutes" in the subject line

Editorial Team

Dan Paxson
Susan Paxson

Would you like to submit something to The Forum?

- ◆ Write as if the reader is new to SWUU
- ◆ Include first and last names, and area codes
- ◆ Include a contact person, phone number, and email if possible
- ◆ Include the city in which the event is located
- ◆ Avoid or explain insider terms and abbreviations
- ◆ Explain Who, What, Where, and When (How and Why are often helpful as well.)
- ◆ Encourage volunteering and participation gently.

Submission guidelines apply to articles and Order of Service announcements. Order of Service announcements may be sent to office@swuu.org by Thursday morning of each week.

Articles are edited minimally, only to ensure that these guidelines are met.

The Forum is published on the 1st day of each month
Submissions should be sent to forum@swuu.org by the dates listed in the calendar of each issue.

The Board of Trustees meets once per month. Check the calendar in each Forum for the specific date. Everyone is welcome to attend. Minutes from the meetings will be available for members upon request to the Board Secretary.

The Forum

Wednesday Book Group Reads

"Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family"

by Sue Davis

In March the Wednesday Book Group will start reading "Becoming Nicole" by Amy Ellis Nutt. The book is described as "The inspiring true story of a transgender girl, her identical twin brother, and an ordinary American's family's extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning science reporter for The Washington Post."

The Wednesday book group meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 3 at the home of Keith Mathews in Strongsville. We read and discuss the book as a group. We always welcome new participants. If you're interested, this would be a great time to join us. If you want more information, please contact Sue Davis.

Cooks' Night Out

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

Ellen Hansen-Ellis is planning our dinner out this month on Friday, March 16th at 6:00 PM. We will be meeting at Jaipur Junction, located at 9249 Sprague Rd in North Royalton, for Indian cuisine. This is a chance to eat out with friends and get to know one another in an informal atmosphere. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to by Wednesday, March 14th so she can make a reservation. Hope to see you there!

Help Make Our Garden Bloom!

by Sherry Spencer, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Yes, Spring is on its way! The SWUU gardeners will soon be out tending to our lovely surroundings. Might you like to pitch in?

The team will have an organizational meeting after church on Sunday, March 11th. Many hands make for a lighter schedule! Questions? Call me.

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We Will Rise Together

My experience at Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) University

by Anastasia Birosh

I attended the GCC University held in early February 2018 at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights. The “University” was two and a half days of experiential learning and instruction on building power for social justice.

The university began with the niceties of introductions and individual meetings – whereby we sat with a person we didn’t know and found out how the other person got here - in essence, what motivated us to attend, and what we were hoping to learn. The gloves soon came off as we moved to the next portion of the training.

The first day ended with mock negotiations between a workers’ union and the multinational buy-out team from Shirts-R-Us. The goal was for both sides to agree on a settlement. We all participated as both union members and the Shirts-R-Us negotiators. I felt proud because, in both roles, the teams I was on were able to reach a settlement that was accepted by both parties.

The next two days began with snow squalls snarling traffic as I drove from Brunswick to Cleveland Heights! Being the intrepid winter driver that I am, I made it both days. The first of the two days was all about being a student. We learned about building power, self-interest and broad-based organizing. The thing about building a broad-based non-partisan coalition of faith communities and partner organizations is that being right is not enough.

I know that I had to examine what I believed about power. Like many people, I thought that power was bad, but the fact is that power is simply the ability to act. In addition, we learned that true power flows from the people and that GCC is focused on building broad-based community power. Issues come and go, but the beloved community, and the power that results stays. Additionally, there are two forms of power 1) organized people (beloved community) and, 2) organized money.

Self-interest can be understood as the intersection between one's core values and our shared democratic values, equality, justice, freedom, dedication to the common good, etc. Self-interest motivates individuals to act. Collective self-interest is the intersection of two or more people’s individual self-interest. We also learned there are two types of self-interest 1) self-preservation and, 2) self-recognition. Obviously, GCC is most concerned with issues of self-preservation.

The second day started with learning about types of relationships (public and private) followed by a lot of experiential learning. I could probably write another 500 words about my experiences, and my reflections since. Suffice it to say that I am humbled, honored and truly excited to be involved with GCC, where collective leadership and a bias for action will work to build a greater Cleveland for all its residents and improve the quality of life in all our neighborhoods. I’ll close with the one “Iron Rule” of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) the national partner of the GCC: “Never, never do for others what they can do for themselves.”



March 2018

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, or make an appointment to see her, call or email:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a ** </div>						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Week day meetings are held in the church unless otherwise noted. </div>						
4 <i>Non Lo So: Practicing humility</i> -Rev Kristen Rohm	5 1:30 PM Meditation	6 7:00 PM Evening Spiritual Book Group	7 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	8 10:00 AM Membership 4:00 PM Social Justice Committee 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	9 2:00 Women's Group 6:00 Cooks' Night Out	10 1:00 PM OWL Sleepover
11 <i>Is My Compassion Showing?</i> -Venerable Shi Ying-Fa 11:45 AM Gardening Team	12 1:30 PM Meditation	13 7:00 PM Board Mtg	14 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	15 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	16 2:00 Women's Group 6:00 Cooks' Night Out	17 10:00 AM Covenant Group 3:30 PM Women's History
18 <i>Becoming Visible</i> -Dr. John Gordon	19 1:30 PM Meditation	20 7:00 PM Evening Spiritual Book Group 7:00 PM Worship Team	21 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	22 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 FORUM DEADLINE 7:00 PM Men's Group	24 7:00 PM Youth Group
25 <i>The Ground We Walk On</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm 12 noon Memory Support Group	26 1:30 PM Meditation	27	28 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:30 PM Covenant Group	29	30	31
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> For calendar adds/deletes notify us </div>						

The Forum

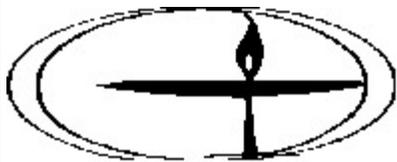
Sharing and Caring

Please send good wishes out to Shirley Kowalski, who has been diagnosed with fibromyalgia.

Please continue to keep Ted Macosko in your thoughts and prayers as he faces the uncertainty of his cancer diagnosis.

** send your joys and sorrows to forum@swuu.org for inclusion in the next issue*

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
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We are happy to mail The Forum to anyone who would like to receive it. If you have a blue dot on your mailing label, we haven't heard from you in a while. Please contact us by phone 440 877 1686 or email office@swuu.org – if you'd like to continue to receive The Forum