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# The Forum



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A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

[www.swuu.org](http://www.swuu.org)

June 1, 2018

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton

### **June 3**

*Appreciating Wisdom*

Come, bring a flower and a piece of wisdom passed down in your family to share during this intergenerational celebration. We will thank our Religious Exploration leaders and enjoy the uniquely Unitarian Universalist Flower Ceremony.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

Focus Collection: LGBT Community Center



### **June 10**

*Follow the Yellow Brick Road*

This morning we ask what wisdom is, how we know it and what might spur its growth. We'll look thru the lens of the Wizard of Oz story to find some collective wisdom from the East and the West.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

### **June 17**

*Wisdom of the Earth*

There is much to learn from the natural world. How might we lean into the wisdom of the trees, the waters, the creatures all around us on our spiritual journeys? How might we grow through our mistakes to become wisdom keepers?

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

### **June 24**

*Sophia: Clue to God and the Good Life*

Sophia is the Greek word for wisdom. God is Sophia and sophia is the goal of life. While we need money to live, we need sophia to live well. What is the church's role in helping people discover and develop a "philo-sophia," a philosophy of life?

-Led by Alan Kolp, Baldwin Wallace University Chair in Faith and Life

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

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## Message from your Minister

### *Wisdom*

*“Wonder is the beginning of wisdom.”*

- Socrates

I really like this theme. I have always wanted to be wise more than I've wanted to be famous or hip. Which is probably a good thing, because my children assure me that being hip is gonna be a bit of a stretch! So I happily settle for aspiring to wisdom. What does that even mean? For me it's not as much about acquiring knowledge as it is about being present in the moment, treating others with kindness, learning from experience and making choices and decisions that are thoughtful and intentional.

I seek out those who are wise and admire those who are open to wonder. What about you? Whom do you admire? Whose presence do you seek? Where have you found wisdom? What have you learned from the elders and the children in your life? What is your choicest piece of wisdom you'd like to pass on to others? Which piece do you forget over and over? Ponder these questions this month.

May the warmth, the lush green growth and the colors of early summer invite you into relaxation and repose. Please make some time to get outside to listen for the wisdom of nature or your own inner voice. I will be spending 10 days at a Shalem Retreat to complete my training in Spiritual Direction at the end of the month. I hope you will join me by practicing what works for you to be able to notice the whispers of the holy in your life.

Let's talk together about what we learn. My door, and my heart, is ever open to you.

Know that you are loved,

Rev. Kristen

[minister@swuu.org](mailto:minister@swuu.org)

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## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA**

The SWUU Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2018, at 11:45, in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend (at least 24 members are required for a quorum). Everyone is encouraged to stay and the floor is open to all for input and discussion. Voting itself, however, is reserved for those who have officially signed the Membership Book. At this meeting we will:

- Receive a summary of the year by Rev. Kristen Rohm
- Review and vote on our 2018-2019 budget
- Nominate and vote to approve our two new board members
- Receive a summary of the board's progress on goals
- Receive a description of and shout out to some of the less visible but vitally important committees at SWUU

## **Focus Collection for June: LGBT Community Center**

by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

Throughout June, the Focus Collection will benefit the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. Founded in 1975, the Center is a leading non-profit organization that empowers Northeast Ohio's LGBT community through advocacy, support, education, collaboration, and celebration. The Center is located in the Gordon Square Arts District on Detroit Rd., and it joyfully announces that a new Center is currently under construction across the street. It is the public face and advocate for the LGBT community.

SWUU has supported the exceptional work of the Center for several years because its mission is consistent with our 1st UU Principle, "Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person." The Center's programs serve a wide array of needs to promote emotional support, health education, training for area professionals, and community building among youth, young adults and those age 50 plus. The annual Pride in the CLE Parade will be held on Saturday, June 2. Please join many from SWUU who plan to march and show support. You can learn more about the Center at [lgbtcleveland.org](http://lgbtcleveland.org).

## **Urban Hope**

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our Urban Hope dinner on Sunday, April 29 was a huge success! The donations were overwhelming, and we had beautiful salads, fruits, veggies and desserts to accompany the main courses. Denny, Nancy, Debby, Diane Yagl, her daughter Danielle, Jan & Scott volunteered. It is fair to say that we kept very busy and had more time to interact with the guests. When we first arrived, the electricity was out, and so we were basically serving in the dark! Fortunately, it was back on in 15 minutes. We literally cheered and fed the repair men some of the food. On Sunday, May 27, Jan, Debby and Scott volunteered at the Urban Hope Cookout held at the Community Gardens. This was our fourth year of serving at this event. The next "Healthy Snacks" is scheduled for June 10. Unfortunately, many of us from the Social Justice committee are unavailable. Carol Jagers will be taking down the food, and we are looking for other volunteers. Let me know if you are available. Thanks for your continued support.

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## **Greater Cleveland Congregations Delegate Assembly Report**

by Chris Wolf, Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC)

Thursday evening's meeting (May 24th) took place at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. After Rev. Colvin's warm welcome we were asked to share our thoughts regarding the criminal justice action held in April. It was easy to agree that Prosecutor O'Malley and Judge Russo came prepared and ready to address our issues. More importantly, they appeared enthusiastic at the prospect of working with GCC in the interest of Greater Cleveland. We have established a working relationship with these key figures, and the "trajectory of our work has changed from impossible to probable," as stated by Rev. Colvin.

James Pearlstein was next up to introduce new staff. First was the reintroduction of Khalilah Worley as the Senior GCC Organizer—this was followed by a loud round of applause. Her focus will be the Strengthening Power Campaign. Barbara Hueter will be the school organizer. Her broad background includes experience as a classroom teacher and a union organizer. Tom Nobbe's corporate and nonprofit experience will be put to good use as our half-time administrative organizer. Our fundraising efforts should soon improve.

Khalilah Worley took some time to explain the "relational power" that GCC has established with the county prosecutor and chief justice. GCC's persistent and consistent organized effort has passed school levies, encouraged Clevelanders to vote, helped expand Medicaid, and shown Cleveland residents that their voice matters. Our goals now include gathering more West Side GCC participation, encouraging more support with the younger population, and recruiting more congregations and institutions. Our work is cut out for us.

Donna Weinberger shared important news on the Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign. Their most recent work is directed at gun manufacturers and important headway was made with Sturm Ruger after shareholders backed an 'Activist Resolution' that would require the company to produce a gun violence report. The shareholders themselves want to see their company take more responsibility for the gun violence problem in the US.

The meeting closed with a tribute to James Pearlstein who will be headed back to Washington. His work with GCC made our organization a formidable player with city leaders. This includes Eric Gordon and the Listen, Act, Win Campaign with Cleveland Schools which made teachers and students aware of their power to change conditions at Collinwood New Tech. We wished him well with a prayer and reception to end the night.

## **SWUU Walkers in the Summer**

by Susan Paxson

I am going to try to lead at least one walk each week when I am at home this summer. It seems really difficult to plan ahead with our unpredictable weather. That being said, I will try to plan some of them at least enough in advance that they can be in either the Thursday News or the OOS on Sunday morning. I will also continue to send a message out to the group of individuals who asked me to put them on the list. Are you on my list? If not, please send me an email and you will be able to find out about walks I have planned ahead of time and even some impromptu walks. They will be at a variety of times and locations. Feel free to make suggestions if you have a place you want to explore. I look forward to some nice walks this summer.

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## **Board Happenings**

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

May was an eventful month for your Board of Trustees. Since I love my bulleted lists, here goes:

- We found out that **we were successful with our Chalice Lighter Grant Application!** SWUU will be receiving **\$20,000** to refurbish our steeple. You can only imagine the pins and needles we were sitting on while awaiting the decision. We are relieved, grateful, and excited about putting the funds to work! There will be additional information at the Annual Meeting (see page 3)
- After our initial meeting with our new professional accountant, and a too-long-to-explain-in-a-newsletter snafu with our online payroll service, we realized that we needed a human being to do our payroll and all that goes along with that task. Fortunately, our new accountant offers this as one of his services. As such, we have decided to expand his role to include payroll as well as spot consulting.
- Our pledge drive required some additional effort to hit the budget goals that we set. Although the Finance Committee officially conducts the pledge drive, the board members thought it important to pitch in and participate in this final push. Again, expect more details at the Annual Meeting
- Finally we held a special extra meeting at the end of May to finalize and approve a budget for 2018-2019. I am happy to report that it looks great...as you'll see when you come to the Annual Meeting

Ok, I think I've plugged the meeting for all it's worth. If for some reason you can't come, but would still like a summary please contact me at [president@swuu.org](mailto:president@swuu.org). I will be happy to send you a copy of whatever we present.

## **Cooks' Night Out for June**

by Sherry Spencer

We do hope you'll join us so mark your calendars for June 29th, at 6:30 pm! Our next Cooks Night Out is slated to go check out 'DANNY BOYS' of Broadview Hts! (formerly the location of Pipers III) 8158 Broadview Rd. just south of the Wallings/ Broadview Rd. intersection.

Check out the full menu at: <http://www.dannyboyspizza.com/menu.html>

## **SWUU "Playing" Fun**

by Hallie Davis

The 2nd Friday of the month is reserved for FUN! Please join in puzzling, board games, Canasta or a game of your choice on June 8th. We meet at church from 7-9:30 pm. Please contact John Goga for more information.

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## 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](http://www.swuu.org)

## Receive The Forum Electronically!

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

[forum@swuu.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@swuu.org)

## Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the Board Minutes via email, contact [office@swuu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month  
Submissions should be sent to [forum@swuu.org](mailto: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.

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## **PRIDE!**

Saturday, June 2 is the Pride Parade, Noon - Public Square We'll join with other area UU Churches and march together. Meet at 1701 Lakeside Ave. in front of the EMS Headquarters between 11:00am and noon. Or have some free breakfast with PFLAG at the Old Stone Church before heading over to Lakeside Ave. This year new regulations prohibit sticks or sign frames, so please leave signs at home. Wear your SWUU t-shirt or a bright blue shirt. Contact [susan@paxson.us](mailto:susan@paxson.us) if you would like to borrow one.

## **Social Justice Discernment Circles**

by Anastasia Birosh

SWUU is part of the UUJO (Unitarian Universalism Justice Ohio) "Ready for Justice" Pilot Program. Part of the process is Discernment and on **June 10th** beginning at 12:30 pm (after church) we will be having 3-5 Social Justice Discernment Circles meeting to gather input from congregants to articulate our sense of purpose or aspirational values regarding SWUU's Justice Ministry. These Discernment Circles (or focus groups) will be discussing topics including "Where and how shall we make a difference?" Included in the discussion will be the efforts we are already participating in including Urban Hope, GCC, and the Monthly Focus Collection. If you are interested in leading one of the Social Justice Discernment Circles, please reach out to Anastasia Birosh.

## **All-Church Picnic**

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

After our annual Congregational Meeting, we hope you will come to Brecksville Reservation for a Pot Luck Picnic. We will meet at the Harriet Keeler Shelter across from the nature center on Chippewa Drive (at the top of the hill). The area is not reservable, but Pam Benedict is going to set out some coolers and tablecloths and this will "save" our spot!

This will be a true pot luck lunch so just bring something you like that you want to share with the group. It is helpful to also let people know the ingredients so that those with dietary restrictions know what is "safe". We also want you to BYOPS (bring your own place setting) so we don't have to use paper products. Hope to see many of you there!

## **Caring for our Beloved Community**

by Hallie Davis, Caring Team

Our monthly worship has focused on the beloved community. One of the ways we care and support each other in community is from the Caring Team who listen without judgement and maintaining confidentiality. The Caring Team will be "with you" and "by your side" during whatever challenges you face so you are not alone. Members assist with concrete tasks like providing rides and meals or sending cards. We accompany you through the hard stuff of life.

Rev. Kristen has primary responsibility for pastoral care. The Caring Team is an integral part of the Minister's ability to provide this ministry to the whole congregation. Members include Sylvia Banks, Gay Cady, Hallie Davis, Bruce Melville, Judy Newell, Nellie VanRoden, Karen Weaver, and Pat Woodside. Caring members promise to take care of ourselves and to also ask for help and a listening ear when needed. Members of the team do ask Rev. Kristen to help with issues beyond our abilities and training.

We are all part of a wonderful beloved community we call SWUU.

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## **SWUU Summer Camp Out at Oak Openings Preserve**

**Saturday, July 14**

by Ken Ellis

This summer's outdoor adventure will be at Oak Openings Park. This preserve is an oak opening savanna ecosystem. There are woodlands, creeks, wetlands, meadows, and vegetated dunes. The Nature Conservancy listed this as one of the "Last Great Places on Earth." There are prickly pear cactus, wild lupine, sand cherry, and wild orchids. This 5,000 acre park has 50 miles of hiking trails. It is a birders paradise with bluebirds, indigo buntings, whippoorwills, and lark sparrows.

Oak Openings is about 2 hours drive from North Royalton, 122 miles. We have two adjacent group camps with picnic tables and a fire ring. Fire wood is provided. There is running water and flush toilets, but no showers. The sites accommodate up to 10 tents and up to 4 dogs. We will need to register the dogs in advance with breed/ sex/ and up to date vaccinations.

For those who would like to attend the outdoor activities, but not camp in a tent, there are some cabins still available. You will need to reserve these yourself. The cabins sleep up to 5 people. Call 419-407-9710 for reservations. I advise doing this NOW! if you are interested. Cabins go fast.

This annual event is a wonderful way to connect with nature and get to know fellow adventurous congregants. It is primitive camping. Campers are required to bring their own tent, sleeping bag, food, air mattress, cooking utensils, etc. The fee will be \$60, divided by campers. So if we get 20 campers, it will be only \$3 each.

We have been doing the SWUU Camp Out for about 30 years. It is a great way for children to experience nature. Days are usually spent hiking. In the evening we gather around the camp fire and relax. Camp is a good place to walk alone or read in the shade. S'mores usually happen if children attend. We've ( Not including me. I'm not allowed) been known to sing around the camp fire. The good spirits and laughter of campers make it a pleasant experience.

If you enjoy falling asleep in the fresh air with the sounds of katydids and tree crickets and awaking with the sound of songbirds and the scent of coffee wafting through the morning mist, there is a sign- up sheet at church. See Ken Ellis for details

## **SWUU T shirts**

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

A few times throughout our history (of 30 years!) we have gotten t-shirts for whoever wanted them. There are a number of designs but they are always royal blue. I thought there might be some newer people interested in having one. I will bring one of the last batch to church and see if we have enough people interested to place an order. I have a guy in Parma Heights who will do a small batch. The prices as I recall are around \$15 and a few dollars more for XL - XXXL. I will get the details and have them by Sunday at the annual meeting and then we can place an order. I will also look into long-sleeved. Contact me with questions. This is a great way to show your SWUU spirit and let others know about our church.

## **Evening Spiritual Book Group**

by Hallie Davis

Seeking all interested spiritual book lovers to meet in the evening. Looking for book recommendations. The group can determine a convenient time and location. Let Hallie Davis know of your interest.

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## R.E. Update

by Jenni Papp, DRE

### Nursery Happenings

SWUU will be saying, "See you later!" to Katherine Valencic as she leaves for The University of Toledo in August. Taking over for her in the nursery is Aidan Sellman. You may have seen her around recently. She has been learning from Katherine and filling in some days.

Aidan is interested in cooking and baking, music, traveling, and period dramas. She has been learning the piano for 1 ½ years. She lives in North Royalton with her homeschooling family and their pets. She shared that she feels strongly about issues concerning race, women, LGBTQ+ people, and the environment. She has always enjoyed spending time with kids and is very excited to be here!

### Stirring up Stories - Summer RE at SWUU

In the Summer we take a break from the traditional age groupings, topics, and leaders. This is a time for getting to know each other better and getting to know more of the adults from the congregation as people volunteer to take a Sunday and share an interest or lead a simple activity.

This year, we will provide a simple story and cooking activity that a volunteer or pair of volunteers can lead the group in doing together. We will be Stirring up Stories! This is focused more toward our UUs from ages 5 to 12, but all are welcome. I want to encourage families with older children to choose a Sunday and lead one with your child. The younger kids really love spending time with the older ones.

OR....

Some adults and youth may have special interests they would like to share in an activity based format. Bruce Cady has already volunteered to bring in his slides, digital microscope, and some chemistry experiments one week.

Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and the activities available to choose from and volunteer to take a Sunday and have some fun with our exuberant UU youngsters. By the way, there will always be someone as an RE assistant each Sunday to work with the programming volunteer(s). If you have any questions you may talk to the Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp, on Sunday morning.



Mira and the Big Story. By Laura Alary. (illustration)



# June 2018

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, or make an appointment to see her, call or email: 440 877-1686, or minister@swuu.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           Week day meetings are held at the church unless marked with an *.         </div>						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us.         </div>						
<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by **         </div>						
3 <b>Appreciating Wisdom</b> -Rev. Kristen Rohm	4 1:30 PM Meditation	5	6 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	7	8 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	9 3:30 PM Women's History
10 <b>Follow the Yellow Brick Road</b> -Rev. Kristen Rohm	11 1:30 PM Meditation	12	13 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	14 10:00 AM - Membership Team 4:00 PM Social Justice 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	15 2:00 PM Women's Group	16 9:00 AM - Adopt-a-Highway
17 <b>Wisdom of the Earth</b> Rev. Kristen Rohm	18 1:30 PM Meditation	19	20 1:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	21 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 PM Men's Group	23 7:00 PM Youth Group <b>FORUM DEAD-LINE</b>
24 <b>Sophia: Clue to God and the Good Life</b> -Alan Kolp	25 1:30 PM Meditation	26	27 1:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @Mathews	28	29 6:30 PM Cooks' Night Out @ Danny Boys Pizzeria	30
12 noon Memory Support Group						

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### Sharing and Caring

**Katie Maslar** could use a shower of support.

**Dave Slawson** is recovering from his procedure and will be home in a couple of days.

**Ted Macosko** has appreciated all of the cards and good wishes. They are helping! His treatment will continue for another few weeks. He is hoping to return to church soon.

*\* send your joys and sorrows to [forum@swuu.org](mailto:forum@swuu.org) for inclusion in the next issue*

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church**  
6320 Royalton Road  
North Royalton, Ohio 44133



We are happy to mail The Forum to anyone who would like to receive it.