



# The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

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

October 1, 2019

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton

### **October 6**

*Give Me a Sign!*

The theme for the month is Democracy. As we experience concern about our own government, we offer a fun multi-generational service which explores the "Right Way to Right Speech.

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

Focus Collection: Front Steps Housing and Services



### **October 13**

*Rainbows Everywhere*

Continuing our monthly theme of democracy, we find ourselves between two important LGBTQIA+ days: Coming Out Day and Spirit Day. This leads us to ask, when it comes to a democracy, who is in and who is out?

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Leslie Van Kuren

### **October 20**

*UU-UNO: Gender*

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office promotes the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Today we celebrate and support this year's United Nations Day theme: "Equity in Action: Gender in an Intersecting World."

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

### **October 27**

*We Remember Them*

Nearly all cultures across the globe have way of honoring and remembering their beloved dead. It is both comforting and healing to recognize the pain of loss and to celebrate the lives of our loved ones. This worship service will explore the many ways humans honor the dead. Please bring a photo or small remembrance to share.

-Led by Lori McGee, Commissioned Lay Minister, UU Church of Kent

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

# The Forum

## Message from your Minister

### Democracy

*“Now the autumn clammers  
Up the trellised frame,  
And the rose remembers  
The dust from which it came.”*

- Edna St. Vincent Millay

October brings with it Mother Gaia’s blessing of remembrance. This time of year, our own mortality rises to our consciousness as we remember those who are no longer with us. Our worship theme for this month at SWUU is Democracy, and we will be looking a how we make our voices heard. In a time such as this, those of us with the privilege of having louder voices have a responsibility to enhance and project the voices of those who are oppressed. We do this in many ways, large and small.

One way to help people who are oppressed and disadvantaged directly is to volunteer at Urban Hope. This is a shared ministry between several local UU churches who take turns providing food and smiles to homeless folks at “The Catholic Storefront” on Lorain Ave. SWUU volunteers from the Social Action Committee take donated foods and serve healthy meals on the second Sunday of every month. Spending time with those less fortunate with yourself is considered a blessing in many cultures:

- The Talmud tells Jews that it is a mitzvah to be compassionate toward the poor.
- Buddhists have a rich tradition of almsgiving. It is considered a blessing to yourself to give away your belongings as well as your time.
- Some sects of Hinduism say that when you give to the poor, you are really giving an offering to your chosen deity, and that deity will bless you.
- One of the five pillars of Islam is almsgiving, and it is seen as a spiritual practice that benefits the giver more of all.

Please consider taking the time to bless yourself by spending time volunteering with Urban Hope. You deserve to be blessed!

Blessings  
Rev. Meg  
[minister@swuu.org](mailto:minister@swuu.org)

# **The Forum**

## **Focus Collection for October: Front Steps Housing and Services**

by Debby Gorencic, Social Justice Committee

The October Focus Collection will benefit Front Steps Housing and Services, an organization passionate about affecting change in the community by ending the cycle of homelessness. As is our custom, on the first Sunday of the month all money not designated as pledges or something else will go to Front Steps. Throughout the rest of the month, donations must be clearly designated as Focus Collection on your check or envelope if that is where you want your money to go.

Located in the heart of the Ohio City neighborhood, the Front Steps facility has 60 supportive housing units, 45 for chronically and non-chronically homeless men and women (individuals and families) and 15 for chronically homeless women. Front Steps recently broke ground on a new facility about a mile from the current facility which will increase the number of supportive housing units to 68. Beyond housing, Front Steps offers programs and services to increase the skills and confidence of participants in the following core categories: Independent Living, Behavioral Health, Education and Employment Readiness and Outpatient Treatment Services. Please give as generously as you can to help our long time community partner in providing these important programs and services.

## **Urban Hope Updates**

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our first Sunday back to Urban Hope after an August break was a success! It was a beautiful day, and the guests were in good spirits. It wasn't as busy as the winter months, but we still served around 60 hungry people. The Chicken Tenders and "Stone Soup" were very popular accompanied by homemade corn muffins, fresh veggies and fruits, cheese and crackers. We had a delicious assortment of homemade desserts which were a special treat plus plenty of individual bars, chips, etc. for take aways. All the food was much appreciated. Thank you for our donations.

If you recall, we visit Urban Hope TWICE in October. October 13 is our traditional Healthy Snacks Day. Mary Brooks is donating her delicious homemade chicken noodle soup, but we need cheese, crackers, fruits, veggies, take aways, and sweets to go with the soup. We already have 5 volunteers to take the food: Nancy, Denny, Carol, Jim, and Susan.

Our dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 27. We like to go over and beyond on the dinner day and take casseroles, extra salads, desserts, etc. Jan, Scott, Nancy, Debby, Debby and Carol Jordan are signed up to serve, but we are looking forward to many yummy donations. It is the Sunday before Halloween, and so "spooky treats" are welcome! PLEASE sign up on the board in the lobby.

Thank you all for supporting the Urban Hope Community.

## **Cooks' Night Out**

by Jan Terradotter

On Friday, October 18 at 6 pm let's meet at Omizu Japanese Restaurant, 6843 Ridge Rd., Parma. See [www.mizu-oh.com](http://www.mizu-oh.com). Omizu has an extensive menu including sushi rolls, salads, ramen, udon, hot pot, tempura, bento boxes and hibachi dinners. Jan Terradotter RSVP to [earthy0823@att.net](mailto:earthy0823@att.net).

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## **Board Happenings**

by Hallie Davis, SWUU Board President

At the September 10th meeting:

- We authorized the Treasurer to open two Certificates of Deposit to accrue a higher rate of interest on some of our funds.
- Ellen Hansen-Ellis presented additional information and cost for “clean” solar energy for SWUU with additional energy sold to the electric company. Building and Grounds will explore stand-alone solar grids.
- Our SWUU records are stored in the basement and are exposed to moisture. We will use a desiccant to collect moisture to determine effectiveness.
- The UUA updated their Personnel Policy and the Board will review our current policy and update as needed.
- The Board addressed a request for an Emotional Support Animal and determined that only service animals (Americans with Disability Act) are permitted in the church.
- Ellen shared the timeline for the Green Sanctuary designation. Look for a Forum article coming soon.
- I’ve heard from other UU Churches about their Safety Policy. Creating a Safety Policy is a goal of the Board.

You are welcome to attend the October 8th Board meeting.

## **Focus Collection Tally**

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Our congregation continues its generosity in supporting Local non-profit organizations. The first Sunday of the month all cash collected is designated for the Focus Collection. Every other Sunday of the month, cash has to be designated “Focus Collection” and put in an envelope. All checks should always be designated for Focus Collection. Over the years, we continue to support favorite local organizations, but we do try to include at least one new organization per year. The following is a list of the money collected this church year to support our Community Neighbors. Thank you for your continued support!

September 2018:	Minister’s Discretionary Fund — \$1002
October 2018:	Front Steps — \$967
November 2018:	Greater Cleveland Food Bank — \$1009
December 2018:	Guest at Your Table — \$2198
January 2019:	Habitat For Humanity — \$668
February 2019:	Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center — \$926
March 2019:	Planned Parenthood — \$888
April 2019:	Berea Community Learning Farm — \$490.31
May 2019:	Urban Hope — \$1051
June 2019:	LGBT Community Center — \$642.38
July/August:	Cuyahoga Valley Enrichment Center — \$1191

**Grand Total: \$11,032.69**

WOW — Many local networks and especially the people they serve have benefited from liberal giving. Thank you!

# The Forum



## 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.

## Do you need to contact someone on the SWUU Staff?

<b>Rev. Megan Mathieson</b> (Minister)	(443) 370-6669	<a href="mailto:minister@swuu.org">minister@swuu.org</a>
<b>Hallie Davis</b> (President)	(440) 532-3328	<a href="mailto:president@swuu.org">president@swuu.org</a>
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<b>Kristen Cimera</b> (Office Administrator)	(440) 877-1686	<a href="mailto:office@swuu.org">office@swuu.org</a>
<b>Jennifer Papp</b> (Director of Religious Education)		<a href="mailto:dre@swuu.org">dre@swuu.org</a>

## 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 issues of importance to SWUU, e-mail [connect@swuu.org](mailto:connect@swuu.org) and request to join the SWUUList.

## 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

# The Forum

## **“Getting to Know You”** Interview by Carol Jagers

**John Goga** was born and raised in the Cleveland area growing up the second of six children with two brothers and three sisters. He actually lived in the same house in Slavic Village, which is over 100 years old and still standing, from 1943 when he was born until he returned from his army duty in 1966. John was five when Interstate 77 was built and the family home was moved from Slavic Village to a nearby street. John attended Washington Park Elementary, Myron T. Herrick Junior High School, and South High School. He and his older brother were in Boy Scouts together, his family went camping and canoeing in the Ohio state parks, and John also enjoyed riding horses at his great uncle's farm on summer weekends.

In 1964 John was about to leave his boyhood behind and all its familiar comforts. He was drafted into the army and went to Fort Knox for basic training then to southern Alabama for training as an airplane mechanic. Once trained, he was sent to Fairbanks, Alaska to put his new skills into practice as an aircraft mechanic where he spent 15 months as a crew chief. John was in charge of a De Havilland Otter which seats 11. His duties while in the air included fire surveillance, cargo delivery, and taking paratroopers up for jump practice.

In 1966 with his two years of military service behind him, he returned to Cleveland, resuming the electronics job he had left at Gilmore Industries. Later he worked at the Allen Bradley Company as an electronics technician, then as a manufacturing engineer designing manufacturing processes, and finally running the production control department. He was also pursuing his accounting degree at Cleveland State while working. Eventually, he left Allen Bradley and went to Cuyahoga Community College to earn his computer programming degree. This led to him teaching and providing computer support in the office serving veteran students at Tri-C. Over John's 25 year career at Tri-C, he simultaneously worked for six different student support programs which provided services to veterans, the disabled, women in transition, and first generation students among others. He retired from Tri-C in 2008 at the age of 65.

John was not all work, but was also a family man who got married to his first wife Judy in 1967. Together they had a son Dan who lives in Macedonia and who has his own son Evan. John designed and built his family's house in Walton Hills; however, their 25 year marriage ultimately ended in divorce. John also has two step sons from his second marriage which ended in divorce after 23 years. Well, the third time John hopes will be the charm as he married Marilyn Gauntner this past December and they are living happily together in Westlake. You can see them together in our church most Sundays.

John has had various leisure time interests over the years. He flew his Cessna Cardinal for 20 years, had a boat to fish and water ski from for many years, and took up wood turning upon retirement making bowls and plates among other items. Today he plays canasta a couple days a week, enjoys reading, attending art shows and the theater, and is taking an American History class.

He is quite active here in our church as well since joining in 2016. He volunteers on the finance committee, is active in the Earth Alliance environmental group, and hosts the monthly game nights.



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## Can We Become a Green Sanctuary?

by Ellen Hansen-Ellis, SWUU Board Vice-President

About 25% of UU congregations are currently certified as Green Sanctuaries. They have successfully completed a program that provides a path for congregational study, reflection, and action in response to environmental challenges. Recently, the program has been expanded to include collaborative, intersectional action in the area of Climate Justice.

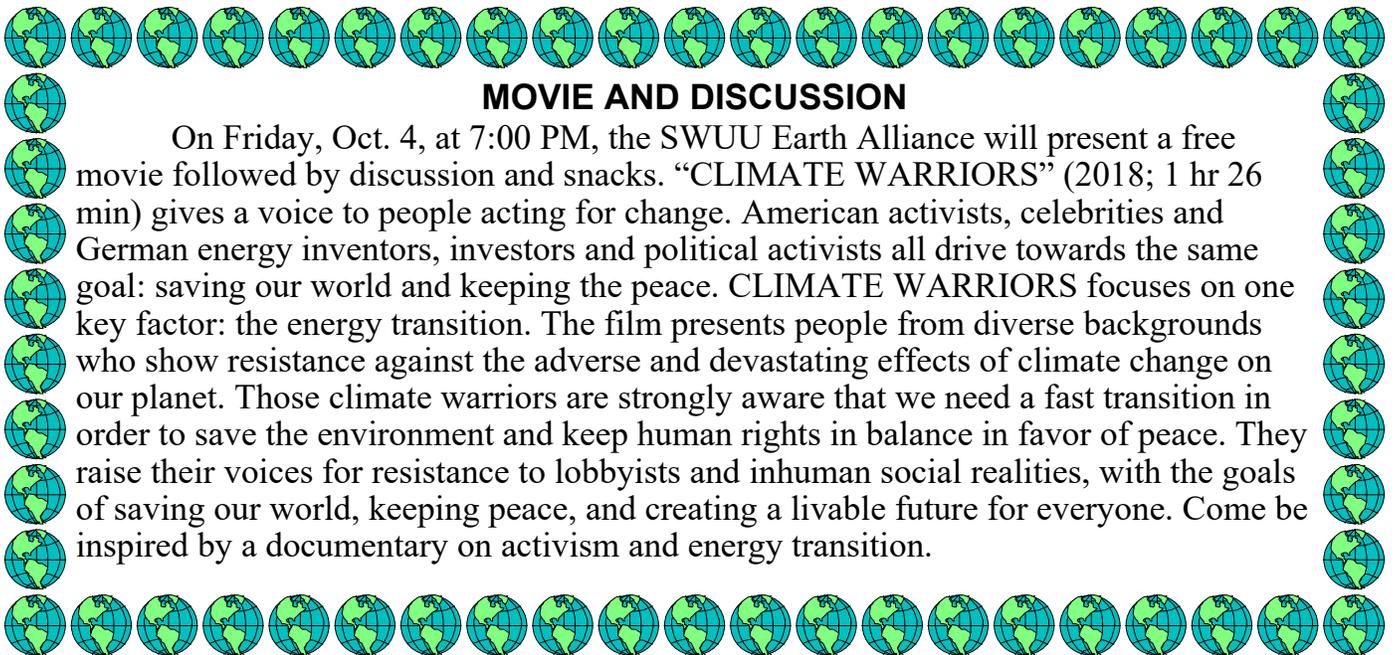
Last year, here at SWUU, we spent a month meeting with church members to identify social justice goals. Environmental justice was repeatedly identified as a top area of concern. We have a new minister that is passionate about these goals, and our congregation is healthy and strong. Is it time to move forward in an organized, intentional way towards a more just and green world for all?

If this idea appeals to you, the SWUU Board is hoping that you will come forward. We need a task force to lead us through the Green Sanctuary program. The UUA fully supports this program with staff and plentiful resources; what we need is a small group to help us follow the plan. As a Task Force member, you will become part of an on-line group of congregational leaders using this program to educate and create projects in the following areas:

- Environmental Justice
- Worship and Celebration
- Religious Education
- Sustainable Living

The process is organized into 5 steps, with most of the work taking place in the first 2-4 months. After that, there is a longer period dedicated to carrying out the action plan that has been created, and applying for accreditation.

Learn more at [createclimatejustice.net](http://createclimatejustice.net), and please respond to Ellen Hansen-Ellis ([ehansene@bw.edu](mailto:ehansene@bw.edu)) if you are interested in helping lead us through this timely and important process.



**MOVIE AND DISCUSSION**

On Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:00 PM, the SWUU Earth Alliance will present a free movie followed by discussion and snacks. “CLIMATE WARRIORS” (2018; 1 hr 26 min) gives a voice to people acting for change. American activists, celebrities and German energy inventors, investors and political activists all drive towards the same goal: saving our world and keeping the peace. CLIMATE WARRIORS focuses on one key factor: the energy transition. The film presents people from diverse backgrounds who show resistance against the adverse and devastating effects of climate change on our planet. Those climate warriors are strongly aware that we need a fast transition in order to save the environment and keep human rights in balance in favor of peace. They raise their voices for resistance to lobbyists and inhuman social realities, with the goals of saving our world, keeping peace, and creating a livable future for everyone. Come be inspired by a documentary on activism and energy transition.

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## Meditation Mondays by Gay Cady

For the month of October we will not be sitting in Meditation on Mondays. Bruce and I are both having surgery, me on September 26 and Bruce on October 15th. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers, and we look forward to being back with you in November.



**West Shore UU Church • October 11-13, 2019**

### **HOME • Friday, October 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Good, Old Fashion Justice & Freedom Sing-Along!

Featuring **Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout**

Free/Registration Required

### **JUSTICE • Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.**

Racial Justice "Teach-In" and more singing!

Featuring **M. Carmen Lane**, local scholar, artist, activist

Tickets required/Lunch Included

### **COMMUNITY • Sunday, October 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Benefit Concert featuring **Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout**

(Part of the B. Neil Davis Concert Series)

Proceeds will benefit West Shore's Justice Ministry/Tickets Required

Donations in support of West Shore's Justice Ministry greatly appreciated.

Call the church office (440.333.2255 Ext. 101) or donate on Realm.

## **TICKET PRICES**

**Full Weekend Ticket Price \$45** (Includes Justice Teach-In, Lunch & Concert)

**Friday Only Tickets Free/Registration Required** (Call the church office or register on Realm)

**Saturday Only Ticket Price \$30** (Includes Justice Teach-In & Lunch)

**Sunday Only Ticket Price \$20** (Includes Concert)

Limited Sliding Scale Tickets Available • Contact [WSJAM@wsuuc.org](mailto:WSJAM@wsuuc.org)

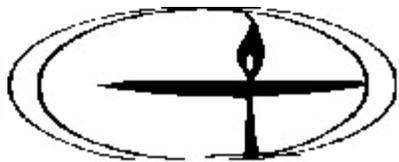
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## Sharing and Caring

Please keep Ted Macosko and his family in your thoughts this month and beyond. He suffered a stroke this past Sunday. He has stabilized, and even improved somewhat since the initial event; however, he is still in the hospital as of now. He will be undergoing intense inpatient physical therapy for the immediate future. He and his entire family could use our healing thoughts and loving prayers.

*\* 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.