


The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

June 1, 2020

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton

Join Us On Zoom!



June 7

Roots and Wings

Join us as we celebrate the leaders who have journeyed with our children and youth this past year in our annual Religious Exploration recognition. AND we will also have our annual Bridging rite of passage ceremony for three youth who are graduating from high school and emerging as young adults. The youth are Joy Haugland, Sean Jackson, and Aeron Zeiter.

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson and Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

Focus Collection: LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

June 14

Two Wolves

You have two wolves inside you: which one do you feed? This Sunday, we discuss ideas around our monthly theme: Good and Evil.

-Led by Rev. Megan Mathieson

Worship Associate: Deb Celinski

June 21

TBA

Please visit our website later in the month for a description

-Led by Rev. Michelle Ma, Affiliated Community Minister, West Shore UU Church

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

June 28

Dancing With the Devil

We will consider what several philosophers had to say on the theme of good and evil. How is evil understood in various world spiritual belief systems and societies?

-Led by Rev. Keith Rasey

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

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OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The SWUU Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 28th after the service. Please plan to attend via Zoom as we need a quorum of members present. Our bylaws state that a quorum is 25% of the membership (25 members).

The meeting agenda includes:

- Board review for the past year
- Continuation of Virtual SWUU
- Covid19 protocol for building access
- Presentation and acceptance of the budget
- Bylaw changes (see below)
- Nomination of Officers
- Congregational vote on the above 3 items
- Congregational Q & A

There are three changes to the Bylaws:

1. The Nominating Committee to will be renamed the Leadership Development Committee to better reflect its role.
2. The Finance Committee will be renamed the Stewardship Committee to better reflect its role.
3. An addition of text describing the role of Secretary to read that the Secretary may or may not be a Board Member. Board positions are three (3) year commitments. Historically, this position is the most difficult to fill and requires the flexibility to fill on a yearly basis.

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Message from your Minister

It's June already! June brings us an abundance of beauty, even in a time of worry. The trees, we have learned, support each other in a very real community. They protect each other and even communicate, sharing resources equitably.

When we remember our own fears and worries, our difficulty with taking time to breathe and focus on the present moment, we can always learn from nature. Parker Palmer tells us that we do not need to worry about scarcity:

“Here is a summertime truth: abundance is a communal act, the joint creation of an incredibly complex ecology in which each part functions on behalf of the whole and, in return, is sustained by the whole. Community not only creates abundance – community is abundance. If we could learn that equation from the world of nature, the human world might be transformed.”

While we have each other in this beautiful blessed and beloved community of SWUU, we never have to fear. Scarcity cannot touch us. Because like the tree in a forest, when your roots are not pulling in the nourishment that you need, your neighbor is here to help you.

As we round the corner to the end of pledge season, I'd like to encourage you to get your pledges in if you have not already. And I'd like to thank everyone who has been so generous. SWUU is proof that Parker Palmer is right.

Scarcity cannot exist where community thrives because community is abundance. SWUU is the embodiment of abundance. May we learn from the green around us in this season that what we give comes back to us tenfold.

We are so fortunate to have community in abundance here in our sweet little church. I hope that you are able to get outside and enjoy the abundance that the community of nature brings to us, reminding us constantly that we need not fear scarcity. We need not fear being alone. We are a cluster, a beloved community, like healthy green trees in a forest.

With so much love,
Rev. Meg

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Focus Collection for June: LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

The June Focus Collection will once again benefit the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, a leading non-profit advocacy organization. The Center strives to provide a healthy and safe environment, support, and training for all during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Center is physically closed right now, programs and services remain free and open to the public virtually. You can learn more and donate online at lgbtcleveland.org or mail your tax deductible donation to The Center, 6705 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102.

Urban Hope News by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

Have you been wondering how SWUU can help our neighbors at Urban Hope in Cleveland? The storefront remains closed due to the pandemic, so we have not been able to serve the fresh foods you are accustomed to bringing in on the second Sunday of each month. We have good news!

On Sunday, June 14, (and continuing each month until they reopen) we will distribute individual lunch bags of wrapped food items to our friends there. You can help by purchasing foods that are completely wrapped, such as breakfast bars, Lunchables sandwiches, bottled water, small snack bags of chips, Cheetos, Doritos, etc., or cookies that are in individual small bags in original wrapping. Cash donations would help too if you'd rather not go out. We cannot touch unwrapped food or divide unwrapped food into smaller bags. Jan Wehn, Debby Gorencic, or Nancy Peltola would be happy to pick up your donations from your home once you're ready. Our contact info is in the directory. Bags will be put together before June 13. Thank you all for your generosity!

A Virtual Strawberry Festival! by Carol Jordan, Hospitality Committee

Are you looking for a way to celebrate Father's Day June 21 and still stay safe at home? Join other SWUU families for an at home Strawberry Festival. The Hospitality Committee had planned to repeat our popular Strawberry Festival this year but plans, of course, have changed. We invite you to celebrate Father's Day with your own at-home dish of fresh strawberries. Choose your own biscuits or cake, ice cream, whipped cream -- whatever you and your dad and family members prefer. Gather 'round your computer or laptop or tablet or phone at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 21, strawberry treats in hand, spoons at the ready. Details on how to join the party will be provided soon. For now, dust off your calendar -- you remember, that record you kept of what to do and where to go on a given day. The Festival and Father's Day celebration will take place after the Sunday church service and coffee hour.

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From the Treasurer on behalf of the Board

by Lydia Avery, Finance Committee

I'm writing to bring your attention to some concerns about our fiscal situation... Since going to virtual services, meetings, etc. in late March, our income has taken a hit. Normally we receive \$200-400 in collection money from guests and visitors every month and this past month we received just \$15; and our pledges are not coming in as usual. Our total income is only at 73% of budget and should be at 83%. We have only the rest of this month and June to complete our fiscal year.

The following are actions you can take that would be helpful for clarity and planning around our situation:

1. The Board is aware that some of our members and friends financial situations may have been affected by the corona virus. If you are unable to complete your pledge for this year, please let me know so that adjustments can be made.
2. Please pay your pledges and your auction bills and, if you are able, give a bit more.
3. Please email Kristen (office@swuu.org) or me (lydiacavery@outlook.com) with your pledge for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July. Or mail in the card you received in the mail.

Luckily for us, SWUU does have a savings account that we have been faithful at keeping for just such a time as this. For me SWUU is one of the most important parts of my life and I am grateful our professional staff have nimbly adjusted to this situation with little thought for their own time and needs. Please help keep our congregation sound.

Board News

by Hallie Davis, Board President

At the May Board of Trustees meeting we discussed the changes needed in the bylaws to reflect the changes in committee descriptions. The information will be in this Forum for your consideration as we will vote on the changes at the annual meeting scheduled for June 28th after the service.

Lydia Avery, Treasurer, highlighted that our collections have declined and that some pledges and service auction bills remain unpaid. These uncertain times gives pause and may also affect financial situations. The board requests you let Lydia know if you cannot fulfill your pledge so we can secure funding to meet our obligations for this fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Until then, we are asking committees to hold expenditures.

We discussed the summer schedule for worship via Zoom. At the time of the meeting we were hoping to revisit opening in September. Since then, we learned that the UUA recommends that congregations begin planning for virtual operations through May 2021.

The UU General Assembly scheduled for June 24-28th will be held virtually via Zoom. Our congregation has two delegate votes. The cost to attend is \$150. Please let me know if you are interested. Also, there are several sessions that are free to attend. Check the uua.org website for more information.

The Committee on Ministry and the Board are completing evaluations for Rev. Megan that are due to the UUA by July 1st.

We continue to request that you to notify me or the office should you need to enter the building. This is for health, safety and liability issues.

I welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we move ahead in uncharted waters.

Many thanks for all you do for SWUU!

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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

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 issues of importance to SWUU, e-mail 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

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.

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Come on and ZOOM!

by Sarajane Willson and Susan Paxson

The times , they are a changin'. Those seem like appropriate words for this time and our new reality. As much as we would love to join our SWUU friends in person for a get together, the opportunity that we have for the current moment is a chance to socially connect via Zoom. It's not perfect, but it's what we have. It's different, but a valuable tool that we are very fortunate to have. Since March, we have had a number of successful Zoom get-togethers, including Happy Hour, Meditation, Girls' Night In, A Dance Party, hosted by Wil the Thrill, Women's Group, two Book Groups, First Wednesday Breakfast, a Coffeehouse Concert, Men's Group, Toddler Story Time, and of course, our Sunday Services.

Some of you may have missed these opportunities for connection. If you want a little technological help to get you started, a SWUU friend is available to help. Or if you are not sure how this works, reach out and give one of us a call.

We have added a number of new social connection opportunities to the June **calendar** which appears on our **website** (you can link directly to it here: <http://www.swuu.org/events/>). We hope you will attend, give feedback and perhaps these events will spur your interest, resourcefulness and creativity. Consider if you would like to offer a class or share your talent with your SWUU friends. Here is a listing of our new offerings for the month of June. Don't miss out!

Tuesday Tea Time—every Tuesday from 9:15-9:45 AM

Early week connection to stay in touch.

Night Owl SWUUsers—Monday, June 8th 11PM –midnight

Join on Zoom at 11 PM. Open forum. Share why you are still awake

Thoughtful Thursday—June 11th 1-2 PM

Join on Zoom to discuss a “deep thought.”

Karaoke Night—Saturday, June 13th 7-9 PM

Come to sing your favorite song or to listen and laugh and enjoy.

Early Bird SWUUsers—Monday, June 15th 7:30-8:15AM

Share something positive with other early risers

Monday Moaning—June 15th-7-8 PM

An opportunity to complain; no solutions will be offered or permitted .

A Time for All Ages—Tuesday, June 16th 8-9 PMSJW will be sharing stories for fun.

Come, listen, laugh and think.

Solstice Scavenger Hunt—Saturday, June 20th 7-9 PM

See what you can find in your home find from the scavenger list; share later.

Strawberry Festival—Sunday, June 21st 2-3 PM

See article on pg. 3.

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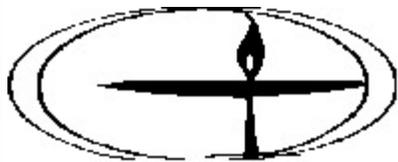
Sharing and Caring

Susan Paxson would like to thank all of the members and friends who took the time to call and send cards after my Dad died on May 2. I was overwhelmed!

Please keep **Anastasia Birosh** in your thoughts and prayers on June 8th when she will be undergoing a bilateral mastectomy. She is supposed to come home the day after her surgery.

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

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North Royalton, Ohio 44133



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