



# The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

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

July 1, 2022

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton  
In-Person and On Zoom!



**July 3**

*Living Joyfully!*

Joy is an inner essence within every one of us. Yet, sometimes life and all the things we need to deal with, may dampen or hide our Joy. Let's refresh and remember how to live Joyfully every day!

-Led by Christine Smith

Worship Associate: Rae Brewer

Focus Collection: Cuyahoga Valley National Park Youth Enrichment Center

**July 10**

*From Competition to Community*

In the USA, the idea of *independence* is at the core of our national identity. We just celebrated Independence Day, and before that, Juneteenth. Of course, those days are important. But somehow, we've gone from the natural rights to be free people, to the unfortunate tendency of individuality. So let's consider the importance of communal collectiveness.

-Led by Rev. Gwendolyn Thomas, newly ordained UCC Minister

Worship Associate: anastasia birosh

**July 17**

*TBA*

Please see our website later in the month for details on this service.

-Led by Halcyon Domanski, Director of Faith Development, East Shore UU Church

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

**July 24**

*You Don't Fear the Person Whose Story You Know*

Islam is one of the most misunderstood faiths in the West. For centuries, some politicians and private industry, have propagated misinformation about Islam. Getting to know your Muslim neighbor goes in concert with the adoption of the 8th Principle in helping us build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community. Knowledge is the power to realize some of our implicit biases and a step towards our journey to dismantle all forms of oppression.

-Led by Isam Zaiem, Cleveland Chapter, Co-founder Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Worship Associate: anastasia birosh

**July 31**

*Works Without Faith*

Many of us come from traditions that warn us that "faith without works is dead." UU's hold many views on faith. Though we may not agree on the source, nature, or need for faith, as activists striving for justice, we often whole-heartedly agree on our works. But are these good works sustainable on their own? Is the simple quest for justice enough?

-Led by Rev. Joe Donatone, Chaplain, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

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## **Focus Collection for July: Cuyahoga Valley National Park Youth Enrichment Center** by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

I am pleased to continue our support of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Youth Enrichment Center for the July Focus Collection. It is so fortunate that a National Park is in our "backyard" for the residents of Greater Cleveland and Akron areas to enjoy. Financially assisting the Park is consistent with our 7th Principal, and reflects the environmental values of our Congregation. The goal of educating youth will create responsible adults. Many of our members are actively involved with CNVP. Contributions can be made by sending a check to SWUU, 6320 Royalton Rd., North Royalton 44133 or sent using your Vanco Account. Please support this local asset, and go out and enjoy the park system this year. Thank you!

## **Urban Hope Outreach Update** by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Debby Gorencic and I took food to the Urban Hope Storefront Sunday, June 12th. Guests are now invited in to sit and eat and shower. We are not making the brown bag lunches anymore. We took fried chicken from Giant Eagle, potato salad, chips, cheese sticks, hard boiled eggs, homemade cookies and the rest of the cake from Meg's party. It was a feast and very much appreciated. We did not have one drop of food left over (including cake), as people were eating seconds and taking food with them. It was a particularly calm day, and the guests were cheerful and super appreciative. Our next visit is Sunday, July 31st, and we will follow the same format. We take the month of August off but will resume in September. At that time we will be asking people to donate food and possibly come with us to the Storefront. We will send more information in August. We will gladly take any financial donations. Checks or cash can be given to Debby, Nancy Peltola, or myself. Thank you for your generous contributions and supporting our Cleveland neighbors.

## **Women's Fellowship Gathering** by Edna Haugland, Host

All women and female-identifying SWUU members and friends are welcome to join us at the SWUU church building at 6:00 pm on July 22nd for a Vegi pot-luck and good conversation. We will be meeting downstairs. The theme will be vegetarian and vegan food. Please RSVP to Edna Haugland at [edna.haugland@gmail.com](mailto:edna.haugland@gmail.com) or call/text 330-410-6179, if you'd like to attend by Monday, July 18.

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## 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 on our website for the specific date. Everyone is welcome to attend. Minutes from the meetings will be available for members upon request to the Board Secretary.

## 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)

## Get Connected!

If you would like to receive The Forum via email, or if you would like to join a newsgroup focused on issues of importance to SWUU, or if you would like to receive our weekly newsblast, e-mail [connect@swuu.org](mailto:connect@swuu.org) and tell us which you want.

## 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

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

**Mike Gold** (President)

**Ryan Bergeron** (Music Director)

**Carolyn Stevens** (Church Administrator) (440) 877-1686

**Carolyn Stevens** (Director of Religious Education)

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## SWUU VOTES TO ADOPT 8th PRINCIPLE!

The Eighth Principle was officially adopted by SWUU at the annual meeting in June! Fifty-one votes were required for passage, sixty-three members voted and an overwhelming number voted YES to adopt.

We are grateful to the Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF), led by anastasia birosh and Adrienne Ellis, and to all those who spoke throughout this year in support of the Eighth Principle and/or attended the many discussions sponsored by the ARTF. A special thank you to Rev. Meg, who made adoption of the Eighth Principle at SWUU a goal of our shared ministry this year!

## Notes From The Board

by Dodi Lettus, Outgoing Board President

At our June 12 Congregational meeting, the new budget was adopted for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. As a result of this, I am pleased to tell you that Carolyn Stevens, our Director of Religious Education/Office Administrator has a change in one of her job titles. Carolyn is now officially our **Church Administrator**. She will, of course, also continue her DRE role. The split is officially 12 hours weekly as DRE and 13 hours as Church Administrator.

Overall, Carolyn's job duties haven't changed, but this title change emphasizes the importance of the support role she plays for our Minister, which goes beyond routine clerical duties and involves more complex decision-making and responsibility for the administrative side of the church. A good example of this is the outstanding work Carolyn did over the past year in working with Church Mutual, our insurance company, and various repair people to remediate the damage done throughout the church by the electrical surge including the elevator repair. Carolyn worked closely with Building and Grounds chairperson, Dan Paxson. Carolyn has been exceeding her responsibilities as OA throughout her time with us, taking on with efficiency and good humor responsibilities previously held by our Financial Consultant and working to revamp our website.

**Carolyn will be out of the office from July 10-17 while she coordinates the UUA Summer Institute.** Many of you know that over the past year Carolyn has been responsible for planning and organizing the Summer Institute—no small task. Prior to coming to SWUU, Carolyn was the Church Administrator for the UU Church of Akron.

New Board members Rae Brewer and anastasia birosh were elected to serve a three-year term. Dan Paxson will join the Board to fill the vacancy due to Wil Avery stepping down to serve on the Leadership Development Committee. Mike Gold will start his term as Board President July 1 and Deb Celinski was elected as Vice-President/President Elect. Sharron Abbey Gold will serve as Board Secretary.

Thank you to departing Board members Sarajane Willson and Wil Avery for your service and to Adam Miller for continuing to serve. And thank you to all of the wonderful people who have been so supportive to me throughout my year as Board President!

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## **SWUU T-shirt Sale**

by Susan Paxson, Membership

Are you wishing you had a royal blue shirt to wear to outside events to show your support of SWUU? If so, you are not alone. That is why we are planning on ordering new SWUU shirts. I had hoped to have some details about the cost of the shirts but I am waiting to hear back from the company. Please know that we are working on this. If you would like to get a shirt and you have not told me, please let me know so I can get an idea of how many we will need. Hopefully by August, I will have the details, but for now, here is what we are hoping the shirts will look like. They will be royal blue because all of our other shirts are that color and some people would rather not buy a new one. We were also thinking the chalice logo might be a little larger.



## **Women's Group**

by Hallie Davis, Coordinator

The Women's group gathers monthly to check-in and present a variety of topics that are focused on Women's issues and current events. In our last few meetings we discussed self-compassion using Kristen Neffs' book, Fierce Self-Compassion: How Women can Harness Kindness to Speak Up, Claim Their Power and Thrive. The group is taking a summer break and will meet again on the third Friday of the month, starting September 16th.

In September, we will discuss the recent court decisions on abortion, federal funding for religious schools, and gun rights. We'll brainstorm efforts that we, as Unitarian-Universalists women, can accomplish to let our voices be heard. Our December meeting, which will be the SWUU Christmas Luncheon (open to all members and friends). We hope to schedule this at a restaurant on a Saturday afternoon to accommodate those who work.

We plan to invite our new minister, Ali Peters, to an upcoming meeting. More info will come via upcoming forums and the SWUU list. New folks are always welcome to attend! Please contact Hallie for more information at [hallieswuu@gmail.com](mailto:hallieswuu@gmail.com).

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## Sharing and Caring

**Ralph Ryan III**, died on Sunday, June 19th. Ralph was a happy, wise, loquacious, eccentric, dearly loved, long-time member of SWUU, when we met at B/W. Cards and calls are welcomed by his daughter Niccole, with whose family he had been living for the past four years. Her address and phone number are:

Niccole Colson  
10813 Glamer Dr.  
Parma OH 44130  
(cell) 440-759-6174

**Betsy Clark** shares her joy of spending the weekend celebrating the marriage of her daughter Taylor Hinton to Ian Carbone. They were legally married last year, but this weekend was the ceremony where friends and family could be there. Our own **Adrienne Ellis** was the officiant!

*\* please 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.