



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

August 1, 2022

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

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



August 7

Can We Thrive Now?

This is a chaotic and unpredictable time in our country and planet's history. The future feels uncertain and the present difficult. Even before the pandemic, many of us, myself included, were often exhausted and worried. We are all caught in multiple seismic cultural, emotional, and economic shifts and often impacted by collective traumatic stress. What do we need to let go of and leave behind to make way for new ways of being, living, and working together? What might thriving look like—personally and as a congregation—now?

-Led by Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer via recorded video, Evin serves the Central East Region in the areas of Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Intercultural Competency

Worship Associate: Deb Celinski

Focus Collection: Minister's Discretionary Fund

August 14

TBA

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

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

August 21

TBA

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

-Led by Rev. Ali Peters

Worship Associate: Rae Brewer

August 28

Being & Becoming

August 28 coincides with the beginning of the month of Elul on the Jewish calendar. This is exactly one month before we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. In Elul we enter a period of introspection and self-reflection. We face the questions: Who am I? How have I failed to be the true me? Spiritually and psychologically this is a meaningful time. I will share stories and texts that can serve as a guide for all who embark on this pilgrimage to oneself.

-Led by Rabbi Eddie Sukol, founder of The Shul, Cleveland's Open Synagogue

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

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Focus Collection for August and September: Minister's Discretionary Fund

by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

During these two months, we will collect monetary gifts to benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund. These current financial times have been challenging for all of us, and more people in our SWUU Family have needed assistance to meet their own basic financial obligations.

While we did just have a Focus Collection in April for this purpose, the fund is nearly depleted. By collecting for the Minister's Discretionary Fund during August and September, we will be able to welcome our new minister, Ali Peters, with funds that she has discretion to give to our SWUU members and friends who need it the most. As many in our church community know, a private appointment may be made with our minister to confidentially discuss a special monetary need.

Donations may be made by check at a church service or by mail to SWUU, 6320 Royalton Rd., North Royalton, OH 44133. Please write Focus Collection on the memo line. Or you may use the Vanco GivePlus website and just check Focus Collection. Thank you for your generosity.

Urban Hope Outreach Update

by Debbie Gorencic, Social Justice Committee

Jan Wehn and I delivered and served food at the Urban Hope Storefront on Sunday, July 31st. We welcomed approximately 50 guests who were happy and grateful to be inside on a hot day to enjoy good food and community as well as to use the bathroom/shower facilities. The Storefront will be closed during the month of August for the annual deep cleaning and painting projects. Jan and I will be attending the Urban Hope Steering Committee meeting on the 13th. The group will be discussing the format to be used when the Storefront reopens in September. It is likely that we will return to the pre-COVID format of serving full meals and inviting the guests to sit at tables to enjoy their meals and each other's company. If this is the case we will be requesting both food and monetary donations to help us provide plentiful meals to our guests. We would also be delighted to have members and friends of SWUU join us on our visits to the Storefront. Our regularly scheduled time is 3:00 - 5:00pm on the second Sunday of the month. We'll include additional information in the September edition of the Forum and questions can always be directed to Jan, Nancy Peltola and myself. Your ongoing support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Women's Fellowship Gathering

by Susan Paxson, Coordinator

Last month, 13 of us gathered right in our fellowship hall for a vegetarian pot luck dinner hosted by Edna Haugland. The food was varied, and we had some great conversation with new people as well as long-time members of all ages! Are there any other women in our community who might be interested in hosting this gathering? The next one will be on Friday, August 26th. The host only has to be there a little early to set up, and make sure the area is cleaned up and dishes loaded in the dishwasher before leaving. It is also helpful to send out a few reminders to people on the swuulist, and the Sunday announcements. Hosting the gathering in your home is also an option, but having it at church worked really well, especially because of its central location to our members and friends and we do not have to limit the number as we might in our homes. These intergenerational gatherings are open to all members and friends who identify as female or non-binary. Sorry, guys, but there is usually a men's group on the same night (fourth Friday of the month). If you would be willing to coordinate the women's gathering in August, text me to let me know. Maybe we can even get our new minister, Ali Peters, to attend!

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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 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 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

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 and tell us which you want.

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

The Forum

Notes From The Board by Mike Gold, Board President

As we begin a new church year, I am excited to be heading up a Board of Trustees that includes three former Presidents (Deb Celinski, Adam Miller and Dan Paxson) and two new members, Rae Brewer and Anastasia Birosh. Deb Celinski will be Vice-President and Sharron Abbey Gold, Secretary. I want to thank exiting Board members Wil Avery and Sarajane Willson for their service this past year and give a big round of applause to exiting Board President Dodi Lettus, who put in a great deal of time and effort to guide SWUU through a trying Covid-plagued year. Dodi also did much work on improving and adding to the SWUU Policy & Congregational Information Manual, which will soon be available on the SWUU website.

Right now, the Board is getting ready to welcome our new minister, Ali Peters, who begins work at SWUU on August 9th, which means her first service will be Sunday, August 14th. Carolyn Stevens is going above and beyond to spiff up Ali's office, along with some volunteer assistance. Please mark your calendars so you can come welcome Ali. You can see a little more about her on the SWUU website home page. The Board is planning to hold some Meet the Minister meetings so you can get to know her.

The Board and minister are scheduled to hold a retreat in mid-August that will be facilitated by UUA Congregational Life Consultant Renee Ruchotzke. At the retreat we hope to set priorities for our time and focus this coming year and define our roles. You will hear about the results of the retreat in next month's Forum.

The Board held a social gathering a couple weeks ago and we generated a number of great ideas that will be considered as we go forward. They include figuring out how to re-engage the congregation in church life after Covid and how to act on the 8th principle and widen our circle. Carol Jordan has noted that SWUU will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this November. The Board will be considering how to best commemorate that milestone.

Board meetings will be held on the second to last Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Meetings will be in-person at the church with a Zoom option. All church members are welcome to attend (except when the Board is in Executive Session, which would come after the regular meeting). Board minutes will be available upon request and online.

As Board President, I see my role as a facilitator, trying to bring to life the desires of the congregation. Therefore, I encourage you to share your ideas and input with us as that will make us a better Church. You can contact myself, Deb Celinski or any Board member any time with feedback or concerns. We are in the SWUU Directory and are here to serve you.

So looking forward to a great year at SWUU.

Mike Gold
president@swuu.org

Adopt a Highway August 6th by Susan Paxson, coordinator

Each year, we are responsible for showing up and cleaning up the area around the ramp from I-71 to Pearl Road. We have been doing this for over 10 years, but we are always looking for new people to help out. We especially need young people with lots of energy! We will meet on August 6th around 9:45am in the parking lot of the Islander Apartments (for signing the release form and safety training) and then we divide up and work in pairs to pick up as much trash as we can. Garbage bags and plastic gloves are provided, as well as safety vests. We usually finish up right around 10:00, so you have the rest of your day to enjoy! It is a really nice way to help make our world look a little nicer and you can also get to know other church members. If you would like to join us this month, or if you want to find out more about this opportunity, send me a text and let me know you are coming! We will have one more clean up on September 10th if this one doesn't work for you. New people are always welcome!

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Sharing and Caring

Lois Veraguth is home recovering from her knee replacement surgery last week. She is not ready for visitors yet, but if you would like to send a card, her address is:

Scott When (Jan's husband) is home recovering from his back surgery earlier in July. Jan said that he is walking more and more every day, and the doctors are pleased with the results of the surgery. Cards can be sent to :

Avalon Hearst has adopted a new puppy, a standard poodle named Moose. It is very exciting for mom, **Valerie** and brother, **Gavin** as well!

** please send your joys and sorrows to 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.