

The Gathering Place Progress Report

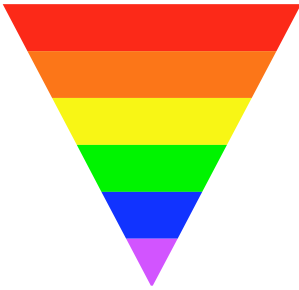
The following is a current update from the Building Committee on the status of UUFE's new, *The Gathering Place*. As you may have noticed, excavation in our south-side yard has not started yet. However, we are still on our scheduled course for this phase of the construction process.

Any endeavor of this size requires final state and city scrutiny with certain code considerations and approvals by both governmental bodies, taking additional time for their actual sign-off. Consequently, these latest actions have taken more time to get the construction underway than had been previously anticipated.

The temporary delay is because the state of Indiana has requested a minor change in the plans, which is currently being made by the architects. The change requires moving a fire door to a different location and will make no obvious difference in the now-approved building plans. While the city of Elkhart, is taking a closer look at drainage considerations proposed for the building site and the ultimate completion of the new UUFE addition. The city of Elkhart will be advising the architects how long its delay on this matter will take. Meanwhile, the architects are busy managing these changes as well as working with the contracted bidders, to make sure everyone stays within the budget for The Gathering Place building addition.

As further details are known on the start of—'digging the hole'—and on other construction information, it will appear in the, *UUFE Update*, email from Ron Gill, and published monthly in the *Fellowship Focus* also.

Building Committee Communicator, William Becker



UUFE Welcoming Congregation Steering Committee has been doing awesome stuff! And, UUFE members have been doing equally wonderful things – supporting this process so our fellowship might gain recognition as a Welcoming Congregation by attending the UUFE Welcoming Congregation Workshops for friends and members. Another step we need to take in this process is to be involved within our community with regard to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. To that end we have been invited by Indiana Equality (and have accepted) to host a day long workshop on October 10, 2009, for mostly northern Indiana concerning training folks/groups to be aware and work toward positive legislative actions for the LGBT civil rights.

This is a big event, taking much planning and will need UUFE member involvement to do it right. The title of this workshop will be "Organizing for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Rights: Finding the Road in Indiana" with focus participants being LGBT and those supporting LGBT community living in rural, small town as well as urban communities. This workshop was held last year in Bloomington, IN with approximately 80 people attending; we expect even more in attendance. Speakers have been confirmed and/but we will need help from folks at UUFE to pull this off, i.e., assisting in registration, preparation of lunch/break nourishment, setup and cleanup, etc. It is a wonderful opportunity for UUFE to be known in the larger community in support of our UU principles. So....when someone from the Welcoming Congregation Steering committee calls you to volunteer your talents and time to help, please say YES!

Newsletter Deadline

Please note, the newsletter deadline is the 15th of every month. Rev. Amy will collect the materials from the UUFE newsletter box and the information from the office calendar on **15th at noon**. Please feel free to email any articles or submissions to **uufe@juno.com** or place neatly typed or written submissions in the newsletter box. Articles will be forwarded on to the Newsletter Editor.

Committees! Committees! Committees!

What UUFE committee is the best fit for you? Membership?
Social Justice? Care?

Or maybe you like the more hands-on work of the
Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Informative displays regarding our various committees will begin appearing near the end of August at UUFE and there will be a committee fair with committee members to answer your questions and sign you up after service on Sunday, September 13th!

More details to follow.

Volunteers of the Month for July 2009

Our July Volunteers of the month are Jerry Shaw and Jim Victor for their efforts in putting the playground back together again. The children of UUFE – and the neighborhood – now have a place to play and it looks much, much better. Thanks Jerry and Jim!

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1 CUUP's Ritual @ Elliot Park, 2 P.M. to 6</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19 UUFE Board meeting @ 7:00 P.M.</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22 Beginning of Ramadan.</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27 Senior Moments Luncheon @ 11:30 A.M.</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30 Blessing of the Backpacks during the service.</i>	<i>31</i>					

Board Notes...

At the July 15 meeting, the board of trustees:

- * Reviewed a proposal to appoint a new member to the Committee on Ministry. The proposal was tabled for one month and the board asked the committee to examine further issues that may arise from having both members of a couple participating on that committee.
- * Discussed drafting a smoking policy for the church grounds after reviewing practices of other UU congregations. The board will seek input from UUFE members who are smokers.
- * Discussed the need for a policy to cover UUFE's use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter in outreach. The board asked the Communications Committee to draft a proposed policy.
- * Started planning for a "committee fair" for sometime in September. The event is intended to educate members on the functions of each committee and to encourage new members to join the committee of their choice.
- * Approved the Bob Milne concert fundraiser for Jan. 23, 2010.
- * Learned that the Welcoming Committee will be hosting a daylong workshop in conjunction with Indiana Equality for Oct. 10. UUFE will be responsible for handling hospitality for the event as well as local publicity.
- * Selected Jim Victor and Jerry Shaw as Volunteers of the Month for reassembling the children's playset on the north side of the building.



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From the Archives

Written by: Kevin DeBeck

It's hard to believe that it's August already! In thinking about how the summer has gone, my thoughts drift back to our time in Maine back in July. The weather didn't cooperate that much, but it was very nice being in familiar surroundings. As most of you know, we spent two weeks at Ferry Beach, a UU retreat center located on Saco Bay in southern Maine that was established by Quillen Shinn in 1901. (In fact, the main building bears his name.) This was my first time back to Ferry Beach in six years, and for the first time, I would have one of my children, Henry, participating in the programs there. Since coming to this church about a year ago, I have heard much of the ministry of Bob and Helen Dick. I also knew of Helen's involvement in Ferry Beach. What I didn't know was how deeply involved she was. She first went to Ferry Beach in the summer of 1932 and worked as part of the crew starting in 1938. That was also the year she met Bob, who had hitchhiked all the way from Chicago to be there. Four years later Ferry Beach was the place where he proposed to Helen, and they were married in January of 1943. They spent the next 60 years going back, bringing their children and participating in various camps and events. In a story that she wrote herself, she described what her last time at Ferry Beach was like:

"Our last visit to Ferry Beach was a brief two day visit in August 2001 to attend 'Celebrating our Universalist Heritage' to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ferry Beach as a summer conference site by Quillen Shinn. One evening was a community sing of various hymns and songs dealing with Universalism and Ferry Beach. The leader introduced us with a special tribute to Bob and me for our stand and experiences during WWII as conscientious objectors. When we sang, 'I've got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in My Heart,' I said that during WWII we had sung, 'I've got that opposition to conscription down in my heart. . .', so we all sang that verse!"

Helen passed away in March of 2008. As she brought her family year after year, I hope to do the same thing with my children. I was not fortunate enough to have met Helen, but I hope that by going to Ferry Beach every summer, maybe I can sense some of her spirit there.