

TAPESTRY

A Magazine for All Peoples UU

March 2025



Monarch butterflies in their winter congregation in Mexico--(see article by Ellen S. Wade)

Editor's Note

If you wrote out the story of your life as a novel, the plot, at least for most people, would not follow a predictable arc from beginning to middle to end. Usually, one day follows the next in understandable progression, but now

and then, external events or changes of heart set us off in a completely new direction. In this issue, the Tapestry will examine those inflection points when we turn the page (or discover that it has been turned for us) to begin a new chapter in our lives.

In these pages, Rev. Bruce Beisner relates his transition to life in Louisville, Joan Miller offers a poem about moving in both time and place, Heidi Singer tells about her decision to develop a tune she had been humming to herself into a fully developed musical composition, Steve Koehler tells us about a career turning point, Rus Funk describes his decision to pursue social justice, and Ellen Wade explains how a book inspired her to set off on an international adventure.

As 2025 makes the transition from winter to spring, here's hoping your changing circumstances are made easier to navigate by the enduring fellowship of All Peoples!



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Siddhartha Gautama, an Indian man who lived in the 4th century BCE, has become known to the entire world as “The Buddha.” Through deep meditation and discipline, he is said to have come to some very simple yet incredibly profound revelations about the human condition. His insights went on to be the basis of a spiritual movement that endures to this day.

The “Dharma,” as the teachings of the Buddha are called, is based in four truths which address the states of suffering and unease we all experience and offer a path to finding peace and enlightenment.

At the heart of Buddhist teachings is the recognition that we live in an always-changing world. Everything we know and experience is ultimately transient in nature. Existence is made up of endless cycles of birth, life, decay, death and re-birth. Even the planet we call home is in a state of perpetual motion, moving through space in every minute of every hour of every day.

As the Buddha sat quietly under the Bodhi tree, he is said to have come to understand that it is not the changing nature of the world that makes life so challenging. It is our desire to control the change and our striving against it which causes us to suffer. Letting go and accepting that nothing is permanent and much is beyond our ability to control is the key to inner peace.

Like many spiritual teachings, the Buddha’s path to enlightenment sounds really good on the surface. It is wisdom to which most of us can intellectually connect. Yet trying to actually live by the truths found in the Dharma is never as easy as it may seem.

My experience has shown me that change can be wonderful and change can be quite painful. There are so many things about my life and our society that I would love to see change. I desperately want to see people become less divided, more loving, and to stop using violence as a solution. I want our government to protect people, not punish them. I long for the day when our country will adopt universal healthcare and begin to use the many resources we have in more productive and positive ways.

Yet change can also go the other way too. In recent weeks, we have all watched as the American democratic process and its separations of powers have been actively dismantled. Much of the progress that our nation has made towards embracing multiculturalism, addressing the climate crisis, and overcoming racism is being erased and threatened.

Together on the Journey

by Rev. Bruce Beisner
Minister, All Peoples UU Congregation



On a personal level, I can say that moving to Kentucky and coming to All Peoples almost four years ago was a very welcome change in my life. It has allowed me to reconnect with old friends, make some new friends, and find a better balance in life. While just a year before I arrived in Louisville, my life changed in another way when my mother passed away from cancer. Losing her is something I wish had not happened and I would give anything to have prevented.

All this is to say that change is truly a double-edged sword. It can involve loss and trauma. It can also be a source for inspiration and hope. Change can lead us into despair or be a path to new understandings and deeper compassion.

Oppressive and authoritarian changes are taking place around us. Our own bodies and families and personal lives present new stresses and challenges all the time. Amid all this, I hear the Buddha advising us to focus not on trying to keep change from happening or control it, but instead to embrace attitudes which allow us to navigate it with compassion and grace.



"Iris" Photo by Rob Kingsolver

If the ancient Greek philosopher

Heraclitus was correct when he said "Change alone is unchanging," then there are no guarantees. Yet there are also no final conclusions. Our story is always being written. This is a difficult reality to live with on many levels, yet it also can be an incredibly hopeful reality to be a part of.

Here at All Peoples, we affirm that Transformation is among our core Unitarian Universalist values. We try our best not to be stuck in the past. We also try not to be overly afraid about the future. This is a community where we support one another in discovering ways to adapt to the changing world while still holding on to the hope that whatever is happening now will not last forever. It will someday make way for something else.

Blessings!

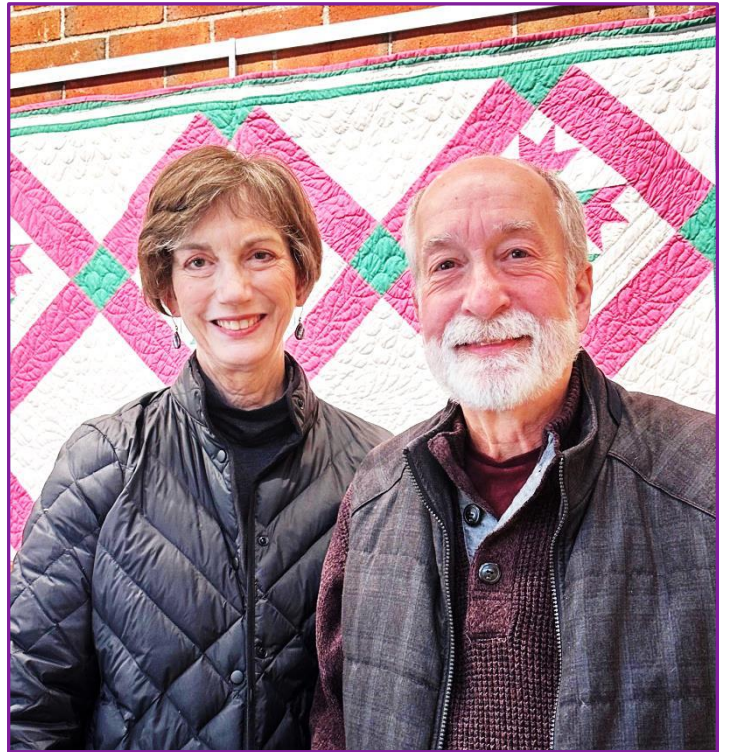
Bruce

New Member Focus

from Janet Taylor,
Congregational Life Coordinator

Amy and Gary Sloboda

Amy is from Huntsville, Alabama. Gary is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They met as undergraduates at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. This July will be their 47th Anniversary.



Amy was raised in the Methodist tradition; Gary as a Roman Catholic.

They have two children, Rebecca and Marc, and four grandchildren. Rebecca and her husband live in Natchitoches, LA with their two sons. Marc and his wife live in Chicago, IL with their daughter and son.

Having attended Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Lutheran churches, Gary and Amy first discovered and attended Universal Unitarian services for a while at All Peoples when it was known as Thomas Jefferson UU. They returned to All Peoples in 2023 to continue their spiritual journeys in this welcoming, non-denominational religious community.

Amy is a fiber artist with a Masters Degree in Expressive Therapies. She spent her career in hospice work specializing in Child and Adolescent Counseling and retired in 2018 as the Director of Grief Counseling Services for Hosparus Health. A board member and past Chair of LAFTA (Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists), Amy enjoys spending her days weaving, experimenting with other media and volunteering at the Little Loomhouse.

Gary retired in 2023 as an Executive Creative Director and Partner of Bandy Carroll Hellige after a 41-year career in Advertising. He enjoys using his time to read, draw, cook, run two miles a day, and to serve on the Board of Directors of the Louisville Orchestra.



New Horizons

by Ernie Weill

I combine joyful memories and boil them down
into a rich elixir.

Sweetened with memories of exploring trees,
rocks, streams with a beloved brother.

Easing into the warm embrace of a tender lover;
the glowing smile and heart of a life's
companion.

Mix in experiences of wonder and awe captured
by bright epiphanies of life;

The forests of Kentucky, mountains of China,
the passion of the art in the Louvre.

The swell of joy holding a newborn baby.

Rub on a ration of responsibility to numb the
hard memories but to remember the hurts done
to others.

Sprinkle with a little self forgiveness to dampen
the noise and revel in the silence.

A love to pass down to daughters and sons, and
theirs, and again theirs.

Finally to ease the transition of our lives to our
new horizons.

POET'S CORNER

Several New Beginnings

by Joan Miller

*Move to a new place
Get rid of a bunch of stuff
Try not to get lost*

*Then Covid taught us:
To communicate with Zoom
To shop with a 'click'*

*Maybe learn new things
Or getting back to reading
New recipes tried*

*How not to go 'stir crazy'
By exercising our minds
In isolation*

*Start de-cluttering
Since we're all 'getting up there'
Who wants all this stuff*

*That I've been saving
Collecting, and cherishing?
Nobody I know!*

*A diff'rent country
Is here now, and we're worried
Since change is so hard*

*Will we be OK?
What can I do to change things,
To get through four years?*

*Just live day to day
Be aware of politics
Speak out for justice.*

A Winter Sunday Morning
by Larry Farr

Visualizations of a fairy land of snow.
Appear to your servants in multi-shades of white.
The whiteness of purity I will never know.
Overcomes the realistic darkness of the night.

Church bells and sovereignty mislead the new morn.
The stableness of the snow I crush at my feet.
My walk. My life. I consider why I was born.
My ideal peace prevails with Allen's death defeat.

Unrealistic morn! Nature's beauty is so fair.
See the brilliance of the sun phantomized the scene.
I feel the ecstasy of the day to nowhere.
My heart and my reality seeming so keen!

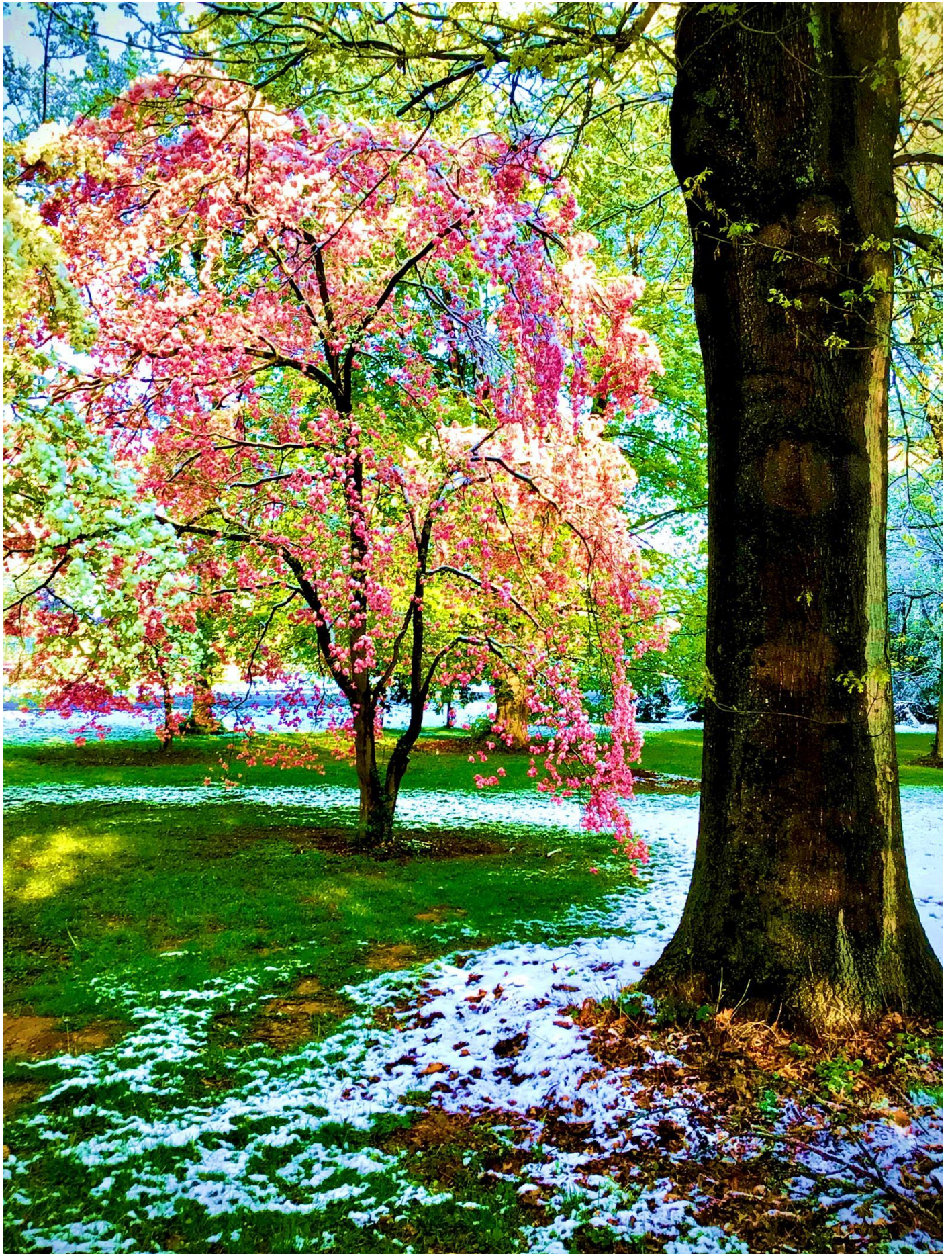
Deceptive morn! Your gracious appeal stuns my heart.
I focus on your beauty of what life could be.
Only to conceive that they are so far apart.
Your beauty and your cold are more reality.

The trees glisten, the sparrow perches on a tree.
A scene of beauty disguising our painful sphere.
My walk enlightening, setting my Spirit free.
Of a landscape so peaceful, so absent of fear.

But the morn shall pass: Its purpose shall pass away.
But the morn shall pass: being a mirage of peace.
Oh, but I pine to live in this morn's peaceful way.
Why does my Winter Sunday Morn peace have to cease?



Larry Farr says he recently revised this poem, originally written in 1969 while Larry was a student at Asbury College, following the death of his older cousin Allen, who was killed in Vietnam.



"Two steps back" photo by Rob Kingsolver

"There is a Spirit"

Musical composition by Heidi Singer

THE
CREATIVE
SPIRIT

Our congregation includes many creative people, and works of imagination have been an important part of the *Tapestry* since its rebirth as a quarterly magazine. Generous contributors have shared their poetry, short stories, essays, photography, or graphic art in every issue. Music, until now, has not been included, since it is a little more challenging to share in print format. However, since music is integral to the life of our church, it seems appropriate to add a musical dimension to the *Tapestry's* pages.

All Peoples Choir member Heidi Singer made this possible when she applied her considerable talents to compose a piece for our choir to perform a couple of months ago. Heidi's original score and lyrics, printed on the following page, will give the musicians in our readership a chance to play or sing her work. The rest of us can enjoy reading the words, and can hear the piano accompaniment here: [There is a Spirit-piano.wav](#)

When I asked Heidi how this work took shape, she explained, "I began writing music soon after becoming a Unitarian Universalist around 1996, but songs didn't come along with any regularity. In fact, I had felt a lack of creativity for a few years, since Covid and until retiring this past August. Now I



All Peoples Choir-- modified APUU web site photo

am finding more time for creative pursuits. The first phrase of this song (there is a spirit flowing round me) casually entered my mind as I hummed idly while doing simple tasks at home. From that moment there came an obsession with fleshing it out, recording the melody, tinkering with the text and adding chords. Then, for the first time in my songwriting, with a few inspirational hints from a beloved UU musician-friend, I found that I was able to compose the piano accompaniment as well. Then I felt ready to share it with Katie and the choir. The intention is to be able to sing it with the whole congregation someday."

Heidi says she looks forward to sharing more new songs with us soon, and we look forward to hearing more of Heidi's musical ideas.



There is a Spirit

Heidi Singer

♩ = 84

Chords: D D G A G A

Voice: There is a spi - rit Flow - ing 'round me, Flow - ing with me, Flow - ing
I feel its pow - er Ev - er chang - ing Ev - er lift - ing, Ev - er
Now let it guide me, Teach - ing pa - tience, Teach - ing mer - cy, Teach - ing

Piano

5

Chords: G A D A D A G D G D

Voice: in me. It's the spi - rit, ho - ly spi - rit of life and love, Just like a
grow - ing. It's the spi - rit, ho - ly spi - rit of life and love, Just like a
wis - dom. It's the spi - rit, ho - ly spi - rit of life and love, Just like a

Pno.

10

Chords: D D G A G A G A D

Voice: ri - ver Mov - ing on - ward, mov - ing bold - ly, mov - ing sure - ly. Ho - ly
foun - tain Bring - ing jus - tice, bring - ing heal ing, bring - ing peace. Ho - ly
cir - cle Al - ways hold - ing, al - ways danc ing, al - ways sing - ing. Ho - ly

Pno.

14

Chords: A D A D A G G D

Voice: spi - rit, the bless - ed spi - rit of life and love, of life and love. (I feel its)
spi - rit, trans - form - ing spi - rit of life and love, of life and love. (Now let it)
spi - rit, the gent - le spi - rit of life and love, of life and love.

Pno.

Movies that Moved Us

Digital streaming allows movie lovers to select from a vast film catalog spanning decades. In this new Tapestry feature, we invite you to send us a review of a classic movie that you have found memorable or compelling.

Certainty -- A review of "Stalag 17"

by Frank Nye

Stalag 17 was released in 1953, Directed by Billy Wilder, Written by Billy Wilder and Edwin Blum. From a play of the same name by Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzcinski.

The film stars William Holden in an Oscar-winning performance, along with Robert Strauss, Harvey Lembeck, Peter Graves, and Otto Preminger.



This was originally a play that was made into a movie by two people that were imprisoned in a German POW camp during World War 2. The film was loosely based on their experiences.

The story opens with 2 prisoners getting ready to escape. Once they get to the wire the Germans gun them down. The Germans knew. This starts a heated discussion in the barracks about security. Everybody has an opinion, but everything seems to come to Sefton (Holden). He is the known trader who has what people want in a prison camp. To get these things he trades with the Germans with cigarettes as currency. The prisoners are certain that he was the one that gave the escapees up to the Germans. He had been trading with the Germans. He had to do it. They proceed to assault him and steal his goods.

This sets him up to regard the entire situation he is in. He discovers what is really going on...

There are times that we are certain that we know what is going on. Sometimes what we think is true, but others are completely off. Thinking about today, the level of uncertainty is extremely high. There are some that claim to know what is going to happen. But nobody really knows. One can hope we will be surprised. For the next couple of years, we will need to find the small achievements that enable us to live to tomorrow.

If Pandora's story tells us anything, we will always have hope.



TELL US YOUR STORY

For this issue, we asked our congregants to tell about a time when they experienced a significant change in direction, or started a new chapter in their lives. We asked how this change affected the writers, and what advice they might have for others encountering similar transformative experiences.

Steve Koehler: "Life is a project."

My big change started in 1995-96. With the advent of the "World Wide Web," my business partner and I, along with several employees, took on a project to link about a dozen non-profits in credit management around the country so that they could share data. I discontinued my MBA classes at UofL to launch this project. Around 1998-1999, we started noticing that these various non-profits did not manage their data in the same way, making it difficult to share.

Despite my attempts to communicate issues with them, they were not willing to discuss ways to develop a common platform. Neither the non-profits nor I were willing to put more money into the project, so a few non-profit leaders, my partner, and I agreed to discontinue the project. The contract did not have a cancellation clause; so we just walked away.

My attitude was to never let a project fail like this again. Instead of returning to my MBA classes, I began training for my project management certification, which I completed in 2002. My business partner and I maintained our other software development clients, and found new ones needing help with project management.

By expanding my accounting and computer skills from the perspective of business/project management, my confidence in what I could offer greatly increased.

Based on this experience, my advice to others would be:

- We all make mistakes from time to time.
- A mistake is only a failure if you fail to learn from it.
- Life is a project. All projects must include, among others:
 - Identification of goals
 - Risk management
 - Communications plans
 - Identification of all stakeholders

Rob Kingsolver: "The Lost Letter"

For people like me aspiring to be a college professor, the choice of a graduate school is a life-altering decision. The mentors who guide you, the facilities at your disposal, your academic specialty, the peers you form lifelong relationships with, and your likelihood of being hired someday all cascade from that initial decision, or so I had been told.

Although I put a lot of thought into that choice, it turns out that my fate was determined by a totally random accident.

After teaching night classes as an adjunct instructor at Indiana University Southeast back in the 1970s, I realized that I would never land a permanent job doing the instructional work I loved until I earned a Ph.D. I applied to three schools widely respected for their ecology departments. My first choice was the University of Illinois at Urbana, because a researcher I admired and hoped to work with was there. My second choice was the University of Georgia, and third was the University of Kansas. Though my Masters advisor at Vanderbilt told me Kansas had great people, its location seemed too far away from my friends and family in Kentucky. Back in the days when OPEC cut off our oil supply, gasoline was rationed and the interstate speed limit was a rigidly enforced 55 mph. The 16-hour drive separating the University of Kansas campus from everything I knew might as well have been a trip to the moon, in my young mind.

So I sent off my applications, hoping for the best, and eventually heard from two of my three schools. Georgia offered me admission, but no teaching fellowship to cover tuition and living expenses. That was a non-starter, since I was practically broke at the time.

Illinois never responded, but Kansas offered me a fellowship, so I determined to go to the "Land of Oz" and make the best of it. The move out there in an old gas-guzzling rental truck was an ordeal, but when I arrived, I discovered that the department, faculty, students, and charming University town of Lawrence Kansas were all beyond my highest expectations.

I was halfway through the fall semester when I got an acceptance letter, with a fellowship offer, from Illinois, my first-choice school. The Illinois Admissions Director apologized for the long delay in their response. He said they had been reorganizing the furniture in their office when they found my application. It had fallen behind a filing cabinet, and was never opened until that week! I thanked him for the response, but declined his offer, since I had already started down a different path.

As it turned out, the researcher I had hoped to work with left Illinois the next year, so I was much better off at Kansas where fate had taken me. Thanks to my lost application, I met wonderful students from Kansas' Latin American tropical field research programs, developed a keen appreciation for prairie ecosystems, and learned at the feet of some of the best researchers in my discipline. I lived on a Kansas farm, learned to keep chickens, to grow a vegetable garden, and a lot about beekeeping along the way. My daughter Ashley was born in Kansas, not Illinois, so she has identified with Dorothy, from the Wizard of Oz, her whole life. Although we eventually made our way back to Kentucky, I have always been grateful for the fluke of chance that made me a Kansas Jayhawk for those five formative years.

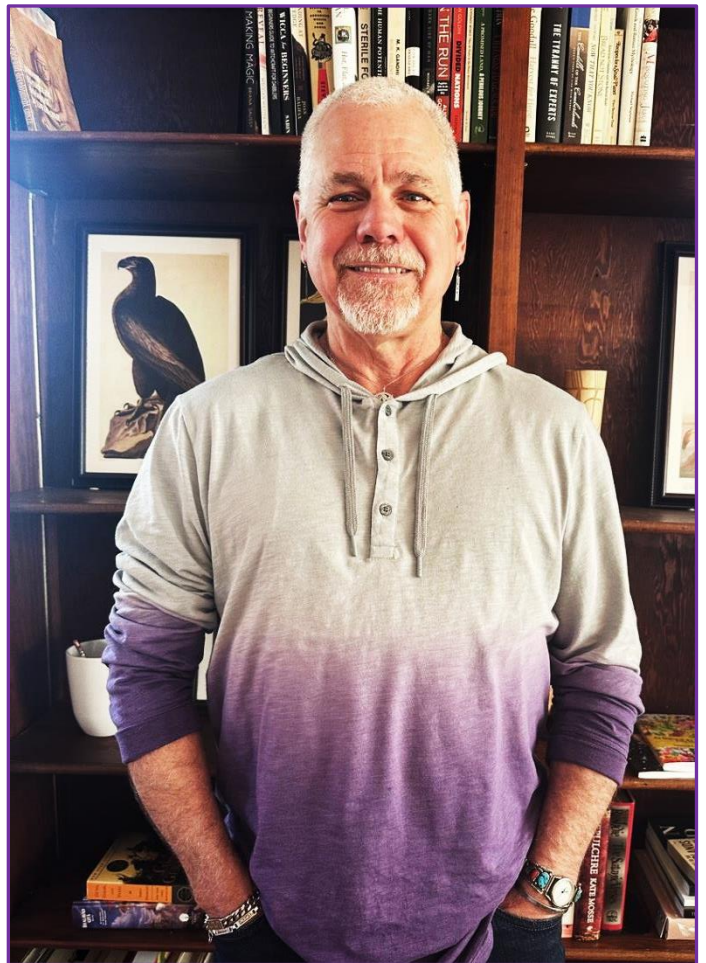


All Peoples' People

Rus Funk

Justice Center Director

interview by Paula Kingsolver



Growing up in rural south Texas, Rus Funk developed a love for justice early on. As he explains:

My parents are both liberal to progressive politically, and raised us with that in our house. My dad was always bringing, “those people” home for dinner. *Those people* would be in the American Indian movement, Gray Panther activists, gay or lesbian people, activist nuns. And the rule in our house was, “If I bring them home, you will respect them.” Of course, we were kids, and we did respect them. And they were cool, and usually paid attention to us! That principle of, “In our home we respect our guests,” has been a profound lesson throughout my life, to consider, “What does it mean to respect someone as if they were a guest in your home?”

Rus earned his undergraduate degree in social work at Southwest Texas State University [now Texas State University]. Soon after graduation he had the opportunity to move to Washington, D.C., and lived there for about fifteen years. It was there that he met his partner, Amy. He also found Unitarian Universalism.

I consider myself a person of faith, but before Unitarian Universalism I had never found myself comfortable in any mainstream religion. We grew up Lutheran, and the restrictions of the faith for me, in rural south Texas, were hard to grapple with. So in high school I bounced around; I kept coming to and leaving church.

My parents found the UU church not far from my hometown in Texas. My mom called me and said, “You have got to check these people out! They are so *you!*” So for a short time I joined All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington D.C. and then was part of a much smaller congregation that formed; the Sojourner Truth Congregation was an emerging congregation that I was with for probably ten years while I was in Washington.

Being raised the way we were, the fire for justice was lit in me early. So part of why I moved to Washington D.C. was to have a way to express my justice leanings, and of course the UU church was a way to do it from a faith foundation, and those kind of merged. There were a lot of churches in the D.C. area, so in the early 1990's we created the Greater Washington Social Action Network, which was a network of the social justice teams of all the congregations in the Washington area. That was a really good early experience around interchurch organizing, coming up with a shared agenda and ways to support each other's work.

Amy is from Louisville, and she moved back here in early 2001, with Rus following soon after. He found the career opportunities in Louisville to be different from those in D.C.

I had gotten my Master's Degree in Social Work at Howard University [in Washington, D.C.] As they conceptualized it, social justice was a part of social work. Whether you work on the clinical side or the community organizing side, you do justice. I never saw a distinction; to me it was *both and*. And unlike most programs that force you to choose the clinical track or the macro track, Howard allowed me to do both. Until I moved here I was able to find jobs that allowed me to do both, but moving here, those opportunities weren't as apparent, so that's when I decided to focus on community organizing. And I have been here since then.

I became the Justice Center Coordinator in August of 2022, just as the pandemic was starting to wind down. At that time the position was shared, part time justice center and part time KUJAN [Kentucky Unitarian Universalist Justice Action Network]. I had initially heard the focus was moving away from the Justice Center and toward KUJAN, so the first milestone in this position was

hearing from the congregation that you actually wanted a vibrant justice center that focused on the work here, as well as a statewide action network that was empowering. So KUJAN got its own 501(c)(3) [nonprofit] status and created a separate board. There is some relationship, obviously, but its status as a separate entity allows me to have clear boundaries around when I am doing the work of the Justice Center here and when I am the coordinator of KUJAN and doing that work.

Many congregations value and need the opportunity to network with each other and with other organizations. And a lot of congregations are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and feel under-resourced to do the work of the church or synagogue. So one of the emerging roles of the Justice Center is that work of networking and coalition building. That type of joining together is a distinct skillset, and ministers or religious education directors are not being paid to do that work. That's a role the Justice Center can play. "Network" is both a noun and a verb. Let the Justice Center be the *noun* of the network so that ministers and lay leaders can come together and do the *verb* version. That's the part that's fun! Coming to a table and sharing resources and building relationships – people have time to do that. Setting an agenda, taking the meeting notes, making sure people come - that's time consuming and not as fun. That's the part that people aren't resourced to do, and a role the Justice Center can fill, at least in terms of outward work.

Rus experienced a turning point that shaped his understanding of justice work, way back in his late teenage years.

Back in undergraduate, every core course in my syllabus had a practicum assigned to it. As a young student I needed to find a place

to intern, and most places would not allow me to do actual social work, being eighteen or nineteen and without a degree. I ended up talking with the local Women's Center that had 2.5 paid staff to run this 24 hour, 7 day a week crisis center for sexual assault and domestic violence. That was one of the most transformative experiences of my life, as someone who did not have experience with sexual assault and domestic violence; I knew it was bad, and that was about all I knew. This organization was led by Latina women in South Texas, and in the early 1980's; they were fervent feminists. The lesson of how to show up as a white boy in those spaces was really critical and has informed the rest of my life. How do I show up, first by asking that question, "How do I show up?" - instead of assuming that I know how to be in solidarity. I have to ask, how is my showing up like this [as a white man] going to be experienced? Because I can't just show up like I'm color neutral or nonbinary. I show up and

people experience this physical me, so I have to be very intentional and ask the question, because I can't know. And part of that was - I didn't see this then, but now I see that I had a lot of opportunities as a white boy in South Texas to develop leadership skills, but almost no opportunities to develop follower-ship. And social justice requires us to do both. So going to a feminist rape crisis center at eighteen years old, they taught me a lot around how to shut my mouth and just follow. Maybe it doesn't make sense to me now, but if I keep my mouth shut and keep following, maybe I will learn something. That lesson has stayed with me.

Rus' partner, Amy, is a therapist for a dual diagnosis unit at a local hospital and also has a private practice. Their son, Kiernan, is in his first year at Atherton High School. We are grateful for Rus' work with All Peoples and for the family's presence in the UU community.



Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' And Vanity comes along and asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But Conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must do it because Conscience says it is right.

--Martin Luther King

Heard from the Pulpit

Quotations from sermons and talks recently delivered at All Peoples.

On New Understanding

"Perhaps you've had an experience when someone or something surprised you and led you to some new understanding about yourself, or about those around you. Whenever and however that happens, that is Unitarian-Universalism alive within us."

-- Rev. Bruce Beisner, Jan. 12, 2025
"Living Unitarian-Universalism"

On Creating the Future

"I believe that people have the potential to do better. I take that as a statement of faith. I also believe that sometimes it's better to plan for the future that you want instead of the future you might really expect. . . You can move the needle in the direction you want to go if you roll up your sleeves and give it a great big push. It gives me hope that there are plenty of others around me who share my values. Communities like All Peoples are here to come together and speak those values and to take action in their pursuit."

-- Dan Sturtevant, Jan. 26, 2025
"When Hope is Hard to Find"

On Leaders and Movements

There was a civil rights activist in the '60s. Her name was Ella Baker, and her famous quote is 'It's not that Martin [Luther King] made the movement. The movement made Martin.' In other words, the heroes were all the people who came to the March on Washington and did all the work. They had to have a speaker, and he was a brilliant spokesman, but the movement is the thing we need.

I like Justice Ginsburg and Speaker Pelosi and President Obama. I respect all these people, but I think there was a sort of hero worship around them. They are not going to save us; we are going to save ourselves."

-- Perry Bacon, Feb. 23, 2025
"A Louisville Native with a National Voice"



Nature in Our Neighborhood

by Ellen Wade

Photos contributed by
Karen Rabek

Monarch butterflies are a common sight in Louisville, though not as common as they used to be. In this firsthand account, Ellen Sisti Wade answers the question, How did Barbara Kingsolver's book, *Flight Behavior* lead to my exploration of the Monarch butterfly sanctuaries in Mexico?

Finding Higher Ground- the Book and the Butterflies

by Ellen Sisti Wade

By personalizing the experience of global warming and dramatizing its consequences through the story's characters, Barbara Kingsolver's book *Flight Behavior* brought the climate issue to life and helped me imagine the future.

After finishing the book, I experienced a sudden gripping fear that I might never see these beautiful Monarchs in their winter habitat deep in the central mountains of Mexico before their new life cycle would begin again. Floods, mountain landslides, intense weather changes, and forest fires had already happened around them. When would the Monarch sanctuaries become uninhabitable? Where else could the butterflies go?

I had visited Idlewild Butterfly Farm on Logan Street to learn about birds, bugs, and bees. The life cycle of the Monarch butterfly was presented as a specialized program. The professional entomologists there gave us a fascinating story of past visits to the Monarch sanctuary in Mexico. I urged them to consider another one that very year. (Thank goodness it happened before the Covid pandemic hit our world!) I recall my June 2019 email to friends in our church community encouraging them to consider it with me:

"If anyone is interested in the idea of going on a 5 day excursion to Mexico to see the monarchs, some planners are holding a meeting on Thursday, June 27th at Idlewild Butterfly Farm 1100 Logan St. 40204. Please share this info. ...They are thinking of going sometime in November or December. I'm not sure how many they will accommodate, but I'm stowing away in the luggage compartment if I have to. This is on my bucket list!"



Ellen (second from left) and the Monarch expedition



Monarch butterflies flying over their winter sanctuary

What followed was a wonderful sequence of activities by enthusiastic planners and travelers. My newfound friend, Karen Rabek, signed on with me as my roommate at the local B&B. We had both lost our spouses close to the same time and we yearned for a nature adventure to immerse ourselves in. These five days in November 2019 included a wonderful exploration of Mexico City with a congenial group and tour guides. We enjoyed the surrounding sights and living culture of this great city before the bus journey to the base of the sanctuaries of Cerro Pelón and El Rosario. Our destination included a locally owned B&B and café. Rooms were renovated for the advent of international tourists since the impending plight of the Monarchs was broadcast worldwide. We woke up to gorgeous tropical flowers, hummingbirds and delicious breakfasts each day.

Horseback was the only way to traverse the volcanic boulder strewn trails and steep ravines. We could only trust our experienced guides who led the horses along the narrow trail to the top. We dismounted towards the end and had to walk several hundred feet more—stopping to catch our breaths in an elevation over 10,000 feet.

Everyone who approached the resting Monarchs within the Oyamel fir forest spoke in hushed whispers. It felt like a holy cathedral that commanded reverence. Once the sunlight and breeze hit the fir trees, the butterflies exploded into flight. Their rushing wings made a loud whooshing sound. The sight was so inspiring it brought us to tears.

Observing these creatures spending the winter together, surviving on stored energy, and drinking from the streams was a magical sight. They would be ready in February to mate and send the females on their way to bring new life to destinations along their route north.



The males we saw that winter would die having performed their life's purpose and sharing their beauty with us.

Ontario will be the destination for the female Monarchs we see flying through Kentucky this summer. Five or six generations of Monarchs will make the journey north using an internal GPS and memory of stops made by great-grandparents along the way. As each generation is created, the butterflies grow bigger and stronger eventually culminating in the SUPER Monarch- the species that will fly longer than all the rest from their Ontario destination to make it back to Mexico thousands of miles on return next November.

Will the Monarchs adapt to tragic weather patterns we experience more often nowadays? That is the question that makes me anxious. We have to decide whether Monarchs are important enough to share with our grandchildren in the future.





DECEMBER 2024 PUZZLE ANSWERS

Crossword

	W	O	M	E	N	S		I	N	F	O		M	X
B	A	G	E	L	S	A	N	D	C	O	F	F	E	E
O	F		L	O	R	N	A		O	N	E	O	A	R
O	F	T	E	N		K	C	B		T	N	U	T	S
F	L	E	E		A	T	H	E	N	S	D	N	A	
	E	A		S	T	O	O	G	E			T	N	T
A	S	A	C	A	S		S	U	E	Z	W	A	D	E
B	A	N	A	N	A	S	A	N	D	C	H	I	P	S
A	N	D	B	A	C	O	N		L	A	Y	N	O	T
T	D	S			H	A	D	H	E	R		P	T	
	S	U	B	M	E	R	S	E	D		M	E	A	L
M	Y	G	U	Y		S	O	X		H	I	N	T	S
O	R	A	L	L	Y		D	I	N	E	R		O	T
B	U	R	G	E	R	S	A	N	D	F	R	I	E	S
S	P		E	S	S	O		G	A	T	O	R	S	

Acrostic

Friendship that insists upon agreement on all matters is not worth the name.

Friendship to be real must ever sustain the weight of honest differences, however sharp they may be.

--Mahatma Gandhi

PEOPLES PUZZLE

"Pivoting"

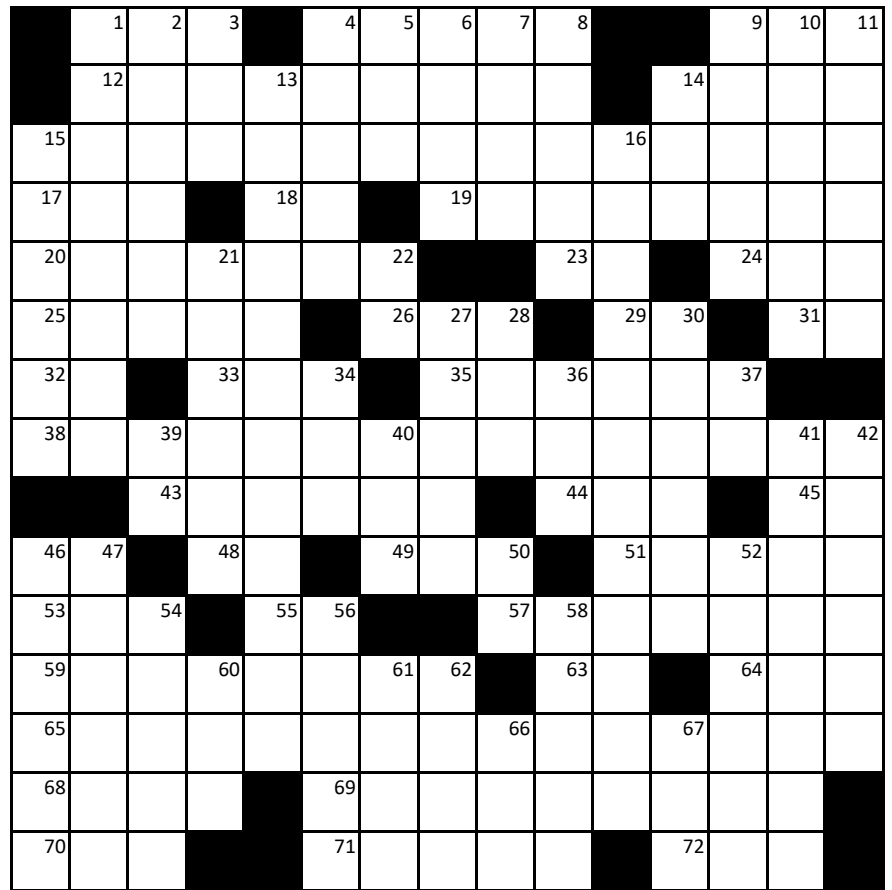
by Rob Kingsolver

ACROSS

1. Plea for help
4. Barton who founded the Red Cross
9. _____ - mo
12. Mosquito that carries malaria
14. Turn over
15. Fresh start (5 wds)
17. CD times IV
18. Talk radio band
19. Stripped before painting (2 wds)
20. "I'd skedaddle if ___" (3 wds)
23. State between MO and LA
24. Mrs., in Durango
25. Preceding work, mind, or martini
26. Second word in US anthem
29. Justice Ginsberg's initials
31. Civilian ship prefix
32. Palmetto state abbr.
33. US eye doctors' org.
35. "Hurry up!" (2 wds)
38. Pivotal moment (3 wds)
43. Unwanted animals
44. Author of this puzzle
45. One of Jupiter's moons
46. Prefix with cycle or focal
48. Lang. spoken by 43 million in US
49. Louisville's power company
51. Ancestral origins
53. Place to be monitored 24/7 (abbr)
55. State with 8 stars on its flag (abbr)
57. Her drive was _____ the green
59. Military brass
63. 180° from NW
64. Location of Victoria Falls (abbr)
65. Starting over (4 wds)
68. Upper end of t-shirt sizes

69. Tony, in West Side Story (2 wds)
 70. Originally named
 71. Top floor
 72. Undergrad music degrees
- ## DOWN
1. Lunch box item
 2. Describing a small garage (2 wds)
 3. We reap what we _____
 4. Cancer treatment, for short
 5. Meadow
 6. And another thing . . .
 7. Fishing gear
 8. Order from a "jerk" (2 wds)
 9. Workers dread getting pink ones
 10. They're in for the long term
 11. Stories told by singers
 13. Perform your role (3 words)
 14. Peninsular state (abbr)
 15. Betwixt
 16. Nina Totenberg and Ari Shapiro
 21. Declares
 22. First person plural pronoun

27. Scoring 100%
28. Hither's partner
30. Yogi's sidekick
34. Found on a sofa, not on a bed
36. Mid-level administrator (abbr)
37. Element with atomic no. 28
39. Car that never stops for gas
40. Common soccer score
41. Penn State athletes, for short
42. More _____ than to others (2 wds)
46. London landmark (2 wds)
47. Alpine climber's tool (2 wds)
50. Canadian interjection
52. Pandemic meeting mode (2 wds)
54. Conceding cry
56. City near Kafue National Park
58. Newton, Shelby, or Asimov
60. Beats depiction (abbr)
61. Pre-law student's hurdle (abbr)
62. What 9 is to 81 (abbr)
66. Bono's band, in Roman times?



ACROSTIC PUZZLE

by Rob Kingsolver

Follow the clues and fill in the blanks to complete each word. Then copy letters into the matching numbered squares to complete a quotation from a well-known UU author. The first letters of each of the words, read from top to bottom, spell out the author's name and topic.

1 E	2 N	3 M	4 L	5 I		6 B	7 X		8 J	9 F		10 S	11 A	12 I	13 Z	14 E	15 V	
16 Q	17 L	18 H	19 D	20 V	21 C	22 R		23 D	24 K	25 S	26 L		27 N	28 O	29 Q	30 L	31 H	32 S
33 G	34 J	35 K		36 K	37 W	38 F	39 Z	40 F		41 R	42 O	43 Z	44 Q	45 T	46 F		47 U	48 D
49 V	50 M	51 H		52 P	53 Z	54 B	55 I	56 X	57 S	58 E	59 W	60 N	61 K		62 W	63 M	64 X	65 J
66 B		67 C	68 A	69 U	70 C		71 Y	72 D	73 Q	74 V	75 B	76 T	77 R	78 C		79 Y	80 P	81 G
	82 K	83 N	84 Y		85 N	86 O	87 J	88 T		89 R	90 A	91 Q		92 I	93 B	94 W		95 F
96 Q	97 L	98 O	99 G	100 X		101 P	102 E		103 S	104 E	105 V		106 I	107 Y		108 L	109 G	110 U
111 B	112 M	113 L	114 U		115 S	116 P	117 L	118 A		119 P	120 C	121 F	122 Z	123 Z	124 D	125 A	126 J	127 O
128 K	129 J		130 C	131 T	132 H	133 F		134 G	135 E	136 M	137 D							

A. Urban area

125 11 90 118 68

B. Trachea

75 6 111 93 54 66

C. What frames hold

67 120 130 78 21 70

D. Secret

19 72 48 137 124 23

E. Get ones bearings

104 58 135 14 102 1

F. Risky investment

95 9 133 46 38 121 40

G. Neither wet nor dry

109 99 33 81 134

H. Penetrating beam

132 31 18 51

I. Furry swimmer

92 106 12 5 55

J. Less slovenly

8 87 126 34 129 65

K. Skater's game

24 82 128 61 36 35

L. Astronomer's realm

117 26 108 113 17 4 97 30

M. Van driver

136 112 63 3 50

N. Overflowing

27 83 60 85 2

O. Requirements

127 42 86 28 98

P. Shot

119 52 116 80 101

Q. Happenings

44 29 96 73 16 91

R. Zest source

22 89 77 41

S. Bedraggled

32 103 25 57 10 115

T. Conception

76 88 131 45

U. Leak through

69 47 114 110

V. Pitched

74 20 15 49 105

W. Divisible by 2

62 37 59 94

X. Hatchery?

100 64 7 56

Y. It gets flipped

71 107 79 84

Z. Elbow grease

53 122 43 123 39 13

Urban-Rural Bridges

Are you a "town mouse," a "country mouse," or something in between? Whether you identify more with urban or rural life, it's clear that city and country folk need one another, both on a local and national scale. In our next issue, we will examine some of the differences in perspective that come with changes in population density, and try to build relationships across our metro/county borders. If you have a story to tell or artwork to share, please get in touch. The Tapestry wants to hear from everyone!

photo by Paula Kingsolver



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