



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

The Joy of Irish Music

By Steve and Rae Kasdan

We fell in love with Irish music on our first trip to Ireland about 20 years ago. It was on a gloomy, rainy night that we wandered into a pub and found seats near a glowing peat fire where there was a group of local musicians playing traditional tunes. What a community get-together it was, with lots of pleasant conversation with locals and other travelers. But it was the music that left its mark on us most: spritely tunes which would set some people to dancing and songs that would set them to singing.

Irish Traditional Music (ITM) goes back hundreds of years. Much of the early music is unknown as it wasn't until the late 17th century that musical notation was universally used in Ireland. Originally ITM was passed down orally, and although sheet music is now available, learning to play by ear is still the preferred way of playing.

Irish music was carried to America and other countries by emigrants. In the 20th and 21st centuries the music spread rapidly due to the development of radio and recordings which ultimately led to a "Folk Music Renaissance" in the 1960s and 70s. Today, one can travel to almost any corner of the globe and find an Irish trad session, including our area. There is a fair-sized Irish music community in the Staunton/Charlottesville area and several regularly scheduled "sessions." Here's one in [Staunton](#) at the Clocktower.

Irish music changed our lives in unexpected ways. For one thing, this is social music, meant to

be played with other folks. The power of shared music is mighty, and we have met many players and made wonderful friends through music.



These days we play regularly at Irish sessions with our friends Phyllis and Jim Gaskins and Brent Holl. The five of us are looking forward to sharing our love of Irish music at the UUFW fundraiser on March 23, and hope to see all of you there.

Making Sunday Services More Accommodating

The UUFW has several new initiatives to be more welcoming and inclusive of members and visitors attending Sunday services who may have particular needs.

Assisted listening devices: Members of the AV Group (formerly known as Sound Team) have received training in operating the devices. Otis Huston agreed to serve as a guinea pig for a

trial run last Sunday, and he reported that it worked well. The devices stream all of the content running through the sound system and feature their own independent volume control. We have several devices in the sound closet. If you would like to use one during a service, please see a member of the AV Group at least five minutes prior to the start of the service, so they will have ample time to get you set up.

Large print hymnals: Several copies of the gray and the teal UU hymnals have been discovered and are now available for use during Sunday services. They are located in a stack on the front desk in the foyer. If you would like to use a large print hymnal, ask the greeter when you come in for the service. Everyone who collects hymnals after the service should return these to the foyer.

Pronoun stickers. The new pronoun stickers are now available for anyone who wants to attach their identity pronouns to their nametag. The stickers are located on the nametag table in the foyer.

Making the UUFW as accommodating as possible is a membership issue. If you have a suggestion, please let the Membership team know at membership@uufw.org.

What are you Creating Today?

By Annie Foerster

March is National Crafting Month. Under the auspices of the new Lifespan Learning Team (Adult RE), we are offering an opportunity to share your creativity and crafting with others in an ongoing social *and* learning group. Here's how it might work:

- **Creating and Crafting:** We meet once or twice a month to work on our own favorite craft or art form.

- **Show and Tell:** We enjoy seeing what other crafters are working on and share our own projects.
- **Teaching and Learning:** We are willing to demonstrate or teach our various art forms if people ask.
- **Conversation and Community:** We enjoy one another's company, just hanging out together.

There is no limit or restriction to the craft you choose, as long as you can fit it into the Fellowship Hall. Our first meeting is Friday, March 29, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. or any part of that you can attend. Come share your ideas, decide on a continuing meeting date, and meet some of the Fellowship's fellow creative crafters.

If you can't make this meeting, you can share your ideas and opinions by writing to the team at adultre@uufw.org. Watch for an April newsletter that will share this year's calendar of adult classes being offered at the Fellowship by the new LLT(ARE) Team.

We've just about made it!

Thank you to everyone for sending in your generous pledges so promptly! We are happy that we have reached the 98% mark toward our goal. We are hoping that by June 30, the missing \$3300 will have been added by a couple more pledgers, additional new members, and by those inspired to increase their pledges. Now our Board of Directors is able to work out a proposed operations budget for the coming Fellowship year.

It has been a very satisfying experience planning this Pledge Drive. Thank you for your commitment to our Fellowship, which means so much to us all.

The Stewardship Committee

