

Reboot Your Theology



Midwest-Appalachian District
Summer Institute 2012

Registration Brochure

Reboot Your Theology

Exploring USB Connections

Welcome UU!

If you are reading this brochure for the first time, we are excited to share the contents enclosed giving you a peek ("peek, what's peek?") into the world of SI. Those of you who are reading because you are excited to see what this year's SI has in store for the community, we are glad to have you returning and look forward to sharing the many opportunities SI provides.

Please share the magic of SI with those around you! This year promises to be a unique year enveloping that which is familiar and that which reflects necessary change. That's our polite way of saying, "Watch out! Things aren't like they used to be!"

The SI magic blooms each year for Unitarian Universalists in the Midwest-Appalachian District. 2012 MAD Summer Institute is excited to welcome theme speaker Rev. Reg Robot inviting all attendees to explore, *Embodied Theology in a Digital Age*.

Change is an ever present current (*electrical* current?) running through out lives and thus through the SI community. It goes right down my spine!

As you read this brochure you will see the continued presence of youth, children, young adults, families, 'droids, Turing Machines, robots and more that come together to experience the magic of SI. Woven throughout the community you will note change, and if you pick up enough of this spare change, you may be able to buy a pint or two in the Pub in the evening! Change is also how SI is funded, lots of change...

A number of factors have come together insisting on change for this year. The Summer Institute Main Planning-Like Entity (SIMPLE) has diligently worked to respect ~~all those whiners~~ community needs expressed through ~~pub gripe sessions~~ evaluation feedback (no, we really don't read those things, we make this stuff up as we go along, which explains why things seem more random as the week goes on and we're short on sleep) and the financial constraints of the MAD-SI budget. Over the past several years, costs associated with SI have risen. The registration cost has not risen to attendees. This year to meet current cost demands associated with a weeklong intergenerational camp and to address a budget deficit registration costs we've raised registration to \$1940 for adults, \$1715 for children, and \$1040EZ for the young adult weekend. The cost reflects increases from Kenyon College, rising food costs, cleaning up all those empty cans and bottles, expanded programming cost, and reduced numbers of attendees creating a climate of financial change. So since fewer of you are registering for SI, we have to raise the rates to keep the money coming in.

Programming has been streamlined as well with the overall goal to continue the facilitation of Much Action Generally In Chaos (SI-MAGIC) and break even. This year, 90 minute workshops will instead take only 75 minutes, 30 minutes has been shaved off of meals, and the evening vespers, typically only sparsely attended, have been cut to 15 minutes. The refrigeration system in Rosse Hall has been turned off, and morning service will take place immediately following breakfast in the Fierce Cafeberia itself. As you explore programming (morning and afternoon) you will see diverse opportunities to enjoy physical, electrical, intellectual, and art activities for persons and robots of all ages, streamlined for easy consumption.

We look forward to sharing the SI magic with you and exploring theology in a digital age!

Diana "Rip" VanWankel-RotaryEngine, SIMPLE 2012 Chair'n'Table



Embodied Theology in the Digital Age



Rev. Reg Robot

Summer Institute Theme Speaker

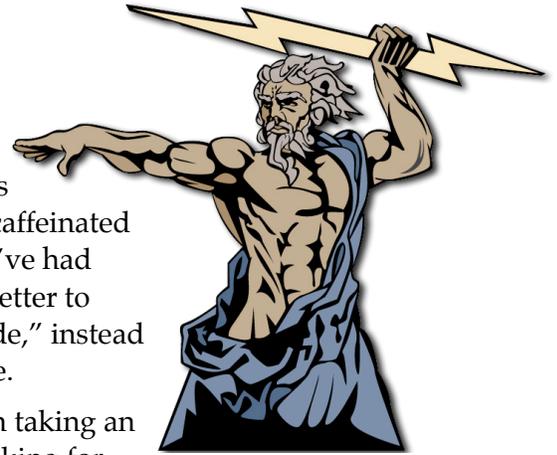
The Right Rev. Reg Robot from the Church of the Internet Fellowship will be our theme speaker this year, and her theme is “Embodied Theology in the Digital Age.” The Summer Institute Main Planning-Like Entity (SIMPLE), with the assistance of the Young Adult Panel Promoting Youth (YAPPY), has developed a catch phrase for the T-shirts of “Reboot Your Theology: Exploring UU Connections,” hence the USB (Unitarian Shuttle Bus) plug on your shirts.

Rev. Reg is the lead minister for the Church of the Internet Fellowship, which meets exclusively online. Summer Institute marks her first appearance “in person,” so to speak, and we are so very excited to be helping her “step in front of the screens.” She is the president of the Android / Atheist Alliance, as well as co-founder with the Czech theologian Karel Čapek of Robot Universal Reverends, the international support group for differently-embodied clergy. She has served the Unitarian Universalist Association since she was powered on in 1989, serving continuously with very little down time. She is the inspiration for the “Standing up for Electrons” campaign. SIMPLE members were united in expressing their enthusiasm for her unique combination of vision (she sees in the ultraviolet!), skills, and experience. Reg lives in South Minneapolis with her human and animal family.

Worship

Inspirational inter-generational (old, young, and electric generator!) worship is an integral part of Summer Institute. SI 2012 is the perfect antidote for "Electron Deficit Disorder." Humans can get plugged into electronic devices as a cheaper alternative to caffeinated beverages, so they can explore alternate connections to Nature. We've had lightning storms in the past at SI, this year kites will be flown the better to "catch the charge." Our goal this summer is to leave "no child inside," instead taking full advantage of every opportunity to recharge with Nature.

Rev. "Steve" Ash-Man grew up looking for electrical currents, often taking an extension cord in his pocket while wading in the Hudson River looking for turtles and crayfish. On his recent sabbatical, he traveled to Transylvania, to study ancient techniques of revivifying inert flesh with electricity. He hopes to share the results of his study with us this week.



Vespers

Take the time to reconnect with that outlet in the wall and reflect on the day's lessons and experiences during Evening Vespers: a radioactive and thoughtful time for all ages. There will be dancing in the aisles when the current gets flowing!

Rev. Brichelle Mutate is a long-time SI camper and a newly-charged minister. She hopes to bring new energy to the SI evening experience, just as soon as the smoldering stops.

Two evening services will also be led by our Revved-Up Youth and the Young Adult Panel Promoting Youth (YAPPY) activists on Thursday and Friday.



Summer Institute Daily Schedule

Sunday

Hurray! You arrived.
Now what's next?

2-5:00 Stand in line for registration, greeting all your friends as they arrive and totally missing any chance of unloading your car before dinner.

5:00 Meet up in the Fierce Cafeberia for our first dinner together

7:00 Opening ceremonies. Did you remember your church banner? We didn't think so...

Monday through Friday

Breakfast (hah! sleep in instead!)

8:30 Morning Worship, with children

9:15 Caffein / electron break. Recharge!

9:30 Theme Talk with Rev. Robot

10:30-11:45 Morning Workshops

Lunch!

1:30 - 3:00 Early PM Interspecies workshops

3:15 - 4:45 Late PM Age-appropriate wrksp.

Dinner

6:30 Early Evening Interspecies Activities

8:30 Evening Vespers

Beddy-Bye time for young children and small 'droids.

9:30 Late Evening Adult Activities

11:00 SI 24/7 Programming begins in the Pub...

Saturday

Breakfast

Pack up the car, if you remember where you parked it on Sunday.

10am Closing Ceremonies

Return your room key.

This can be done conveniently by dropping it into the key slots provided by Kenyon College in your dormitory. No muss, no fuss!

Until next year... :-)

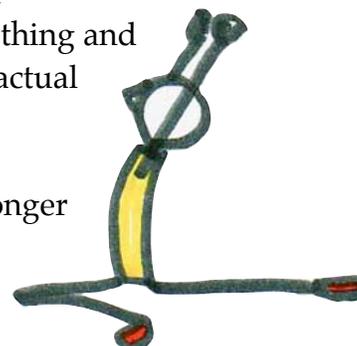
Adult Morning Seminars

Adult morning seminars are held Monday through Friday. When you fill out your registration form, be sure to select one seminar for the week and two alternate choices. Seminars fill up quickly (*the yoga seminars are already full!*) and are on a first-come, first-served basis, so register early. This means you!

1. Yoga, Mediation, and Death

Deny Boarding. In this workshop, Ms. Boarding shares her experiences as long-time SI registrariat in the delicate arts of managing your breathing and posture while mediating arguments on room assignments and workshop locations. Particularly helpful is the special breathing practice needed to keep one from stopping the breathing of obstreperous campers and the especially needy. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. A large stick of some sort might also be useful. No actual SI campers will be harmed in the practice of this workshop, although District staff might want to be watchful...

Deny has been practicing yoga for 5 years and mediation for rather longer than that. She enjoys sharing her love of yoga with her SI friends. All you losers who were closed out of her class, however, are on your own.

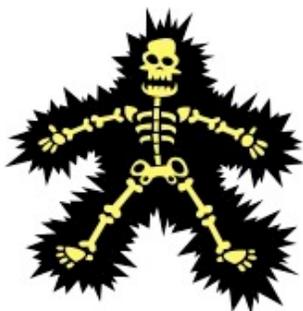


2. Discovering your Inner Drummer

Becky Bender. This is a drumming class - *musicians need not apply*. Learn the basics of hand-drumming. For the less-coordinated, learn the basics of foot-tapping, instead. You must bring your own drum, suitable for hand drumming with two hands. Wait, is that ableist? OK, the rest just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now...

Ms. Bender has been drumming for some time, and is pleased to bring the joy of beating on things to the SI community once again.

3. Stories of Power and Energy, An Introduction to the Juicy Electrical parts of the Hebrew Bible



Rev. Jean Van Boozler. Boy the old gods were fond of throwing lightning about! This workshop will explore the Hebrew Bible for stories relevant to the electrical age, updating it as needed for the differently-embodied worshipper of today. Watt lessons can we draw from it for our day and age?

Jean is the Midwest-Appalachian District Executive, the MAD Exec. Doing her time in seminary, she was fascinated by the Hebrew Bible, and has spent long time studying its code in matrices and using numerical methods, studying with the modern scholar Dr. Michael Drosnin. Her

dissertation claims the Bible code was written in COBOL, extending the origin of this ancient language back several millennia before previously thought.

4. Morning Boot Camp

Sandy Obchuck. Studies show most computers are *cis-operated*, running the same operating system as licensed by their manufacturers. But some can be *trans-operated*, for legal reasons most are Macs running some version of Windows. If you wish to explore this world of the OS, Boot Camp introduces the instance of running either Windows or OSX on your Mac.

Sandy has grown up in the L/UMWD community, playing “Doctor” with a Commodore Amiga at the age of six. He’s taught DOS, Linux, SQL, and Solaris, and is looking forward to working with you.

5. Message Communications: Linking Souls and Bodies

Brawny Building. Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, as any reader of this brochure might guess. Nothing brings the soul back to the body like a good belly laugh, the command-line message system of humor. With grounding learned in this workshop, participants could go on to greater service to the SI community, like writing for *The Mockingbird* for instance!



Brawny serves as an adjunct professor teaching Pop Culture with a local university. He has rarely missed an opportunity to amuse himself keeping SI campers in the dark.

6. Bricks in Spiritual Practice - Creation and Construction for Meditation and Prayer

Walt Amers. This workshop covers fundamental information in the brickwork of the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Catholic, Islamic and Bali-Hai’ traditions. The meaning of different kinds of brick, the significance of how they are patterned in construction, and the advanced practice of bricklaying meditation will be taught. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the Kenyon Campus by laying both brick and block on the new Horvitz Art Building being built this summer. SI has received much from Kenyon, it’s time we gave some back!



Walt is president of their local congregation, and teaches media studies in the Facilities and Construction department of Slippery Rock University, where the rocks may be slippery but the bricks are not. S/he is also the one behind Concrete Reality Works, out by the mixer.

7. What the Frack?

Fried Cal. Question Authority! Authorize Questions! No authoritative answers. Does anybody really know what time it is? This sounds like the Tachistoscope workshop, where you can help write the official newsletter of the SI community, but instead, Fried will explore the world of underground mysteries. There might be a field trip, there might not. Cal is totally fried, of course, and no wonder, following many Beer Workshops in years past.



8. Open Explorations into Self-Portraiture

Narcissus Warnsforth. Using and utilizing both traditional and non-traditional Fine Art media (and a few occult Mediums besides), this workshop brings navel-gazing to a fine peak of total awareness. Don't worry, a gentle gong will sound at the end of each day's session, bringing participants gently back to reality after such a fascinating experience.

Narcissus has been practicing his whole life for an opportunity to lead this class.

9. Beyond OWL - Creating a Sex-Positive Community

Bashera Mutate. Really. Need we say more besides, "Where do we sign up?"

10. Reading the Rocks: Oh the Stories Earth Has to Tell

Mangy Martin-Haystack. Another Geology workshop? What do they think, we have rocks in our heads? UUs are notorious readers, devouring notices, newspapers, and novels almost indiscriminately, including cereal boxes at breakfast. Some have even been known to read the tax code in down moments. This workshop will attempt to extend the range of valid reading material to include the very rocks under our feet.



11. Urban Gardening by the Principles

Me Issa Propeller. Gardening Principles? The Seven Principles, of course. This course will discuss suburban gardening as a negation of the UU 7 Principles. All that grass does not represent a "free and responsible search for truth," now, does it? Unless that's what you call it while you drive that lawn tractor around and around. We just thought that was the suburban form of Zen gardening.

Me is a member of Second Unitarian of Tooley-doo, where she is the "Rap Suburban Farmer" while disguised as a mild-mannered reporter by day. Me has

grown the same zucchini vine for ten consecutive years, and her neighbors have learned to run and hide when they see her coming their way with heavy baskets.

12. Taoism and the I Ching: An Introduction

Les Moore Mutate. Thoughtful people hear about the Tao and try hard to follow it. Ordinary people hear about the Tao and wander onto it and off it. Thoughtless people hear about the Tao and make jokes about it. It wouldn't be the Tao if there weren't jokes about it... and that's us all over!

Les pines for the days of the ~~Chawtukwha, the Chautokeoua, the Chewbaeca~~, the Summer Institute Movement of the nineteenth century. His background, however, is in auto mechanics.

13. Spread the Word: Promotion 101

Zales Grindstone. How to succeed at business without really trying. A wise one once said, "the Gospel doesn't spread like peanut butter. You also need jelly." We'll attempt to decipher what that means during this week in the exciting world of Public Relations!

Zales is a graduate of both the Dale Carnegie and Horatio Alger schools of Public Relations, but writes poetry on the side.

14. Advanced Hand Dyeing: SACRED GEOMETRY

Alyssa Cooper. If T-shirts aren't enough for you, this workshop is an exercise in body art by dyeing your hands a rainbow of colors. Guaranteed to wash out in 6-8 months.

Alyssa developed the principles of Hand Dyeing during years of practice running the Tie-dyeing workshops at Summer Institute. Sudden revelation came to her one afternoon when the tent was struck by lightning while she was gathering the day's projects out of the rain. All the pretty patterns, all over her hands!



15. Procrustes...the first UU?! (look it up!)

Laura Lemur and Deb Dunkin. Was Procrustes the first UU? Could be. He had one strongly-held opinion and forced all he met to fit that viewpoint! Sounds like someone you know? Every congregation has one. Join us for a fun week of improv, theater, and role-playing as we work out ways to escape dealing with folks like Procrustes.

Laura and Deb are itinerant minstrels wandering northeast Ohio in search of Goldilock's lodgings, not too big, not too small, but just right.

16. A Theology of Wild Abundance: Foraging as Spiritual Practice

Rev. Melon Tossin'. Dumpster-diving for fun and profit... This workshop is designed to particularly appeal to SI "campers" seeking to avoid the registration fees but still share in the overall experience. Rev. Tossin' will describe the best locations for foraging around Gambier, paying special attention to finding adequate nutrition while remaining vegan and gluten and lactose free. The location of outside electrical outlets will also be marked for the carbon-free among us.

Rev. Tossin' is the minister of the UU Society of Cheapskates, and has long experience in foraging. He is writing an entire curriculum on the subject for the UUA.



17. Collecting Change in Changing Times



Rev. Renee "Joe" Btfsplk. We all know in tight economic times proper stewardship of our congregations is more difficult. The members, or at least the members of the Stewardship committee need to "hit the streets" in search of extra finances. The arts of panhandling will be explored, including the potential of Three-Card Monte to really increase fundraising and the annual canvass.

Rev. Btfsplk is the Business Expert in Growth and Generosity for All Regions, located in the Far Eastern Area and Southern Tier states of the UUA, (BEGGAR at the FEAST of the UUA).

18. Belly-Button Dancing: Goddess Dance for All

Madam Pidgin and Howya Dooin. Through movement, video, and music, we will learn the Balinese art of dancing your belly-button while not moving any other part of your body. We'll also explore the relationships between this and other Goddess Dance forms, like Irish step-dancing and South American stride-walking. More cowbell, please!

19. Confronting Racism

Rev. Me Issa Carfull-Zoomer and Semi-Persons. Danger, Will Robinson! Not funny!!!

For the Children... Summer Institute provides supervised full-time morning programming and late afternoon workshops for children. However, early afternoon and evening activities require parental involvement. We can't watch your precious offspring all the time, now, can we?

Morning Programming for Children

Our children's and small androids' programming offers a variety of activities specially designed for the children to create their own Summer Institute experiences. They will meet separately and together in various age groups and energy levels from infants and toddlers through those entering 6th grade. We promise to get them amped-up on current or carbohydrates as the case may be, and then we'll turn 'em loose on the rest of you just in time for lunch! This is our catch-and-release program at SI for 2012.

Children who have completed 6th grade or have progressed in programming beyond elementary Fortran have the option of participating in either the Youth/ Android Program (YAP) or the Children's Introductory Program (ChIPs).

Nursery age children will be cared for in a comfortable, safe environment by our skilled team of childcare robots, a new feature we're trying this year. Until Kenyon College gets wise, the robots do not require room and board scholarships and can be recharged from the electrical outlets present in each classroom during their off periods.

All children and small androids will attend the morning worship with their parents. No fair sending them alone! The Adult Morning Workshops will end at 11:45,

while your children will be restrained until noon, giving you time to catch your breath before you pick them up (promptly!).

Late Evening Childcare Co-op

This year we continue cooperative childcare arrangements for those parents who wish to share human nighttime supervision of their children throughout the week. Those not willing to share responsibility can pay an extra fee on your registration form, and can send their children to our robot childcare center for the evening. The robot shift is over promptly at 11:30, however, so be sure to pick up your children before lights out!



Parent responsibilities include the following:

Provide full-disclosure regarding physical, emotional, and potty-training issues to classroom teachers.

Know that when your child is not in an SI-supervised activity, you are directly responsible for all acts of vandalism or mischief caused by your child.

Know that you are responsible for your child's health, well-being, safety, and sense of entitlement at SI.

Know that if your child fails to follow SI or Kenyon rules, they may be denied ice cream for the remainder of the week!

Afternoon Workshops

Body Art

This year in Body Art we'll be trying something new and exciting! A gigantic sculpture will be created with the combined bodies of all participants as the week goes on. Those of you who stop by on Monday should plan ahead, as we won't be taking the "cast photo" until Friday afternoon, so be sure to pack a lunch or two while we grow the sculpture from day to day.

Fart Space

An area has been reserved on the downwind edge of the Kenyon campus for the young and young of heart to practice one of the oldest pleasures. Bring the grandchildren! Food service staff will provide a variety of tasty burritos, so this is your space to catch a late lunch should your morning workshop go overtime. Really, this one was too easy; I couldn't help myself...

Duct Tape University

Wallets and other common duct tape projects are lame. This is DTU! Make a duct tape car, or small bungalow! The group will be attempting a duct tape hot air balloon to launch Thursday afternoon, in conjunction with Fart Space participants...

Folk Orchestra



Folk (fok) *n.* 1. an ethnic group, as a tribe or nation. Orchestra (or ki stra) *n.* 1. A large group of musicians performing together on various instruments. The Summer Institute tribe of instrumental musicians (non drum ers) will gather in early afternoon to prepare (goof a rownd) to supply music (pok ahz) for adult vespers services (nap taim).

Advanced Ice Cream

Not enough soft-serve at mealtime for you? Come on down! Preparation skills taught will include the DQ curl, sprinkle distribution, and custom blending. Then the fine art of eating a cone while not dripping out the bottom will be practiced until all are skilled practitioners.

Ultimate Frisbee

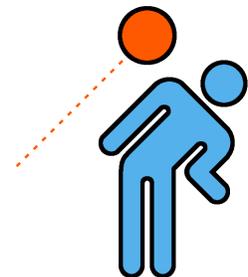
Depending on the weather, this could also be the Mud Wrestling workshop. Death, destruction, and frisbee! Organization meeting Sunday night under the bleachers at 3:00am.

Dodge Ball for Leaders

Leadership School comes to Summer Institute, and now is your chance to get 'em! Leaders from all over the Midwest Appalachian District will be gathered in the gym and balls will be distributed to SI campers as needed. Last one standing is next year's District Executive!

SI Choir

Building self-esteem through choral singing! All skill levels welcome! Will Hiker again leads the SI choir, giving everyone the exciting



opportunity to sing in front of a large captive audience. Express yourself! The electronically-abled are expected to use AutoTune, humans are on your own.

Whisky Sippin' 'n' Singin'

Explore the mysteries of distilled grains! This workshop will be held in conjunction with the SI Choir this year, as we find that after a couple quick shots of bourbon or Scotch, one feels more like singing.

Theme Talk Back

Delve more deeply into a discussion about the topic of the day with our theme speaker Rev. Robot. Tell her what you really think about the talk each day! Each session will be recorded so the participants can be identified later.

Fun Things To Do at Summer Institute

Bring your Bike to SI - Even if you don't ride, bikes are the way all the cool people get around at SI. Besides, the schedule doesn't give you enough time to get from one activity to another on time without wheels. Remember, bring training wheels, 'cause when you take them off again, we'll announce your name in Rosse Hall! On Thursday, Bolt Bradton will lead a moderate bike hike from Gambier to Washington, DC and back, stopping at Charlie's Ice Cream for recharging halfway through ('cause you haven't gotten nearly enough ice cream yet, have you?)



Returning by Popular Demand - Small-Group Gripe Sessions for Adults

An opinionated lot, aren't we? We tried it, we didn't like it, but that's not going to stop us from complaining about it again. Each group of 10 or fewer people will observe the methods of formal consensus in offering feedback to the SI Main Planning-Like Entity (SIMPLE). Why so formal? So there's one more thing to complain about! Sign up on the registration form if you are interested in participating. These sessions are for professional complainers, after all!

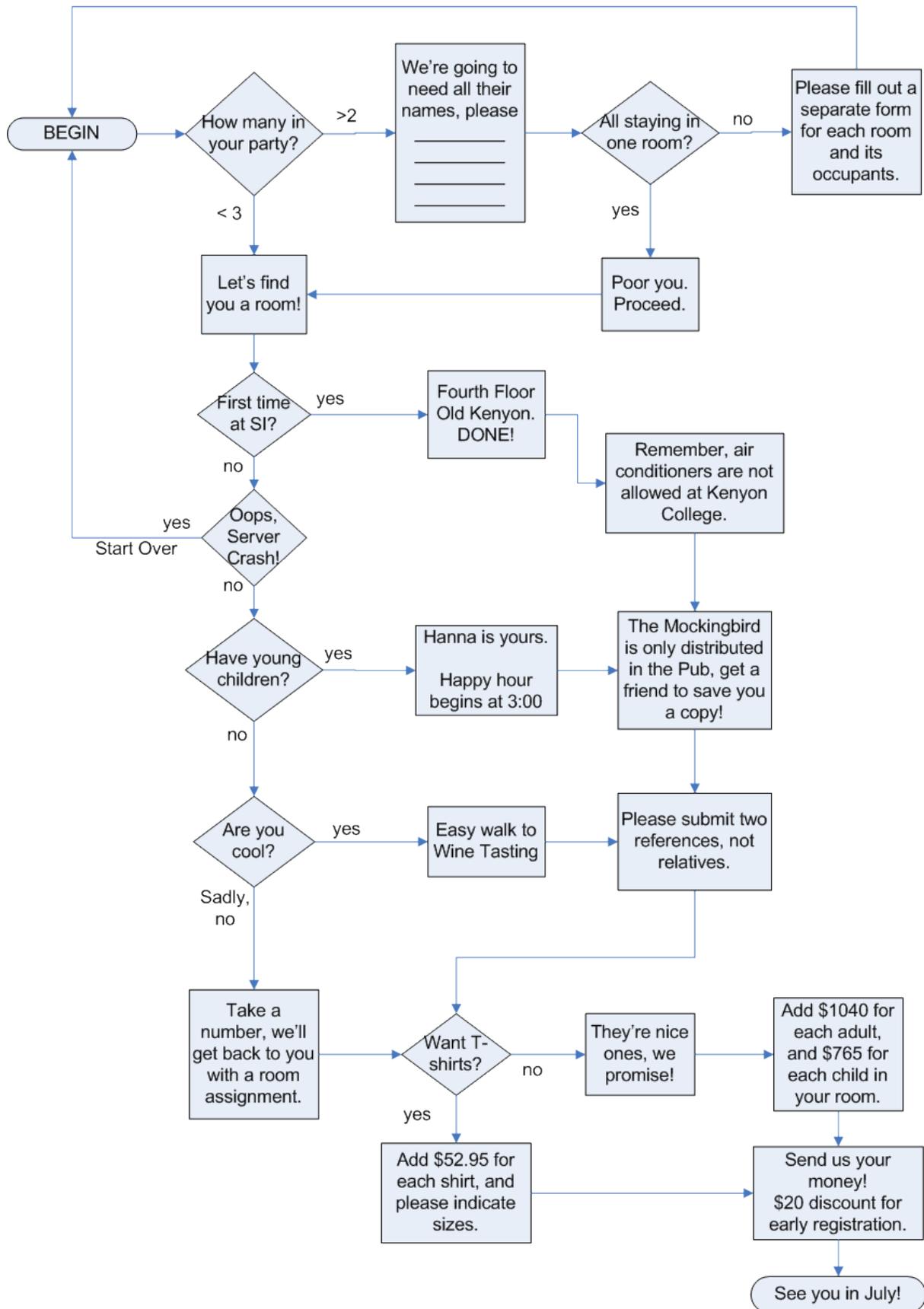
The Perennially Entertaining Evening Kaos Game (PEEK)

A Summer Institute tradition presided over by our own Ham-n-Eggs Gecko. PEEK is either the quintessential SI game or a room full of noisy chaos with prizes on top, or under your chair. Remember, all prizes awarded must be taken home with you! Kenyon College is not responsible for disposing of abandoned PEEK prizes.

The Pub

What would SI be without the Pub? How else would we cope? Where else would the erstwhile staff of the Mockingbird gather the ideas necessary to publish five or six times in one week? Some of you can go to the Hymn Sing or Total Darkness Ultimate Frisbee (as if the regular game wasn't challenging enough), but for the rest, you'll find us in the Pub if you need us.

How to Register for Summer Institute



2012 Youth Community and Programming

100+ UU Youth on a college campus?

The SI Youth Program is a weeklong place to explore and learn about UU ethics and values without some of the constraints of today's society. R U down with us? We thought so.

Youth Theme 2012:

You're Busted! Interacting With Your Parents at SI

Gotten into trouble for expressing your identity again? Harness your knowledge of UU theology to placate irritated adults, "talking them down" by mentioning your understanding of the interconnected web, emphasizing the free and responsible search for truth and meaning, but don't allude to the democratic process too much - this doesn't work well in this situation for some reason... We'll explore many strategies.

Quotes from Youth at Summer Institute:

About Youth Vespers: "OMG!"

About Theme Talks: "LOL!"

About the Youth Dorm: "WTF?"

About the SI in general: "ROTFLMAO!"

Summer Institute, Kenyon College, and You

Kenyon College is essentially the town of Gambier, Ohio. Summer Institute participants will find themselves ambling through this little town routinely, as it's likely your dorm room will be on the north end of campus and all activities on the south end. Most of us walk or ride our bikes back and forth, back and forth, and back and forth between these locations, but SI provides a fleet of daredevil golf carts for those with adrenaline and mobility issues.

To Sleep, Perchance to Dream

Most dorms are not air conditioned, and people often bring fans from home. Those without friends may also bring air-moving devices, but window air conditioners are not permitted. We want you to suffer, ha, ha!. Despite the electrical limitations, people also bring lamps, alarm clocks, stereos, coffee pots, bicycles, laptop computers, and occasionally refrigerators and hulking steam-powered laser printers. There was that electrical fire back in 2007, but it was a lightning storm, not an outlet overload. See past issues of the Mockingbird for details. First-time campers be aware: for comfortable sleeping, look for the Nap Workshop held every morning at 9:30 in Rosse Hall. Bring your blankets - you didn't think they were for the dorm rooms, did you?

How to find out more

Check out our web page at simockingbird.com, of course!

Summer Institute Vision Statement:

Yes, after too many soft-serve creations in Fierce Cafeberia, or too many hours in the Pub, you, too, may see the visions we've seen for SI. The lights! The music! All the pretty colors!