

HAZEL'S BACK YARD POLICY

At its meeting on May 21, 1996, the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, New York, re-affirmed the agreements of the "Memo of Understanding" (see attached) compiled in 1964, Without compromising that earlier agreement but to more clearly recognize and confirm the earlier policies and more recent practices, the following new Policy was adopted,

DEED AND DESCRIPTION

Hazel M, Hauck, and loyal and active member of the First Unitarian Society, deeded her property on Twin Glens Road in the Village of Lansing to the Society upon her death in 1964, The area encompassed is 1.78 acre in size, The deed conveying this property to Hazel M, Hauck is in Liber 335, page 160 filed in the Tompkins County Court House, A map of the Twin Glens Association lands is in Book E-I Town of Lansing on page 403, The property is identified as deeded to Kerstin T. Baird on the area map,

PHILOSOPHY

Hazel's Back Yard is a place of water and earth, of bird and flower, of peace and quiet, of meditation and retreat, of personal contemplation and private enjoyment. The following policy, intended to conserve these qualities, is consistent with Hazel M, Hauck's trust in leaving her Back Yard for the use of the congregation of this Society, and with the spirit and purposes of the Twin Glens Association.

Use of the property by the Society shall always be maintained within the context of the above paragraph, The Hazel's Back Yard Committee, as noted below, will be responsible for the implementation of the original intentions,

TWIN GLENS ASSOCIATION

The Society will maintain its membership in the Twin Glens Association.

Although the Society is a member of the Association, use of Hazel's Back Yard does not imply the use of the common lands, Such use is dependent upon the invitation of the resident members of the Association.

The Society appreciates the benefits of Membership in the Association and will consider financial contributions to the Association as may be recommended by the Hazel's Back Yard Committee and approved by the Society's Board of Trustees.

ACCESS AND IDENTIFICATION

Access to Hazel's Back Yard will be from Twin Glens Road only, at a place approximately five hundred feet from Cayuga Heights Road on the south side of Twin Glens Road, The entrance will be marked by two inconspicuous posts,

The four corners of Hazel's Back Yard are identified by posts of trees marked inconspicuously as determined by the Committee,

HAZEL'S BACK YARD COMMITTEE

The Hazel's Back Yard Committee will be appointed by and report to the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, New York.

This Committee will be composed of three members of the Society and will serve three year terms, The Minister of the Society will be an ex-officio member of the Committee, without vote, and invited to attend and fully participate in the Committee's deliberations.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall insure that the property will be managed in accord with good conservation practices, These practices shall include:

Any new plantings must be native to the region or compatible with the surroundings and approved by the committee; No plants or animals, living or dead, may be removed without the approval of the Committee;

No fires are permitted; No littering of any kind; The policy of "carry in, carry out" will be observed; No cutting or marking of trees; While on the property, all children and young people must be supervised by adults.

HAZEL'S BACK YARD AS A PLACE OF MEMORIALS

For many years, Hazel's Back Yard has been used as a place for the burial/distribution of the cremated remains of deceased members and friends of the church, and their loved ones, and former members and friends of the church and their loved ones, This practice will be continued under the direction of the Hazel's Back Yard Committee.

It shall be the task of the Committee to insure that the following practices are strictly observed:

- All remains must be pulverized.
- If buried in a container, the container must be biodegradable.
- Neither temporary nor permanent grave markers are allowed.
- All memorial plantings are done at the will of the Hazel's Back Yard Committee and subject to the rules listed above.

Additionally, the Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the Hazel's Back Yard Memorial Plaque and Memorial Book that are kept in the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca.

The family/loved ones may arrange for a brass nameplate, including birth and death dates, to be included on the Memorial Plaque.

The family/loved ones may also arrange for a photograph and brief biography, both of which are limited to a single page, to be included in the Memorial Book.

The use of Hazel's Back Yard, the nameplate inscription, and inclusion in the Memorial Book will carry a fee of \$150 that can be revised or waived at the discretion of the Committee.

The Committee will be responsible for the collection and accounting of these fees. Distribution of these collected funds will be at the discretion of the Committee. An annual accounting will be expected by the Board and will be included in the Society's Annual Reports to the Annual Meeting of the Membership.

HAZEL'S BACK YARD
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH ITHACA, NEW YORK

Standing Committee (appointed spring 1964)

Frank L. Eldridge, chairman 259 Troy Road, Ithaca
Lawrence S. Hamilton (on leave 1964-65) 107 Irving Place, Ithaca
John M. Kingsbury 10 Snyder Heights R.D. 2, Ithaca
Mrs. George H. Russell 409 Klinewood Road, Ithaca

HAZEL'S BACK YARD

1. Hazel's Back Yard is a place of water and earth, of bird and flower, of peace and quiet, of meditation and retreat, of personal contemplation and private enjoyment. The following points, intended to conserve these qualities, are consistent with Hazel M. Hauck's trust in leaving her Back Yard for the use of church members, and also with the spirit and purposes of the Twin Glens Association. Recognizing with sympathy the original intent of the Association, being aware of complications presented with transfer of Miss Hauck's property to the First Unitarian Society, and after discussions with representatives of the Association, we herein record our relationship to the Association and our intended use and care of Hazel's Back Yard.

2. Only individuals, individual family groups, or other very small groups will use the property. Single time exceptions may be allowed by the responsible church officers upon application, when they deem it appropriate. The Yard is considered a retreat where one or two can repair for meditation or communion with Nature. Church groups, as such, are not considered appropriate to the nature of the property, though a quiet walk by such a group might not violate the spirit of the intended use. Any action which could be considered a disturbance to neighbors will be avoided.

3. Ownership of Hazel's Back Yard by the Unitarian Church implies the possibility of a variety of persons' wanting to enjoy the Yard and, under Association policy, also enjoyment of common lands of the Association. We consider it impractical and inadvisable to include use of common lands in the present circumstances of ownership. All interested persons connected with the Church will be advised to confine their visits to Hazel's Back Yard unless personally known to, and specifically invited by a regular member of the Association to do otherwise. The Church appreciates the benefits of Membership in the Association and expects to continue to make a financial contribution from time to time to the Association in lieu of taxes on the common land.

4. The Church looks upon its participation in Association's affairs as a non-voting member, but is ready to give support, if requested, to action supporting the best interests of the Association. Any financial support for such action would have to be reviewed by the Church's Board of Trustees, and no guarantee of cooperation in this area can be assumed.

5. A Standing Committee will be appointed and reviewed annually by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Church. The chairman and members of this Committee will always be known to the Association. The Standing Committee will be the administrative arm of the Church in dealing with all matters pertaining to Hazel's Back Yard.

6. The Church desires complete understanding in all matters with the Association and will give prompt and full consideration to any matter of concern to the Association or its members. The chairman, or in his absence, another member of the Committee, should be notified for corrective action in any case of misuse of Hazel's Back Yard, or trespass on properties of the Association. Continued violation of this covenant suggests the obligation of the Church to close the property from use until such time as adequate measures can be undertaken to rectify the offending condition. If the Church finds itself unable or unwilling to provide reasonable satisfaction in these matters, an obligation will then exist to transfer the property to an individual or organization able to carry out the intended use of the donor, Miss Hazel Hauck, as set forth in these pages.

7. Access to Hazel's Back Yard will be from Twin Glens Road only, at a place approximately 500 feet from Cayuga Heights Road on the south side of Twin Glens Road, the entrance marked by two posts, their tops painted white.

8. The four corners of Hazel's Back Yard are marked by posts or trees with yellow paint. Trees along the perimeter of the property are marked similarly for the instruction of irregular visitors. The Committee will renew the paint and/or posts as the need arises. The area encompassed is 1.78 acre in size. Descriptions of the property may be consulted in the Tompkins County Court House. The Deed conveying it to Hazel M. Hauck is in Liber 335, page 160. A map of the Twin Glens Association lands is in Book E-1, Town of Lansing, on page 403. The property now known as Hazel's Back Yard will be identified as deeded to Kerstin T. Baird on this map.

9. Hazel's Back Yard will be managed according to good conservation principles. Plant materials may be introduced, but all proposals must be cleared with the Committee. Plants for introduction should be native to the region or compatible with the surroundings. No removal of living plants, or animals, or picking of flowers will be permitted. The entire area is permanently closed to all hunting.

10. No fires shall be ignited or smoking permitted in the dry periods of the year. The area may be closed in dangerously dry times, in actions generally paralleling action by the Governor of the State in closing woodland areas.

11. Dead or downed trees are to be cleared only as they jeopardize paths or picnic area or destroy the basic enjoyment of the area. A combined "wilderness" and "managed" area is desirable. Some dead-but-standing trees may serve a natural function beneficial to the general environment.

12 All visitors to the property are expected to leave the area as they found it. Littering of any sort will not be tolerated.

13 From time to time, work crews may be called upon from Church membership for clean-up or other necessary improvements. If young people are involved, a responsible adult will be required to be present and supervise the activity, both to protect the property and the interests of the Association. No active sports activities will be carried on in the Yard.

14 In summary, the spirit of these regulations is to preserve the peace and quiet of the natural area which was the delight of Hazel Hauck, and to provide the same atmosphere for generations to come.