

2020 Annual Report
Khasi Hills Sponsor a Student (SAS) Committee
Submitted by Cathy Doherty and Allen Duncan

The Khasi Hills SAS Committee provides financial support for the Unitarian lower primary school in the village of Mawkisiem in the Khasi Hills of northeast India. This support helps to improve access to education in the region and makes possible personal connections between the students there and their sponsors in Ann Arbor by providing a conduit for written communication. Each sponsor provides support in the form of a \$50 contribution and is assigned to a particular student.

The committee also organizes occasional pilgrimages to the Khasi Hills. Such trips were made in 2006, 2011 and 2016. The next trip is tentatively scheduled for October of 2021.

The committee directs its work to support the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
4. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part.

Program Highlights - May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020

The committee continued its work in pairing sponsors and students, receiving letters from the school during the summer and distributing them to sponsors in the fall; and collecting letters from sponsors and returning them to the school at the end of the school year (December 2019) in India. We also hosted a Sunday morning forum where we showed the video “Life’s Fair”, which was produced by our contacts in the Khasi Hills several years ago and depicts the daily life of some of the children who attended the school which we support. We have begun to discuss leadership transition for the group.

Committee members include Cathie Breidenbach, Hal Breidenbach, Cathy Doherty, Allen Duncan, Janet Duncan, Deborah Golden, Gwen Guthrie, Peter Hochgraf, Rick Johnson, Hashen Sohtun, and Robert Treadway.

The committee plans to continue support of the Unitarian school at Mawkisiem through the sponsorship program during the 2020 school year.