



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

This Week at UUAA February 17 - 23, 2022

If you are unable to view this entire email, scroll down to the bottom and click "view entire message." The email ends with a "contact us" button and our address.

The *Weekly News* is distributed each Thursday. Deadlines for submissions are Tuesdays at 5:00pm.

The deadline for the *Weekly News February 24 - March 2* is Tuesday, February 22 at 5:00pm Eastern [through this form](#).

The deadline for the *March Monthly Newsletter* is Monday, February 21 at 5pm Eastern [through this form](#).

Questions? [Watch this video](#) on how to submit to the *Weekly News*, or email Hannah at communications@uuaa.org.

[Support the ministries of UUAA: Make an online offering](#)



Sunday Worship

"Heartwork – Being a Spirit in the World"

Sunday, February 20, 9:30am & 11:30am

UUAA welcomes poet, author, and spiritual teacher Mark Nepo as our special guest this week for "Heartwork – Being a Spirit in the World."

Given the trying times we are living through, we need to hold each other through our suffering, and to ask for the story that has brought each of us to today, and to complete each other by listening with an open heart. In this talk, Mark will explore how a life of meaning and love unfolds through

adversity, how love awakens everything, and how care erases the walls we keep building between us.

Need more worship in your life? Watch past services, music, and stories by going to [our archive](#).

After the Sunday Service

There will be a limited number of tables set up in the Social Hall for social justice and fund-raising activities after both services. Stop by to visit the tables to see what is being offered.

Grab-and-go doughnuts will be available at the main entrance for you to take with you as you leave the building.

Please note our Covid Safety Policies: *Anyone entering the UUAA building for activities/business is expected to be fully vaccinated and boosted, as eligible, and must remain properly masked at all times. [A video of our updated policy is available here.](#)*

*Exception to the mask requirement: Members of the worship team who are actively speaking may remove their masks. All unmasked speakers on the chancel have tested negative in the preceding 24 hours.



Register Now for This Special Upcoming Event!



Mark Nepo Workshop: “Pain, Fear, and Things As They Are”

Saturday, February 19, 1:00pm - 5:00pm

It's not too late to register for in-person participation!

Join us for a workshop given by best-selling *New York Times* author, philosopher, poet, storyteller, and spiritual teacher, Mark Nepo! This workshop aims to uncover and personalize pathways that allow each of us to right-size our own pain and fear, so that we are not crippled by it or drowning in it, but rather living with it and still moving forward—fully present in what life is offering us now. Registration is required.

For details and to register, [click here](#). Mark will also be with us leading Sunday morning services on February 20, with “Heartwork – Being a Spirit in the World.”



Upcoming Events & Announcements
For a full list of events, [visit the UUAA Calendar.](#)



From Rev. Manish: Feedback Sessions Regarding UUAA's Acting Directors – Your Input Is Needed

[Tuesday, March 1, 10:30am - noon](#)
[\(regarding our Acting Director of Music\)](#)

[Wednesday, March 23, 7:00pm - 8:00pm](#)
[\(regarding our Acting Director of Spiritual Growth and Development\)](#)

Two of UUAA's current staff members - Stella Anderson and Carter Smith - each hold the title of "Acting Director" of the Spiritual Growth and Development program and of our Music Ministries, respectively. As has been previously shared with our community, UUAA has many options before us, which include possibilities such as making either or both of our Acting Directors the hired Director for their respective programs, extending the 'Acting' positions for a second year, and/or entering intentional search processes, among other options. While all staffing decisions ultimately lie with the senior minister, UUAA's Personnel Working Group is helping gather intentional feedback from our community members to help better inform how we will move forward. **This is your chance to participate, and your participation matters!** If you LOVE how our Acting Directors are leading their respective programs, please do not assume that each of them are going to be the permanent hire. (Either/both may not be.) If you have questions or reservations about either/both Acting Directors, please do not assume that it will all get worked out in some larger search process. (There might not be one.) Community members are strongly encouraged to participate in this intentional feedback and assessment process – what we hear from the community, collectively, will directly support how UUAA proceeds with permanent staffing. [Read more here.](#)



Humanist Discussions

Thursday, February 17, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Monday, February 28, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Thursday Topics: "On the Affirmation of Humanism," "Pivotal Mental States," "The Religious Right Death Cult," and "Ikigai"
Monday Topics: "Ikigai" and more TBA.

Lively groups of Humanists have been meeting for over 20 years at UUAA, gathering on the second and fourth Monday evenings and/or first and third Thursday afternoons to discuss topics relating to Humanist philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, science, and more. All are welcome. All meetings are still virtual. To get on our email list, get the login information, or get answers to any other questions, send a query to



Community of Writers

Sunday, February 20, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Member Barbara Britton offers the February prompt for UUAU writers, "What lives have you lived? Would your various selves enjoy each other?" Barbara's inspiration comes from Chuck Lorre, who wrote, "Maybe the real question isn't whether we live only once. Maybe we should be wondering how many times we die and become something else. Something new."

You are invited to ponder these questions and join the writers at their February Zoom meeting. For more information and Zoom link, contact Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com or Anne Ramsey at anneramsey2910@comcast.net.



Khasi Hills Student Sponsorship Kickoff via Zoom

Sunday, February 20, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Join us on Zoom to hear what's happening at the elementary school in the rolling Khasi Hills of northeast India, where UUAU members have sponsored about 100 students each year for many years.

Learn what a difference a \$50 sponsorship can make. Join us to sign up to become a sponsor, to renew your sponsorship, or just to discover more about the lives of students who call us at UUAU "the Big Hearts."

Email khasihills@uuaa.org to receive the Zoom link for this event.



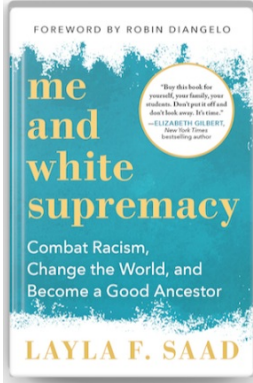
Kaleidoscope's Queer Online Speed Friending

Sunday, February 20, 7:00pm

UUAU Kaleidoscope invites you to join us for a virtual "Speed Friending" event. Queer love can be expansive and take many shapes, blurring the lines between familial, romantic, community, and platonic love. We'll socialize in small groups, meet new people, and hopefully form new friendships. Anyone is welcome to join us for this event, not just those who identify as LGBTQIA+. Please visit our [Facebook event](#) for more information.

Me and White Supremacy Book Circle

Wednesdays, February 23 - March 23,



7:00pm - 8:30pm

See Morning Group Option Below

The Racial Justice Arc warmly invites you to participate in a small-group reading and discussion of *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad. The book and associated journal prompts teach readers to understand their white privilege and their participation in white supremacy. The author suggests, "Create the change the world needs by creating change within yourself."

Evening Group: The book group will take place via Zoom starting on Wednesday, February 23 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm with co-facilitators Sally Preston and Bob Dinan. It will run on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm weekly for five weeks, ending on March 23. [Sign up for the Book Circle here.](#)

Morning Group: The Racial Justice Arc is excited to be opening a second Book Circle discussing this book, meeting Wednesday mornings, March 2, 10:00am - 11:30am, and running five weeks to March 30. [Sign up here.](#)

With Black History Month coming in February, this is a great time to commit/recommit to personal growth, reflection, and anti-racism work. UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray penned a [great article](#) on this recently.

Questions? Reach out to RacialJusticeArc@uuaa.org.



"Invisible Wounds: Healing Moral Injuries"

Sundays, February 27, March 27, & April 24
7:00pm-8:30pm

Join us for this three-session virtual series, jointly developed by the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor and the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY, in which we will learn from the experiences of military vets, hear how trauma and moral injury can impact our lives, and explore some of the paths that can support subsequent healing.

February 27: Leroy, an Iraq War veteran, and Yaroub, an Iraqi immigrant and designer, speak about healing from their respective traumas and their project of building the first mudhif (a traditional structure for community ceremonies and gatherings) outside Iraq.

March 27: Siren, a Global War-on-Terror veteran and a spoken word poet who has used creativity, art, and poetry as a way to work with and heal from trauma, will speak about their experience seeking healing since being home.

April 24: Rev. AJ van Tine, assistant minister of First Unitarian Church of Rochester, and Rev. Jared Dille, a military chaplain with the Michigan National Guard and a congregant with the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, will facilitate conversation reflecting on the content of the first two sessions, exploring how individuals and communities can support individual and collective healing in service to those who have experienced trauma and/or moral injury.

Register for this event using [this link](#). If you have any questions, please contact Rev. AJ van Tine at revaj@rochesterunitarian.org.



Why Are We Starting Our Conversation on Palestinian Rights with a Panel of Jewish Activists?

Sunday, February 27, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Throughout the year, UUs for Justice in the Middle East will provide opportunities to learn and reflect on how our congregation can support the Palestinian people in their struggle against oppression.

UUJME frequently hears questions from congregants about the American Jewish community's views on Israel and the Palestinians. So, we are kicking off our learning journey with a panel of Jewish activists who will share their personal stories of how their views of Israel/Palestine have changed over the years, why they got involved in advocating for Palestinian rights, and what it has meant in their lives. There will also be time for Q&A.

Panelist: Barbara Harvey, Jewish Voice for Peace; Emily Siegel, Program Director for Eyewitness Palestine; and Jonah Silverstein, student activist at the University of Washington.

[Click here to register.](#)

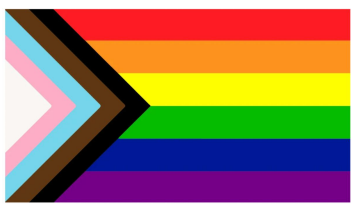
Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com



Memory Loss Support Group Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 3:00pm - 4:30pm

If you are a caregiver for a spouse, parent, or friend who is experiencing memory loss, you are cordially invited to attend the Memory Loss Caregivers Support Group. It is co-sponsored by the UUAA Pastoral Care Team and the Great Lakes Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. These meetings give you a confidential and supportive space to share your questions, story, and concerns. For more information and the Zoom link, contact facilitators Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com or Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com.



TrUU Hope is Being Revived!

Sunday, March 6, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

LGBTQIA+ Teens: Join us for a game day and hang out in the Fahs Chapel!

TrUU Hope is a UUAA group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and similarly identified teens. We aim to grow community and provide social, support, educational, and activist programs, as well as opportunities for youth to explore their identities and interests. Questions? Want to be added to our email list? Email truuhopeinfo@uuaa.org.



Introduction to Our Faith

Wednesdays, March 9 & 16, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Register by Thursday, March 3

This two-session Zoom class launches you on your way toward membership and a deeper understanding of this congregation and faith. We will share our spiritual journeys, cover the history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, explore your calling and how to get involved, and discuss the meaning and responsibilities of membership. This class is a prerequisite to official membership. **Registration by March 3 is required** Questions? Email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuaa.org.



The Mindful Eating Team Has a New Name!

Our group's mission is to advocate for human health and animal welfare while promoting equitable food systems that sustain the environment, alleviate hunger, and support farm and food workers. To better reflect the full scope of this mission statement, the group has decided to change our name to the Food Justice Team.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom. If you'd like more information about the work being done by the Food Justice Team and our plans for the future, please contact us at foodjustice@uuaa.org.



Feb 6 Gathering Table
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression



What Happened at the Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Gathering Table?

Over 60 UUAA members came together for the February 6 Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Gathering Table. This was our first community-wide discussion of perspectives and recommendations on how we come together around anti-racism/anti-oppression as one of our Vision 20/50

priority areas. A special thanks to the organizing team, facilitators, note-takers, and IT wizards who made this an accessible and welcoming space to begin this conversation.

Here are summaries of the event evaluation, small group discussions, and all UAAA group efforts focusing on anti-racism and anti-oppression. They are rich with great ideas and opportunities to engage!

- [Evaluation survey results](#)
- [Summary of small-group discussions](#)
- [Summary of Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression work underway at UAAA in 2022](#)

We welcome thoughts, questions, and volunteers at ARAO@uuaa.org (your AR/AO Gathering Table Organizing Team).



Call for Donations of Gently Used Furniture and Decor for the Harper Room

Now that our upper-level childcare center has moved back to their renovated facility, we need to rebuild the Harper Room and the Potter Nursery.

First up is the Harper Room. YRUU is seeking the following items: blankets, fairy/holiday light strings, Pride flags, bookshelves, books (we are going to make a little lending library and anyone is welcome to use it), big floor pillows, small Bluetooth speaker, lightweight furniture in good condition (couches, comfy chairs, beanbag chairs, side tables, etc.).

[YRUU Harper Room Donations Form](#)

In order to ensure an efficient process, please indicate what items you have and upload photos of the items so that YRUU can choose which pieces are the best fit for their needs.

Questions? Please email stella@uuaa.org.



Green Corner: A Green Alternative to DTE

Did you know: Ann Arbor for Public Power (A2P2) is working to create a city-owned power company in Ann Arbor? This non-profit utility would replace DTE and would prioritize using clean, renewable energy.

Radical idea? Nope. More than 40 cities in Michigan and over 2,000 cities in the U.S. already have municipally owned electric services, most with

lower rates and greater reliability than DTE.

Learn more: Tonight, February 17, 7:00pm online roundtable with Jeff Irwin, Yusef Rahbi, and others. [Register using this link](#). Check out annarborpublicpower.org.

Action: Tell your councilperson you support a city-owned, environmentally responsible electric company.



Fair Trade Equal Exchange Sales in Social Hall

Sundays After Both Services

Support small farm cooperatives globally while helping to fundraise for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation. Choose from fair trade chocolates, coffee, teas, nuts, dried fruits, and Palestinian olive oils. Note Equal Exchange is raising prices, and we will need to do the same soon! Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



Family Resettlement Support

UUAA is officially approved to be a co-sponsor with Jewish Family Services (JFS) to help resettle a refugee family. Initially it was likely that we would be matched with an Afghan family; however they have all already been resettled! JFS remains over capacity and will match us with a family from elsewhere potentially by early March. Thank you to all who have supported this effort. Check out our new [Sign Up Genius to contribute to household items](#). Questions? Contact resettlement@uuaa.org.

Links

[Reserve a Zoom room](#) | [View past services](#)

[Log in to Realm](#) | [Make your pledge](#)



UUA.org | MidAmericaUUA.org

[Side with Love](#) | [UUCSJ](#) | [DRUUMM](#) | [BLUU](#)

Contact Us

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