



# First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

## This Week at UUAA February 24 - March 2, 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 *March 3 Weekly News* is Tuesday, March 1 at 5:00pm Eastern [through this form](#).

The deadline for the *April Monthly Newsletter* is Monday, March 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](mailto:communications@uuaa.org).

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



### **Sunday Worship "Widening the Circle"**

*Sunday, February 27, 9:30am & 11:30am*

Join us this Sunday for a worship experience that invites your curiosity and wonder at the variety of voices represented in the spoken word, music, and liturgy of a Sunday morning service. In what ways can we continue to widen the circle and move closer to our aspirational beloved community?

### **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.

Check below about this week's SunDay FunDay after the second service,

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.

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## Upcoming Events & Announcements

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

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### Consider Supporting the Klein Fund

For those who got to participate in UUAA's programming with Mark Nepo this weekend, or will be participating "on demand," please know that UUAA is able to bring dynamic and meaningful speakers such as Nepo to our community thanks to the Klein Fund. The Klein Fund is a fund that supports such programming, and as it is not an endowed fund, it exists through the ongoing generous financial support of our members and friends. Please consider giving to the Klein Fund. Go to [Giving](#) and select "Klein Fund" to support our community's ability to continue bringing high caliber and impactful speakers/guests to UUAA and Ann Arbor. As a bonus, the first 25 individuals donating \$50 or more will receive a complimentary copy of one of Mark Nepo's books! Thank you, in advance!

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### Don't Ride a Float; Drink One!

*Sunday, February 27, 12:30pm*



All are invited to celebrate Mardi Gras with SunDay FunDay!

- \*Grab an ice cream float
- \*Make a Mardi Gras mask
- \*Play bead toss

When: Sunday, February 27 after the second Service (12:30ish)

Where: Floats and snacks served in the Social Hall Courtyard, crafts and games inside the Social Hall



**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 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.](#)



**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.

Panelists: 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](mailto:mjagner@yahoo.com)



## "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 Dilley, 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](mailto:revaj@rochesterunitarian.org).



## Humanist Discussions

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

*Thursday, March 3, 2:00pm - 4:00pm*

Monday Topics: "Ikigai: The Japanese Answer to a Life of Purpose" and David Brooks: "What Is the Root of This Dark Century?"

Thursday Topics: TBA

Lively groups of Humanists have been meeting for over 20 years at UAAA, 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 [humanistgroupinfo@uuaa.org](mailto:humanistgroupinfo@uuaa.org).



### **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 UAAA Pastoral Care Team and the Great Lakes Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. These meetings provide 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](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com) or Sandy Kunkle at [sandykunkle@gmail.com](mailto:sandykunkle@gmail.com).



### **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, review 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](mailto:Hannah@uuaa.org).



### **UAAA Fiber Arts Group**

*Saturday, March 5, 11:00am - 1:00pm*

*Wednesday, March 16, 7:00pm - 9:00pm (via Zoom)*

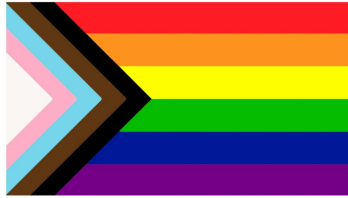
Come knit, crochet, embroider, or engage in some form of fiber arts together. UAAA Fiber Arts Group meets on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of the month for fellowship and sharing of knowledge and ideas. If you are a beginner looking for support or an experienced crafter, all are welcome. We also have quilters that have joined us.

If you would like to make comfort shawls or baby blankets for Pastoral Care,

arrangements can be made to supply you with the yarn and pattern.

We meet the first Saturday of the month 11:00am -1:00pm in person at the UUAA Young Room, and the third Wednesday of the month 7:00pm - 9:00pm on Zoom.

For the Zoom link or questions, send us an email at [crafter@uuaa.org](mailto:crafter@uuaa.org).



### 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](mailto:truuhopeinfo@uuaa.org).



### Sharing the Collection

*Sunday, March 6*

On Sunday March 6, we will share our collection with **Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley**. Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (H4H) enriches our whole community by making homeownership affordable and attainable by providing important services to Washtenaw County residents.

You may mail your check to UUAA (UUAA, Attn: Ed Lynn, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103). Please write "Sharing the Collection - H4H" in the memo line. You can also contribute to Sharing the Collection [online](#).

The Sharing the Collection Committee: Jan Duncan, Fran Lyman, Terry Madden, Charlene Mangi, and Diane McCarthy

Please contact [sharecollection@uuaa.org](mailto:sharecollection@uuaa.org) with any questions or suggestions.

### North Ann Arbor UU Monthly Discussion

*Tuesday, March 8, 7:00pm - 8:30pm*

We will be discussing August Wilson's play "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" and its contemporary implications. To get the Zoom link or get your questions answered, email Quincy at [qnorthrup@gmail.com](mailto:qnorthrup@gmail.com).



## Mindful Aging

*Saturday, March 12, 1:00pm - 2:30pm*

You are welcome to join fellow UUs to discuss Mindful Aging Saturday, March 12 at 1:00pm via Zoom. The topic is “Health Disparities: How does unfair and unequal healthcare hurt everyone, especially the older adult?” **The link for the first recorded session about this topic is here.** For the discussion Zoom link and questions, email Sandy Breck at [sbreck@umich.edu](mailto:sbreck@umich.edu).



## Climate Action | Climate Justice Priorities

*Wednesday, March 16, 7:00pm - 8:30pm*

You are invited to a Zoom-based dive into data collected to inform UUA's Climate Opportunity Assessment. Data sources: Fall 2021 Congregational Climate Survey and Gathering Table discussions plus other reports and conversations related to:

- Mitigating the climate crisis;
- Adapting and building resilience to impacts of the crisis;
- Securing justice by collaborating with marginalized communities most impacted by, but least responsible for, the crisis;
- Transforming our congregation for climate justice mobilization.

Registration information will be available in the *Weekly News* and on the **Climate Action page of the website** in early March. Send questions to [Climate@UUA.org](mailto:Climate@UUA.org).



## Newcomer Chalice Circle | Covenant

*Saturday, March 19, 1:00pm - 3:00pm*

**Register by Sunday, March 13**

Are you new to UUA? Would you like to get to know others who are also new while exploring a basic tenet of Unitarian Universalism? Join us for a Zoom discussion of covenantal religion. How does this differ from credal religion? What inspiration or challenges are presented with a covenant? You will receive short reflections and questions in advance, and we will practice a deep-listening format during the discussion. We ask that when you sign up, you commit to attending and to logging into the Zoom room by the start time. All information shared during Chalice Circles is confidential. **Register by March 13.** Questions? Email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [Hannah@uua.org](mailto:Hannah@uua.org).

## Radical Welcome Gathering Table



Wednesday, April 3, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Want to learn more about Radical Welcome? Come to our Gathering Table with Alex Kapitan on April 3rd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

Alex, a co-leader of the Transforming Hearts Collective and the founder of *Radical Copyeditor*, will guide us in

an exciting workshop about the meaning of radical welcome and how it impacts each of us and our communities. Radical Welcome is one of UUAA's priority areas, and we will explore how we can become a more radically welcoming congregation. It is sure to be a transforming experience for each of us.

Watch for more details about registration. Questions? Want to volunteer? Contact [RadicalWelcome@UUAA.org](mailto:RadicalWelcome@UUAA.org).



### **Green Corner: Step by Step to Greener Eating**

Want to eat less meat but find changing eating habits frustrating? Scientists agree that the meat industry (beef and pork especially) takes a potent toll on the environment. So you'd like to decrease your family's negative impact? Drastic dietary changes don't last. So do nothing drastic. Try just one meatless dinner a week as you collect recipes so tasty that nobody asks "Where's the beef?" T

These links may bolster your resolve:

- [Fight Climate Change, Eat Less Meat](#)
- [Why Beef Is the Worst Food for the Climate](#)



### **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](mailto:foodjustice@uuaa.org).

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



**Feb 6 Gathering Table  
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression**



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 UUAA 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 UUAA in 2022](#)

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



### **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](mailto:resettlement@uuaa.org).



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

Now that our upper-level childcare renter 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](mailto:stella@uuaa.org).

## Links

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

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



[UUA.org](http://UUA.org) | [MidAmericaUUA.org](http://MidAmericaUUA.org)

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

## Contact Us

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