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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

November Newsletter

November 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 11

Worship @ UUA

Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)
[Standing on the Side of
Love](#)
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[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Services and classes for children are at
9:30am & 11:30am.

November 3, 2013

"What is at Stake: Detroit"

Rev. Mark Evens

One of America's formerly great cities is in deep trouble. How did this come about? What is at stake for us? What are the opportunities at hand for us to live our values?

November 10, 2013

"Renewing Our Covenant: International Connections"

Partner Church minister, Rev. Istvan

Buzogany-Csoma with Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

First U.U. Congregation has been in the Partner Church program since 1997. Our Partners in Romania have a new minister. Come celebrate our international connections, hear a sermon from the minister of Kezdivasarhely, Romania, and help Rev. Gail welcome our new Partner Church minister to the Ann Arbor pulpit.

November 17, 2013

"Promises to Keep"

Renewing Our Covenant: Celebration Sunday!

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer and the Annual Campaign Team

In this season of harvest, abundance, and public thanksgiving, we pause to celebrate the role of religious community in our lives and the presence of this Congregation in this community. It's time to party and celebrate the fullness of our Annual Campaign.

November 24, 2013
"Helpfulness and Sacrifice"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Most weeks I say, "the chalice cup with the flame is the symbol of our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition." How did that get started.., and what does it mean?

Also, today is the start of the Annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee "Guest At Your Table" program. Join the outreach, join the UUSC!

November 24, 2013, 7:00pm

Special Interfaith Service here at UUAA!

UUAA is hosting the 19th Annual Interfaith Roundtable Thanksgiving Service. Rev. Gail will welcome. Our Music Team, Glenn Thomas, Allison, and the Chalice Singers will provide gifts of song. And everyone is invited to offer a bit for a potluck reception. Look for sign-up information further into this newsletter. Come! Hear Interfaith neighbors and start the Thanksgiving week with celebration and song!



From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



On October 16th, there was a window of possibility where a District Court Judge might have ruled in a way that would bring marriage equality to Michigan. That did not happen. Legal analysis and second guessing have postponed hope. The issues go to trial in February 2014. Stay tuned. Stay open. Keep hope alive. Be patient, you will get full citizenship.., soon, we hope, possibly.

Whenever we expect others of us to carry on in the experience of injustice and imbalance we are asking too much. We ask too much of our neighbors when we let the minimum wage stay below poverty limits. We ask too much when we discharge former prisoners with no job training, no home, no food. We ask too much when we expect African Americans and other people of color to be extra vigilant, lest they be arrested or worse..., just for being out and about. You get the picture. We ask too much.

Who is the we? "We" are the folks who benefit from imbalance and injustice. "We" are the folks who have privilege, agency, abundance, and do not use it for the rest of the we. It's not "us" using our power and privilege for "them." It's not "us" angry because "they" are not using their power to help "us." There is only the "we."

We hurt. We are hungry. We despair. And we are the ones to help make things better.

I send a word of compassion out to all those UUAU members and beyond who took the Risk of Public Hope on Oct 16th. There are times when the closet seems so much more safe. It seems so much easier to say hidden, shrug it all off, say marriage doesn't matter that much. It seems so much less painful. Thank you to all who Took Risk to say out loud, We want to be married. Legally. No second-class clauses or structures. Our love matters as your love matters.

(A side word. I agree with the Judge's non-ruling. I think deferring to a full trial is the path more likely to lead to the goal. It was just so damned sad to be with 66 couples ready to be married., and then: no.)

After the sadness of the day I had expected to fold up the banners and go home. Instead I was treated to a refreshing vat of club soda and lime in the company of cohorts and allies. Oh, the sustaining joy of debriefing without retreating to restricted space! Oh, the joy of debriefing without resorting to blaming or objectifying (vilifying 'them' while glorifying 'us') all in the company of caring allies. After the public witness of the afternoon, it was a joy to be with folks who took the time to listen and lead us to laughter. These were folks with lives to live and places to go, yet waited, listened, took the time to bring our UUAU Covenants out into the world.

There is only the "we." We hurt. We are hungry. We despair. We comfort. We abide. We care. We support. Reflect, revise, repeat. Thank you.

My love to Each,
Rev. Gail



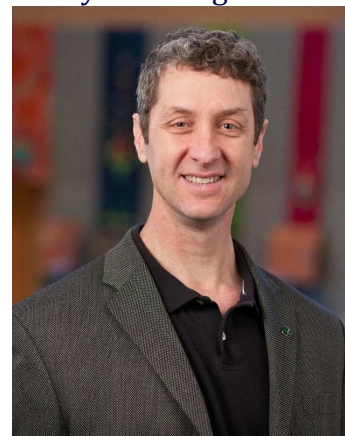
Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

It Matters What We Do

We are a congregation of many big wonderful hopes and dreams about what we should do and accomplish together within our congregation and in the wider world. We enjoy each other's company and have lots of ideas of how we would like to have fun together. We have projects that have been ongoing for many years that we are quite attached to, and others that no longer seem to draw for the same energy they once did, while new ideas and proposals for projects are continually tumbling forth.

How do we decide what to sustain, what to start, what to let coast or die? The available quantity of two key ingredients is decisive. The first is volunteer interest and commitment to the project. The second is coherence of the project with the purposes and priorities of the congregation. The congregation as a whole participated in an extensive process of reflection and vision making during the interim period from 2005 to 2008. Input provided by the congregation was refined and crystallized by the Board of Trustees into the Board "Ends" statements. The "Ends" articulate what we are here to accomplish.



It is the season for developing the 2014 budget here in our congregation. Every recognized group of the congregation is invited to submit its budget request for financial support for the next January through December fiscal year. While not required, connecting your group's goals with the goals of the congregation as a whole, as articulated in the Board "Ends" statements, can help you better align your work with the priorities of the congregation, can help you appreciate the importance of the work you are already doing or are planning, and can increase the persuasiveness of your request for financial support.

You can find the Board "Ends" statements here <http://bit.ly/1ahIXNE> or here <http://www.uuaa.org/about-us/our-congregation/how-we-govern/195-governing-policies>.

Yours in faith,
Mark



The Business of Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director

I love my gym. The monthly fee is very reasonable. Plus, it's fairly a new complex, so it has equipment that is shiny and always works. The bathrooms are kept clean. The staff is friendly and someone always greets me on my way in and out. I've seen the general manager wipe clean the equipment on more than one occasion. And one time, I witnessed the paid fitness trainer walk across the entire 40,000 square foot room to assist a woman who was obviously struggling to use one of the fitness machines. My gym serves free pizza to patrons once a month. As someone who often enjoys a good contradiction as much as anything in the world, it doesn't get much better than fitness center helping us all carbo load.



I love my gym...except for one thing. All 102 cardiovascular machines face the same direction - north - towards an enormous bank of flat screen television screens. 21 screens in one long line. Two sets of 10 TVs (one set for each half of the room) each tuned to a specific channel with one screen in the middle flashing a mixture of weather updates, music videos and advertisements. Audio is optional - you can plug in headphones to your particular fitness machine and tune in the television channel you wish to hear. However, the visual impact is not really an option (unless you wish to risk walking a treadmill with your eyes closed).

During the past year, I've watched the proceedings of the George Zimmerman trial alongside Seinfeld reruns. I've caught a Tigers' game, while also learning the latest scandalous escapades of Miley Cyrus. I've seen the beat down of a defenseless boy on a school bus - right next to several Fox News talking heads berating our President - right next to a music video from Imagine Dragons, the next very big thing.

In what now seems like another life, I worked in a very large bookstore in Atlanta, Georgia. I found myself working there- in large part - because I spent so much of my free time there otherwise. Before I loved my gym, I loved books. In his forward to *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* (J. Buehrens and F. Church, Beacon Press, revised edition, 1998), Robert Fulghum suggests we see a bookstore as a "cathedral of the human spirit - a storehouse consecrated to the full spectrum of human experience." This beautiful sentiment has been close to my own experience in almost every bookstore I've entered.

As always, the world changes, and the most dramatic of changes over the last two decades have been led in large part by media - the communication channels through which news, entertainment, education, data, or promotional messages are disseminated. But I daresay that the feelings evoked in me when I enter a bookstore are a far cry from those generated in me at the gym. For me, it is the difference between the sacred and the profane.

Of course, I recognize that it isn't my gym per se that's the problem. All of us are bombarded at every corner with similar audio visual stimuli - in our cars, schools, phones, businesses, etc. It's the ocean in which we currently swim. But that doesn't mean we can't navigate the collective boat of our religious community in a direction that both aligns with our values and protects them as well.

In their strategic plan document, *Strengthening Out Connections*, UUAU's Board of Trustees lists "developing our communication expertise" as a specific tactic for achievement. Without further clarification, it is hard to know for sure, but I don't think the Board of Trustees meant for us to all learn how to speak more in "I" statements. I can imagine they mean for us all to become more skillful rowers.

Over the next few months, in this column, I hope to share with you some of my own thoughts about how we might do that. And I invite each of you to engage me in the conversation.

My door is open to you.
Thom Bales, Executive Director



2013 Winter Holidays Service **Deborah Golden, SGD Program Assistant**

This year our multi-generational holiday service will take place on Sunday, December 15, and the theme will be more inclusive of our many faith traditions. I hope that it will also include more people of all ages.

The service will illustrate and act out the connections and origins of winter holidays, highlighting the importance of sharing stories, beliefs, and traditions through the generations. There will be short scripts on Winter



Solstice, Chanukah, and Christmas. The larger theme, which runs through all the stories and traditions, is the importance of light. We will feature our children and youth (K through YRUU) as well as adults of all ages, as speakers, actors, and musicians. There will be non-speaking roles as well. I would love to see lots of our children participating along with some entire family groups ("family groups" can include non-related families, too).



Our Chalice Sparks children's choir will perform and it would be lovely to have some of our talented younger musicians playing, too. The music will draw from our various faith traditions: Jewish, Christian, and Naturalist, as well as Humanist and Mystic traditions.

There will also be many "off-stage" ways to join in- helping to gather props and decorations, serving as an adult volunteer during rehearsals, lighting the chalice and candles, and making cards for folks at Alpha House.

We have scheduled the following rehearsal times:

- Sunday, Dec. 1, 2:00-3:15 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:00-3:15 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 14, 3:00-4:15 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30-8:55 am

We ask that everyone interested contact Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development, at sandy@uuaa.org.

In love and peace,
Debra.



Pastoral Care Educational Offerings

Meredith Ley, Pastoral Care Program Coordinator

Are you planning for your future and your family's future? Then you won't want to miss the following programs presented by the Pastoral Care Education team:

On Saturday, November 2 *Protecting Our Assets* will be presented from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Mark Accettura, a certified estate planner specializing in estate planning for senior citizens, will provide information on how to protect our assets both in life and after death, including how to preserve the assets of elders who require assisted living or home nursing care.



On Saturday, December 7 *Five Wishes: Advance Medical Directives* will be from

10:00am to 12:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Marie Pierce will present *Five Wishes*, an informational program about advance medical directives. Marie will address the following topics:

- 1) The Person I Want to Make Care Decisions for Me When I Can't
- 2) The Kind of Medical Treatment I Want or Don't Want
- 3) How Comfortable I Want To Be
- 4) How I Want People to Treat Me
- 5) What I Want My Loved Ones to Know

Questions? Contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.

Why worry about your future now? I admit I've had this attitude in the past, and it caused me some unnecessary angst. Fortunately, I had a great role model in my mother. She had a well thought out plan, and at her death the transition was a relatively simple process. She had created a trust and her assets were protected for her elder care. As a family, we knew what her wishes were and we were able to give her the closing she wanted.

I have also experienced the other side, where no preparation was made: no will and no care instructions. The family was not only mourning their loss but had the burden of trying to decide what their loved one truly wanted at her death.

Which scenario do you want for yourself and your family? Join us for these very important workshops. You are welcome to invite family members and friends.



Board News

New Program: Board Appointed Task Force

Reflective Conversations

The health of our Congregation, as with any organization, depends greatly on how effectively we communicate with each other - on how well we listen to each other. As our Congregation gets larger and larger, we know that we need to provide for effective reflection and feedback for the Board and for the staff and program ministry leaders.

The Board has appointed a task force to develop this program of Reflective Conversations (based on the book, *Completing the Circle* by David R. McMahill) so that we can hear from you in an organized way. Your comments will be written down, analyzed, and synthesized. Then that data will be shared with the Board of Trustees, the appropriate staff, and program leaders so your experiences can guide future improvements. At least once each year, you, the Congregation, will receive a report at a Congregational meeting letting you know what we heard from you and what will be done with the information.

How will it work? Approximately 10 to 12 people will gather to reflect on and share personal experiences based on their participation in our various ministries. During this pilot year, we will focus on Sunday worship and Interweave. In future years, we

will hold Reflective Conversations about all of our program ministries like SGD, Chalice Circles, Chalice Singers, Men's Groups, Women's Groups, Social Justice, and others.

When the group meets, members will be given a set of questions and allowed time to reflect on their personal experiences relative to those questions. Each person will then have time to speak about those experiences. Trained facilitators will lead the groups and record notes. Those notes will be summarized and shared with the program leader (who will be in attendance) and with the Board of Trustees. Final results will not only be shared with the Congregation at a Congregational meeting, they will be used to influence future planning.

How are group members selected? The participants for each group will be selected at random from the list of Congregants.

When and where will these Reflective Conversations be held? The first groups will meet in the afternoon of Sunday, November 17. Additional groups will meet in January and February 2014.

Why are we doing this? So we can hear from each of you over time and learn from what you experience when you participate in each of our ministries. We believe this will help us to improve what we are doing and provide consistently high quality programs for each of you. We think we're doing a good job, but we need to receive feedback from you in an organized and structured way so we can use the information to improve even more.

Who plans these Reflective Conversations? Task force members are Fran Dew, Dixie Hibner, Becky Hoort, Carolyn Madden, and John Seeley. Additionally, Jim Lee and Theresa Rohlck are serving as group facilitators.

If you have questions, contact us at reflectiveconversations@uuaa.org.



Stewardship

Annual Operating Fund Campaign

Dixie Hibner, Co-Chair Annual Campaign

George Garcia, Co-Chair Annual Campaign



Renewing Our Covenant, this year's Annual Operating Fund Pledge Drive has gotten off to a great start. As of October 17, we had 64 households submit pledges, 31 of those pledges are increased over last year and 25 more are the same as last year.

What a wonderful demonstration of continued commitment, and hopefully better economic times for our fellow congregants. Of course, as of this writing, we are still very early in the drive and many folks are doing exactly what we

asked them to: carefully considering their covenant with this Congregation and deciding how generous they can be in their pledge this year. I know for myself, this was not a quick or trivial decision and I suspect that it may not be quick for others as well. Don't worry, you have plenty of time, the drive doesn't officially end until November 12. After you've made your decision, simply drop your pledge form in the box by the Church Office and receive one of the stylish and trendy *I've Renewed My Covenant* buttons. You may want to attach it to your Church nametag.

Let us know why you commit your time, talent, and treasure to this Congregation. We've posted large sheets of paper for you to jot down your reasons for contributing to this Congregation. You'll find them in the Social Hall and in the SGD wing. Look and see what others are saying and add your thoughts. We're hoping to hear from you.



If you have questions feel free to contact co-chairs Dixie Hibner or George Garcia at annualcampaign@uuaa.org or the UUA office.



Activities and Events

Daylight Savings * Sunday, November 3



Daylight Savings Time in 2013 ends on Sunday, November 3 at 2:00am. So, try to set those alarm clocks ahead one hour. No worries for those who forget and are early for Service that morning. The building will be open at 8:00am.



Challenging Racism * Wednesday, November 6

The October Challenging Racism meeting generated some exciting plans for 2013-2014, including reflective sessions, possible book study, and other events highlighting issues of social class, as well as maintaining the community racial advocacy alliances. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00pm. Newcomers are welcome.



Questions? Contact Kathy Friedrichs at kamf@umich.edu or Lucia Heinold at Heinoldcia@aol.com.



Senior Dinner * Wednesday, November 6

Join Senior Dinner on Wednesday, November 6 at 6:00pm at the Gourmet Garden Chinese Restaurant at 2255 W. Stadium, north of Liberty, on the west side of Stadium.

Good food, lots of conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere. Questions? Call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349.



Intro to OUUr Faith * Saturday, November 9

An Introduction to OUUr Faith class will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 10:00am to 2:30pm.

Join this introduction to Unitarian Universalism class on Saturday, November 9 from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Both newcomers and long-time members are welcome. Rev. Mark Even will teach with assistance from lay members. Topics include the history of Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, how this Congregation is governed, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.



Sign up by Sunday, November 3. Space is limited to 20 participants. Registration forms are available at the Involvement table during Social Hour, in the Newcomer Welcome Room, and in the front entrance literature rack. Or, register by emailing Hannah Hotchkiss directly. If childcare is needed for this event, check to see if there is enough interest to provide it. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 734-665-6158 or Hannah@uuuaa.org.



Interweave * Sunday, November 10

All are welcome to attend Interweave Coffee Circles on Sunday, November 10 in the Fahs Chapel from 10:45am to 11:15am and 12:45pm to 1:30pm.

Interweave is a spiritual home to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people, their families, and allies to nurture social connections, educate ourselves and others, and advocate for social justice. Interweave provides a welcoming presence and gathering place. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.



MEC Forum * Sunday, November 10

The Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC) presents the first in a series of forums on *Meet Your Farmer* on Sunday, November 10 from 1:00 to 2:15pm in the Kemnitz room. Dan Zatkovich, animal farmer in Stockbridge, Michigan, will show slides while discussing how he came to farming, what inspires him, what his philosophy is toward the land, the animals, his customers, his family, and his life. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at 734-475-9805 or cmuha@att.net.



Khasi Hills Sponsor-A-Student Program * Sunday, November 10



Khasi Hills student sponsors letters are due by Sunday, November 10. Bring the letters to the Khasi Hills table during Social Hour on Sundays, November 3 and 10. Or, place the letters into the Khasi Hills mailbox located in the Church office. Questions? Contact Allen Duncan at aduncan85@gmail.com.



Social Justice Council (SJC) * Monday, November 11



Nationally known restorative justice leader Fred Van Liew will present Restorative Justice: Healing for Victims, Offenders, and the Community on Monday, November 11 at 6:30pm at UUAU.

Fred is an ex-prosecuting attorney who, after nearly 20 years as Bureau Chief with the Polk County (Iowa) Attorney's Office, prosecuting offenders, realized that "we can do much better when it comes to how we respond to crime and those who commit them."

Fred retired, and has spent the last 3 years travelling the country explaining how Restorative Justice practices, like Victim Offender Conferencing, are strengthening community safety, providing support and compensation for victims, aid in the restoration of offenders, and promoting reconciliation among victims, offenders, and the community.

This event is sponsored by: The SJC, Challenging Racism, Shalom Community Church, Healing Communities, and Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Doors at open at 6pm for refreshments. For details contact voc4change@gmail.com. Questions? Contact Kathy Friedrichs at kamf@umich.edu or Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



ICE-T Potluck * Wednesday, November 13

ICE-T and UUJME extends an invite to enjoy Middle Eastern food and learn more about crucial issues in the Middle East. The UUJME will show a short video *Israel & Palestine: A Very Short Introduction* and discuss the steps to have the congregational study/action issue (CSAI) proposal, *Unitarian Universalist Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians* considered for final selection at General Assembly. This CSAI is



designed to provide a framework for learning about and discussing an important peace and justice issue that many UUs find challenging to openly engage.

Join the monthly intergenerational potluck on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00pm in the Social Hall. Bring a dish to pass. All ages are welcome. Questions? Contact Bethany Ramirez at bethanyramirez@gmail.com.



Men's Breakfast * Saturday, November 16

All men are invited to the monthly breakfast at 8:15am on Saturday, November 16 at the Classic Cup Café located at 4389 Jackson Road about one mile west of Wagner Road. Meetings will be held every third Saturday morning of each month. Enjoy good food and make new friends. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904.



Game Day * Sunday, November 17

Join the fun on Sunday, November 17 from 1:00 to 4:00pm in Fahs Chapel for a multi-generational day of gaming. Stop by for a friendly board or card game on the third Sunday of every month. Many games will be available, but feel free to bring a favorite and introduce it to others.

Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even without a dish. Questions? Email Arthur Prokosch and Bethany Ramirez at app@pobox.com.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration * Sunday, November 24

UUAU will host the 19th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 24 at 7:00pm. This non-denominational service will draw on a multitude of faith traditions incorporating sacred texts, music, and responsive readings.

As host, UUAU will provide a reception following the Service. Volunteers are needed to bring cookies, finger foods, and help with set-up and clean-up. Sign-up to volunteer at www2.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4AA8A922A46-interfaith or contact Maria Thomas at maria@uuua.org. Maria will be available during Social Hour to sign-up on Sundays, November 3 and 10. Consider representing the Congregation in welcoming the interfaith community.



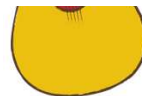
Folk Song Sing-Along * Monday, November 25

Join for an evening of singing in the Social Hall on Monday, November 25 at 7:00pm in this fun community song circle.

Sing and harmonize to familiar folk/pop songs, chants, rounds, and more - lots from *Rise Up Singing*



and maybe a few just in time for Thanksgiving. Lyrics and chords will be projected on a screen for singers and strummers. Bring guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments to jam along. Grab a friend and come; no singing experience required.



For questions or to share favorite songs contact Lori Fithian at lorifithian@mac.com or Jean Chorazycewski at jeanca2@mac.com.



Save the Date

Special Services

- Saturday, December 14 - All Congregation Multi-Generational Holiday Party.
- Sunday, December 15 - Spiritual Growth and Development Holiday Service.
- Tuesday, December 17 - Interweave Service of Affirmation.
- Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm.



Announcements and Notices

Accessibility Team

On Saturday, October 12, eleven people participated in a retreat to create a Congregational accessibility team. Over the next few months the accessibility team will prepare and conduct a needs assessment to identify physical, attitude, communication, and program barriers to participation by those with disabilities in the Congregation. The team will study the results and develop an action plan to minimize the barriers identified. The goal is to present an action plan at a Congregational meeting in May 2014. A steering committee has been established and several task forces will soon be formed.

The team's activity is part of a pilot-test of a new UU certification program designed to help congregations improve their accessibility for people with disabilities. In mid-November, a Skype meeting will be conducted with the UUA EqUUal Access policy chair, Rev. Barbara Meyers, who will help guide the process. Questions or interested in joining this endeavor? Contact Els Nieuwenhuijsen at elsni@comcast.net or 734-995-1817 or Priscilla Spencer at paspencer44@yahoo.com at 734-223-7286.



Alpha House Week

During the Thanksgiving week, Monday, November 25 to Sunday, December 1, there will be a new opportunity to contribute to the social justice mission by helping at

Alpha House. This is a homeless shelter for families that UUA, along with other congregations, founded 21 years ago. Consider volunteering to cook, serve, or help out at the shelter. Sign-up is available during Social Hour or at www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4FA8AB2FA57-november2.

Learn more about the work of this shelter on Sunday, November 3 at 10:45am in the Fahs Chapel. Alpha House director, Latania Fair, will lead a short information session between Services. On that day, UUA will also be Sharing the Collection with Alpha House.



Guest At Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our Congregation participate in the UU tradition of Guest at Your Table (GAYT).

By bringing home and discussing the *Stories of Hope* booklet at mealtime, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) puts shared principles into action in the US and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

Blessings shared through GAYT ensures that UUSC's human-rights work continues while building membership. Members are important, as UUSC is an independent, membership-based organization that receives no funding from the UUA or the US government.

Through *Stories of Hope*, one can connect with people in the US and around the world who work hard to advance human rights - and protect their own rights - in partnership with UUSC. Over a meal with loved ones is a common place to discuss the *Stories of Hope*. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on their contributions to the movement for universal human rights and share generously.

Submit a donation in the Guest At Your Table envelope to be distributed on November 24 during Worship Services. Envelopes will then be available each week through Sunday, January 5, 2014 - when the program closes. Envelopes will be collected at the UUSC table during Social Hour. Support UUSC directly at www.uusc.org. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC) Wrap Up

The Food Gatherers farm project for 2013 has wrapped up a second year in the fight against hunger in Washtenaw County by helping to supply fresh, nutritious produce to those with low or no income.

Here are some facts from the farm: Over 40 volunteers put in



about 400 work hours. That is the equivalent of 10 weeks of full-time employment. Donations to Food Gatherers totaled 3,384 pounds of produce and just under \$2,100 from sales at the roadside stand.



MEC would like to thank Farmer Bill Schmid and all the volunteers that made this happen: Kirsten Mgobo, Anne Ramsey, Mike and Cathy Muha, Vicki Williams, Beth Hospadaruk, Mary Ann Camron, Ricardo Wyatt, Kathy Edgren, Mark VanKempen, Merrill Crockett, Colleen Crawley, Ken Clein, Diane Downer, Guala Lauzzana, Kate Hutchens, the Benard Family, Sara King, Rennie Cotner, Roberta Allen, Roylea Furniss, Tom Welker, Quincy Northrup, Eileen Wright, Tom Darnton, Bob Hospadaruk, Els Nieuwenhuijsen, Christine Pellar-Kosbar, Cassandra Stevens, Pete Peterson, Nanna Fecteau, Nancy Fisher, Margaret Pekarek, Sany Eyl, Julie Dybdahl, Don Pelz, Steve Kuzma and other members of his Chalice Circle, Anne Ramsey's yoga service group, Eric Ericson, last year's 7th grade SGD class, and last year's YRUU. Thank you.

Thank you Food Garden tour gardeners. MEC would like to thank Ruth Vail for organizing this year's Food Garden tour on August 25. Several UU's opened their home, gardens, and farms for others to visit, learn about, and appreciate. Thank you to: Dick and Carolyn Barber, Scott Peacor and Kyla Boyse, Nick and Holt, Bob and Beth Hospadaruk, Jennifer Kangas and Capella Farm, Judy Lintott, Tim Richards, Amy Vail, and Marlin and Cathy Whitaker.



Our Land for Worship Update

On Saturday, October 12, members of the 20s/30s group joined with the Our Land for Worship (OLFW) team to perform trail maintenance, clear up the outdoor worship area, and gather seeds for next spring.

The weather was fantastic and it was a wonderful day to be outside in the Back 40 acres behind the church building and in the prairie surrounding the wind turbine.



There are plenty of outdoor projects in store for 2014 from spreading wood chips to clearing trails. New ideas are welcome. If a group is interested in co-sponsoring a volunteer day with OLFW contact Arthur Prokosch at app@pobox.com or 734-565-9838 .



Partner Church News

Romanian Partner Church minister, Rev. Istvan Buzogány-Csoma, will be visiting from Wednesday, November 6 through Tuesday, November 12. UUAA's partnership with the Kézdivásárhely congregation dates from 1997 and has been enriching for that and the Szentivánlaborfalva congregation, with Rev. Maria serving from 1997 to 2012.

Rev. Istvan's wife, also a Unitarian minister, is chaplain at a nearby hospital. She and their two small daughters will not be on this visit.



Rev. Istvan Buzogany-Csoma is on the right on the morning of his installation as minister of the Kezdivasarhely and Szentivanlaborfalva congregations last spring. Former minister Rev. Maria Pa is pictured on the left.

Rev. Istvan will speak the pulpit on Sunday, November 10 with Rev. Gale R. Geisenhauer. He will meet with Church staff and Congregants during his stay. One topic of interest will be the next pilgrimage to visit the Partner Church from Thursday, June 5 through Tuesday, 17, 2014.

Questions? Contact Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu or Gretchen Jackson at gnj@umich.edu or stop by the Information table during Social Hour.

Find more information about the partnership at uuaa.org/about-us/unitarian-universalism/faith-without-borders/244-partner-church.

Past sermons and writings about the partnership can be found at uuaa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=255:maria-sermons&catid=99:international-connections.



Scrip/Grocery Coupons

What is *scrip*? Scrip is a term for any substitute for legal tender (money). Scrip is issued in the form of gift cards or gift certificates and can be used for purchases online or in a store. In the late 1980s, the term scrip evolved to include a fundraising method popular with non-profit organizations, like UUAUAA.

With scrip fundraising, retailers offer gift certificates and gift cards at a discount. The gift cards are sold to member families at full face value. Families redeem the gift cards at full face value, and the discount or rebate is retained by UUAUAA as revenue. Great Lakes Scrip Center, the United State's largest broker of scrip gift cards, reported that more than 4 million US households and 15,000 non-profit organizations use scrip fundraising.

Top 10 reasons to use Scrip:

10. Frequent specials, giving a bonus donation to the Church.
9. Ease of use. Use like a debit card or swipe like a credit card.
8. Ease of acquisition. Order from existing inventory, place an order at the table, or order online once an account has been set up.
7. ScripNow!, ReloadNow!, and reloads means there doesn't have to be a reliance on purchases at the Scrip table on Sundays.
6. PrestoPay is an established checking account link, like PayPal, and gives instant



access to ScripNow!, ReloadNow!, and reloads.

5. Over 600 retailers participate in the program.

4. After filling out a form for UUAA, rebates for online purchases of scrip may be itemized as deductions on income tax.

3. Fundraise while shopping. Raise free money from regularly shopped retailers.

2. Friendly staff at the Scrip table is willing to show how the program works and help to place orders.

The number one reason...over \$12,000 has been added to the operating fund annually. Just think how much more that could be if everyone participated.



Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)

One of the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) proposals to be included in the congregational polling process between Wednesday, November 13 and the Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014 is titled *Unitarian Universalist Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians*.

This CSAI is designed to provide a framework to learn and discuss an important peace and justice issue many UUs find challenging to openly engage. UUJME urges members to review the proposal to become comfortable to vote for it at the Annual meeting, to become one of the CSAIs that advance to General Assembly. The proposal and additional information can be reviewed on the Denominational Connections Team (DCT) page. Copies will also be available at the UUJME table during Social Hour.



Forums will be scheduled to discuss the merits of this proposal. Dates will be published in the Weekly Bulletins and Monthly Newsletters. Questions? Contact Larry Cooper at Diane Cooper at cooperdiame@wowway.com and Larry Cooper at larrycooper@wowway.com.



UUSC Coffee Project

Support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) small farmer fund that joins hands with farming communities internationally for economic, social, and environmental justice. UUSC is in partnership with Equal Exchange, a worker-owned co-operative in Fair Trade, shade grown, organic products. This project also acts as a fundraiser for our Church.



Coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, EV olive oil, almonds, and dried fruit are sold every Sunday. Each make great gifts. At this time of year, gift bags are added to make giving much easier.

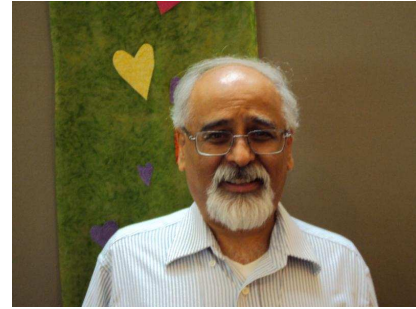
Volunteers are requested to help sell during Social Hour. Questions? Contact Lynn Dwyer at ldwyer543@comcast.net.



New Members

Rajeev Batra

Rajeev Batra and his wife, Priscilla Spencer, moved to Ann Arbor about 24 years ago and raised their two sons Neale and Ray in this congregational community. Rajeev teaches at the University of Michigan. He has been a member of the Second Men's Group for the last nine years and greatly values his friends in the UU community. He hopes that one of these years he will have the time he seeks to listen to more live jazz, learn Spanish, and read more fiction books.



John and Suzanne Davidson

John: "I am an artist who loves creating music and am involved in several music projects that range from psychedelic rock to experimental hip hop and I still find time to write a few love songs. Although I love to create music, I love to listen to it as well. We are both proud members of the Glen Thomas Rideout Fan Club. I am also in recovery from substance abuse and mental illness. Recovery has brought me many things but most of all spirituality.



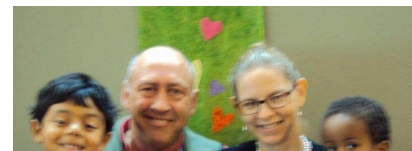
Suzanne and I are thrilled to be spending time with and in this community. It is a good place for our son, Sam, to grow up and see the world has many spiritual paths."

Suzanne: "My spiritual heart opened wide when I became a Buddhist in 1994 in the Kadampa tradition out in Seattle, WA, where I went to college. Eventually I made my way back to Ann Arbor- since I grew up in the area. I am a nurse in labor and delivery at UMHS and enjoy working with moms, families, and their new babes. Let us give thanks for our own lives and what a miracle it is to be alive."

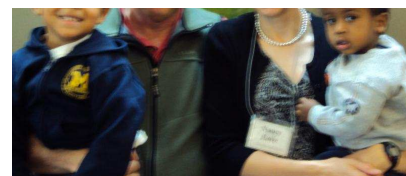


Brian and Nancy Love

Brian and Nancy arrived in Ann Arbor in 2008, after 15 years in Blacksburg, Virginia. They came to Ann Arbor to join the faculty at the College of Engineering at the U



of M. Together Nancy and Brian have two kids, Francisco, 6, and Benjamin, 2, who absorb most of their discretionary time.



On the side, both Brian and Nancy enjoy to run, bike, read and play with the kids. They recently moved so, they are busy upgrading the new house while preparing for a 6-month sabbatical in Europe.



Miles Peterle

"I grew up and lived in coastal Connecticut (CT), with a few years in Vermont thrown in, before moving to Ann Arbor 6 years ago to be with Lise Anderson (who I knew as a teenager in CT) and we married 4 years ago! We still have a place in CT where, at the moment, my two grown sons live. I go back quite frequently to work, mostly for UConn on their research vessels, as that has been my vocation since graduating from U of Rhode Island in 1986 (I was an "older" student!).



Here, I am in the process of starting a marine surveying business. Lise introduced me to UUAA and at my first visit in December '07, I was amazed to discover that a whole universe of mostly liked-minded folks exist and are organized."



Tom and Shelley Stoll

A life-long music lover, Tom enjoys his job as annual giving manager at The Ark. He also enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors: biking, hiking, paddling, and disc golf. Though he is prematurely curmudgeonly, children and animals seem to trust him. He's been sporadically involved with UU congregations for the past 20 years in Michigan and in Toledo, Ohio where he grew up.



Shelley has visited occasionally since she was a college student, but it wasn't until 2011 that she became involved on a regular basis with her husband, Tom, and two sons, Matt and Noah. She considers her job as a project manager at the Center for Managing Chronic Disease at U of M meaningful and oftentimes challenging. In her free time, she likes to spend time in nature, travel, dance, read, and walk their high-energy dog Dakota. She enjoys game days, Chalice Circles, and is thankful for the excellent SGD

programs for her kids.



Becoming a Member

Many can take part in aspects of congregational life at UUAA without technically being a member. Worship, support the efforts of the social justice groups, make connections through varied social events, and enroll children in the Spiritual Growth and Development program. So, what does it mean to join the Congregation? Members are committed to the principles of Unitarian Universalism, the importance of exploring human nature and spiritual questions are validated, a covenant to support a congregation that fosters religious tolerance, compassion, social justice, and community is entered. By signing the Membership Book, these things declared as important.

New members are welcomed to the Congregation throughout the year.

Stepping Stones to Membership

- * Attend the Introduction to Our Faith workshop next offered on Saturday, November 9 from 10:00am to 2:30pm.
- * Understand and be in accord with UU Principles and the Mission and By-laws of UUAA.
- * Complete the Enrollment Packet, which includes a Pledge Form and Talents and Interests Survey.
- * Make arrangements with the welcome ministries coordinator, Hannah Hotchkiss, to sign the Membership Book in the presence of a minister and Board member.
- * Attend a Recognition Ceremony to be welcomed into the Congregation.

Questions? Contact welcome ministries coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org or 734-665-6158.



Church Office News

Building Hours:

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm
Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm
Fridays, CLOSED

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

***Note: The building will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 28 and will re-open at 9:00am on Saturday, November 30.**

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUAU:

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send your submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's Monthly Newsletter is 9:00am on the 21th of each month. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website (www.uuaa.org) to webtech@uuaa.org.

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org



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