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## First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

# April Newsletter

April 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 4

## Worship @ UUAA

### Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Heartland District](#)

[Standing on the Side of  
Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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

**April 7, 2013**

"Montaigne"

Rev. Mark Evens

Influenced by Epicurus and Lucretius, he lived in France from 1533 to 1592. His writings, which popularized the essay as a literary form, remain influential today. Through Montaigne we gain a greater understanding of the historic roots of Humanism in the West. What can he tell us about our questions about how to live here in the 21st century? This sermon is part of an occasional series on the historic roots of Humanism.

**April 14, 2013**

**New Member Recognition Ceremony**

"A Person Becoming A Person"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

South African Bishop Desmond Tutu taught, "a person becomes a person through other persons." As we acknowledge meaning in membership, this week we recognize folks who have recently joined our Congregation.

**April 21, 2013**

**Announcing the 2013 UUAA Eco-Heroes!  
Earth Day Multi-Generational Service**

"With Great Care"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Sandra Garges, Debra Golden and many others!

Our younger ones will bring a story to encourage us into reflection on the gifts we receive from our Universe: wind, rain, earth and sun. What can it mean for us to create more "sustainable communities?"

Come celebrate all we can do together to make our planet, our communities, and our lives sustainable and learn who will be designated our "2013 UAAA Eco-Heroes!"

**April 28, 2013**

"The Mystery of the Mind"

Rev. Mark Evens

We know far less about our own minds than we think we do. So says Daniel Kahneman in his book *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Come get further acquainted with the oddness of how our minds work.



## From Our Staff

### Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



One spiritual practice that sustains me is to be mindful of dawn. There's a lot more to it. But that's where it starts. On my good days I am up to witness first light, that electrically charged moment when true darkness gives way to the possibility of light. Then to witness the sudden presence of light: absent in the moment, then present, that simple. This witnessing, this mindful embrace of the dawn, has been a practice that has sustained me since childhood.

However, since I got my first iPhone, this practice is challenged, maybe even changing. I charge my phone at night. It waits for me right on my nightstand. In these past months when I wake well before dawn, the phone beckons. It brings me notice of ice and wind. It connects me to my brother and friends in weather-battered New England. Through the phone I see pictures of the new grand-nephew in Portland, Maine, and I hear of adventures of our

"daughter" traveling in New Zealand.

Now, as I learn to embrace this new portal to the wider world, I am learning to shift from "mind full" to mindful again. As the new technology, faster connections, broader reach, bring me more and more of the world at every hour of the day my mind gets full! And, my

task is to keep balanced. My task is to reach deeper into the practice of mindfulness, to stay grounded in time and place.

Here. Now. My discipline is to reap the harvest of the here and now, to open to possibility and presence: here. There is so much available "out there". It will crush me if I cannot find a strong core in the here and now from which to receive and embrace possibility. And, in the moment, there is such abundance, all I need for facing the day is here. Now.

May it be with all of us that we find the core of strength, the openness and mindfulness we need to clear our full minds of chatter. May we run our fears to ground, open our hearts to the day, and trust in our connections, one to another.

My love to each, Rev Gail

PS: As I write this, the Madness of March has gathered up Michigan State and Michigan. They have won their first games of the tournament. Go Sparty! Go Blue! May each be brought to new heights!

My love to each,  
Rev. Gail

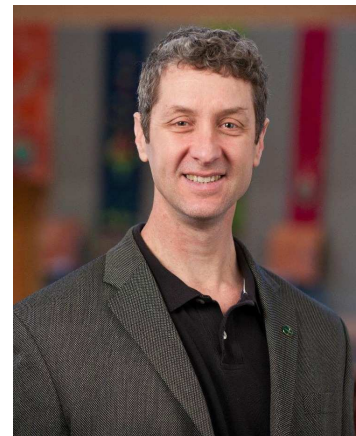


## Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

### Authenticity

1. What is your definition of authenticity? How do you know that you are living an authentic life?
2. What set of circumstances may interfere with your being authentic? How do your perceived fragilities or vulnerabilities shape your behavior?
3. Are your values shaped more by the external world than by your inner sense of self?



These are three of the six "Advance Reflection" questions from a Chalice Circle small group ministry "session plan." The session plans were developed here by congregants and used during the 2009 - 2010 program year to invite group participants into a deep and meaningful dialog with one another.

Authenticity is one of the key values we promote and support here as a congregation and in our wider Unitarian Universalist movement. We seek to welcome our authentic selves to be truly present here. We seek support in articulating and developing our values, in being kind, compassionate, fully alive, creative, deeply and respectfully connected to one another, our natural environment, and all of creation.

The Authenticity session plan provides a number of thought-provoking quotes for participants to read aloud to spur awareness and foster connection in conversation

about what authenticity means and where we may be ready to open ourselves to more growth. Here are a few:

"It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are," *ee cummings*

"There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do," *Freya Madeleine Stark*

We help each other be more authentic as individuals. We can also work individually and together to be more authentic as a congregation. I invite you to seek out a "One Time Chalice Circle" if you would like to have a conversation on a meaningful topic that supports authenticity, or sign up for an on-going Chalice Circle when the next program cycle starts in September. And consider: As we approach our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May of 2015, what can we do more of or differently to better live out our values as a congregation in the months and years ahead?

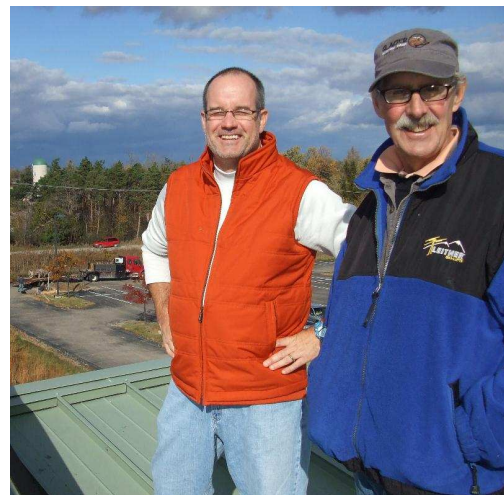


## The Business of the Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director

On Tuesday, March 12, Dave Friedrichs, John Erdevig, and I met with the Lodi Township's Board of Review on behalf of the congregation to appeal our property tax assessment for 2013. In order to appeal our tax assessment and related payment has ranged between \$3,000-4,000 each year since the congregation moved to its current location.

We went to the meeting poised, polite, and prepared. The Board of Review listened well, asked pertinent questions and allowed us to go two minutes over our 10 minutes of allocated time. One week later, we received word that our assessment had been reduced to \$0 and UUAA would not be paying property taxes in 2013.



Obviously, there's much, much more to the story. Stop me in the hall one Sunday and I will share any detail which you are curious to know. The purpose for sharing this short summary of success is to note that it came out of months of work by a diligent, hardworking group of volunteers called the Land Management Team. I want you to know about them.

The Land Management Team was formed in 2012 to help implement the 2012 - 2016 Master Site Plan. You can read that plan here: <http://www.uuaa.org/about-us/our-congregation/planning-our-future>. Ann Jones is the Team Lead and current active team members include Roberta Allen, Jo Anne Diehl, John Erdevig, Paul Forringer, and John Seeley. I am the staff support liaison to the team.

The Land Management Team's responsibilities are several:

1. Oversee the implementation of the newly revised site plan;
2. Evaluate and support new project development on our land;
3. Support existing projects on our land;
4. Recommend fiscal responsibility in land expenditures; and
5. Formalize the land steward program.

The team has set the following goals for the next two years:

1. Pursue property tax exemption of our property.
2. Develop natural area preservation, forestry, water conservation, and permaculture plans.
3. Create interpretative signage for each of the property's major features.
4. Develop a religious education course for our children entitled "This Land is Your Land" which builds on the features of our property.
5. Create nature stations, viewing platforms, and meditative spaces for congregants.
6. Enhance our trails with markers, maps and other directional and interpretive aids, along with providing more intensive maintenance.
7. Develop outdoor worship experiences on the land.
8. Encourage expanded recreational use.
9. Inventory ornamental plants.

The Land Management Team has crossed off goal number 1 and is well on its way with several of the other goals. However, to achieve ALL of them, they will need more people involved as leaders, stewards, planters, weeders, and strategizers. If you have the energy, experience, skill, or time to help do the work of our land, then please contact me at [thoma@uuaa.org](mailto:thoma@uuaa.org) or Ann Jones at [annjones75@att.net](mailto:annjones75@att.net).



## **Musical Notes**

**Glen Thomas Rideout, Music Director**

Kudos to Glen Thomas Rideout!

Our Director of Music, Glen Thomas Rideout, is the winner of the National Student Conducting Competition of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)!

Two hundred applicants, eight graduate semifinalists, and ONE WINNER! The contest was held in two rounds where each contestant had eight minutes to rehearse a choir they had never heard before. That choir had only been a "choir" only for two days.





The winner of this prestigious competition enjoys the national recognition that comes with winning the competition of the nation's premiere choral organization (ACDA). Glen Thomas will be flown to Manhattan, NY to guest conduct the Manhattan Concert Chorale, a professional organization with a national reputation for educational and community outreach, as well as sell-out concerts in New York. There is also a cash prize involved.

Congratulations to Glen Thomas for this wonderful achievement!



## Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action

### Sandy Garges, Director of SGD



Community volunteer opportunities abound!

In April of each year we begin to look forward to our next program year for planning purposes while, at the same time, looking back to the year behind us with gratitude for resources we have all enjoyed together. These resources include the multitude of SGD volunteers who, each Sunday, create a welcoming and fun space for our youngest congregants. To honor and recognize these volunteers we will celebrate them at our annual Teacher Appreciation Brunch. In her article, Maria Thomas, Programs Coordinator, offers ways you can help with this event.

The SGD Program is also sponsoring a volunteer event at Food Gatherers on April 27 from 9:00 to 11:30am. Sign-up is now open. We will join together to support Food Gatherers by volunteering in its warehouse. This is an opportunity to learn more about the mission of Food Gatherers and to come together in community to do good work for others.

This event is open to those eight years old and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. A year or so ago, I enjoyed a volunteer session at Food Gatherers with my son who was eight years old at the time. He still talks about how much fun it was to put together food boxes for others and how nice everyone he met was.

We hope to see you there on the 27th for another inspirational community event! Spaces are limited. RSVP to [sandy@uuaa.org](mailto:sandy@uuaa.org).

With care,  
Sandy Garges



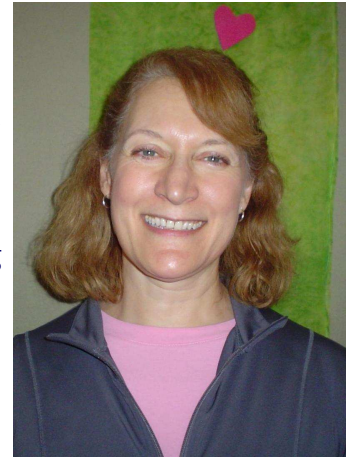
**Coordinates**

**Maria Thomas, Spiritual Growth and Development Programs Coordinator**

Each spring the UUAU congregation comes together to honor and to thank the people who have served as volunteer teachers and assistants in the SGD Children and Youth Program.

The brunch is a big, joyful potluck and a wonderful opportunity for all of us in the UUAU community to join in expressing our gratitude to teachers and others who, along with our children and youth, are the heart and soul of the program.

This year's Teacher Appreciation Brunch takes place on Sunday, April 28 from 10:30 to 11:30am in the Fahs Chapel. We are asking for your support in the form of potluck dishes or help with set-up or clean-up. Please use this link to access our sign-up page, [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0D4AA8A922A46-teacher1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0D4AA8A922A46-teacher1), and please contact me at [maria@uuau.org](mailto:maria@uuau.org) if you have any questions.



Thank you for your support of our SGD volunteers!

In care and gratitude,  
Maria



## Growing Together

**Debra Golden, Spiritual Growth and Development Program Assistant**

Hello and happy 'wish it would act like it' spring.

For this multi-generational Earth Day service we are presenting *The Gift* starring our SGD students, and reflecting on this year's theme of sustainable communities. How much impact can a gift have? We will share tips on making things, neighborhoods, and places we are in relationship with really last.

We are offering a "reuse and recycle" challenge here. Pick a category (odds and ends, building materials, fabric) and show what you can come up with that's artsy or functional or both. See me for details if you are interested. I'm hoping these can be on display for Earth Day.

I recently learned of another Earth Day contest that is run by Recycle Ann Arbor called the Earth Day Reuse Competition 2013 for Products and Artwork made from discarded material. It is open to ages 13 and up. The two categories for products and artwork are: Creative and Functional. The deadline for applications is April 14 at 4:00pm.

[Click here](#) for more information and an application form.

What do Muhammad, Dr. Seuss, and Moses have in common? Along with many others - they will all be featured in this summer's K-8 summer program. Some heroes from UUAU such as our Alpha House volunteers will be discussed, too.

In joy and peace,  
Debra



## Activities and Events

### Church Office Orientation \* April 2

Come explore the front Church Office to see what is available to the congregation. Learn to use the fax machine, get acquainted with our copier, and demystify how to make an outside call. We will meet in the office on Tuesday, April 2 at 4:00pm. To sign up, contact Office Administrator, Debby Casamatta at [deborah@uuua.org](mailto:deborah@uuua.org) or call the Church Office at 734-665-6158.



### Meditation for Life \* April 3

Meditation for life may be known by the venturesome as a well-chosen staff that lasts long, supports the journey and fits the hand of the wayfarer. Introductory classes will be held on six Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm on April 3 through May 8.

This class will enable members to develop and sustain their own practice of meditation. Members will experience a process of discovery and practice supported by readings and discussion on Buddhist meditation in the 21st century.

To RSVP or for a syllabus, contact Charley Burleigh at [chburleigh@aol.com](mailto:chburleigh@aol.com).



### Senior Dinner Out \* April 3

Come join us for Senior Dinner on the first Wednesday of every month. We will meet at 6:00pm on Wednesday, April 3 at the Gourmet Garden Chinese restaurant on Stadium Road, in Ann Arbor. Good food, lots of conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349, if you have any questions.



### Vegan Potluck \* April 6

Calling all vegans, vegetarians, and mindful eaters. All are invited to come to a community-building vegan family potluck in the Fahs Chapel on Saturday April 6, from 12:00 to 2:00pm.

Bring a plant-based vegan dish that is without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, hear about vegan activities in our area, and eat delicious food. Bring your own table service and serving tools.

This potluck will be hosted by Veg UUAU of the Mindful Eating Coalition. If you have questions or for recipe ideas, contact Donna Estry at 734-484-0913 or [estry@umich.edu](mailto:estry@umich.edu) or Jenny McKillop at [finnabar@gmail.com](mailto:finnabar@gmail.com).



### One-Time Chalice Circle \* April 7

The next One-Time Chalice Circle will be at 1:00pm, on April 7, in the Young Room.



The topic of resilience will be explore how you have been resilient in your life and share stories about your experiences.

Register for the session in the Social Hall. Join us for this time of deep listening and sharing.

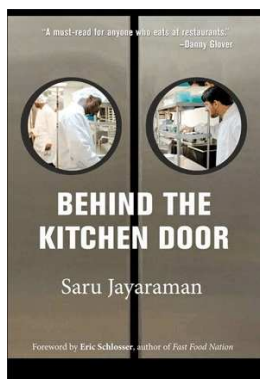
For more information or to ask any questions contact Roya Furniss at [xenaphan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:xenaphan2000@yahoo.com).



### *Behind the Kitchen Door* Forum \* April 7

*"The biggest workforce in America can't put food on the table except when they go to work,"*  
Saru Jayaraman.

The Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC) and the Social Justice Committee (SJC) are working together on a project initiated by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to cover the issues of ethical eating, food justice, racial inequality, immigration, and unfair working conditions. Explore more about this at <http://thewelcometable.net/welcome/>.



Jayaraman's new book, *Behind the Kitchen Door* was recently released and is now available at our QUUest bookstore. *Behind the Kitchen Door* follows the lives of restaurant workers in large cities across the country, including Detroit, to find out how they live on low wages and how poor working conditions affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables.

Jayaraman is the founder of Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC). Check out their website at [www.rocunited.org](http://www.rocunited.org).

On April 7, from 10:45 to 11:15am, in the Fahs Chapel, we will host a forum featuring Michaela Goralski, a member of ROC-Detroit. Goralski will discuss what ROC is doing to lift food service workers out of poverty and unfair working conditions. Michaela will also be at the Mindful Eating table after the second service to answer your questions.

ROC-Detroit is working on a "Good Food, Good Jobs Act," which would hold liquor license vendors accountable to basic food safety and worker's rights standards.

This forum will also be the kick-off to a church-wide book read and subsequent discussions on this book. For more information, contact Cathy Muha at [cmuha@att.net](mailto:cmuha@att.net).



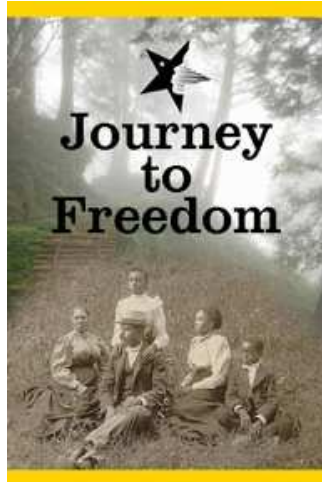
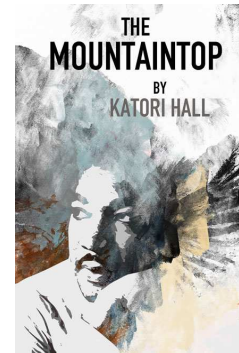
### Challenging Racism \* April 7

Join us for our monthly **planning meeting**, Sunday, April 7, between services in the Olympia Brown Room. For more information about this meeting contact [ecroake@wccnet.edu](mailto:ecroake@wccnet.edu).



Watch the Bulletin for details about Rev. Mark's second conversation, *The New Jim Crow: Theological Reflections*. The first session, on March 17, engaged over 20 congregants. We sang, we read and we shared responses and concerns.

*On the Mountaintop*, the Performance Network play directed by Carla Milarch, will run from April 25 through June 2. Join us after the Sunday, May 19 matinee for tea and discussion at Crazy Wisdom.



"It's April 3, 1968 at Memphis' Lorraine Motel the night before Martin Luther King, Jr. would be assassinated. In room 306 King prepares his speech for the coming day, as a thunderstorm rages outside. Chain smoking Pall Malls and thundering to himself 'America, you are too arrogant!' he is startled by the mysterious Camae, a motel maid who shows up dripping wet on his doorstep. As they strike up a conversation, sharing cigarettes and laughter, King begins to suspect that her purpose there may not be what it seems."

Make your reservations at [www.performancenetwork.org](http://www.performancenetwork.org) or call 734- 663-0681. For more information, contact Lucia Heinold, [HeinoldCia@aol.com](mailto:HeinoldCia@aol.com).

April 28 is the first **Freedom Journey** bus tour of local Underground Railroad sites this year.



### Social Justice Council (SJC) \* April 8

After many months of hard work by committee members, the SJC Policy and Procedures manual has been completed. This document is available on the UUA Social Justice website along with copies of applications for our mini grants. By scrolling to the end of the page you'll find links to the Policies and Procedures, application for a new Social Action group or project, the annual report, and mini-grant request form. We will make an announcement when the grant application process opens.

We'd love to meet you; please stop by and say hello at the SJC table during Social Hour on Sundays. You'll find information on Social Justice groups, upcoming events, books, and other reading material. Learn about General Assembly 2013, reproductive rights and other issues.

We have moved our meetings to the second Monday of each month. The time remains the same: 7:00pm. We meet next on Monday, April 8 at 7:00pm. Contact Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com) or Carol Acitelli at [carol.acitelli@gmail.com](mailto:carol.acitelli@gmail.com).



### Round Robin Dinner \* April 12

There are two Round Robin dinners left this season to join others in small adult dinner groups for an evening of good food and conversation. The next dinner will be on Friday, April 12. Let us know by Wednesday, April 3 if you are interested in participating.

For any other information, contact Sally or John Preston at 734-475-3812 or [dinner@pctraining.net](mailto:dinner@pctraining.net).

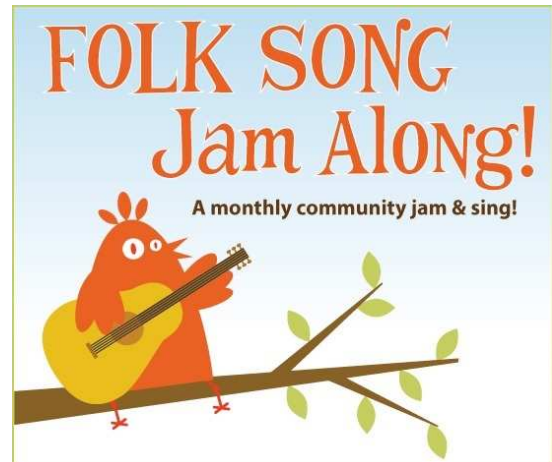


### Folk Song Jam Along \* April 13

Hey y'all - come join us for this month's Folk Song Jam Along on Saturday, April 13 from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Jackson Chapel.

We'll be singing everything from kids' tunes to pop, hymns, rounds, musicals, and other old folk familiars! Bring your voices and your acoustic instruments and come sing and play.

Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski will be leading this family-friendly circle. Lyrics will be put up on screen with chords. If you have any favorites you like to sing - send your suggestions to [jeanca2@mac.com](mailto:jeanca2@mac.com) or [lorifithian@mac.com](mailto:lorifithian@mac.com).



Invite your friends to come and join in the fun. It's open to the whole community. Help spread the word.

Need more info? Contact [lorifithian@mac.com](mailto:lorifithian@mac.com) or 734-426-7818.



### Khasi Hills Kick - Off \* April 14



Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student kick off event on April 14 will start the new season of sign-ups. Pizza, salad, and drinks will be served at 1:00pm.

Come learn about the program, how it was started, how it works, and what is new. Our congregation has been involved with Khasi Hills for over 100 years starting with our Minister, Rev. Jaybez Sunderland. Come sponsor or re-sponsor a young Mawkisyiem student and meet with other sponsors. Contact John Seeley at [jaseeley@aol.com](mailto:jaseeley@aol.com) for more information.



### Interweave \* April 16

All are welcome to Interweave's First Annual Chili Cook-Off on Tuesday, April 16 in the Social Hall.

**Potluck:** 6:15 pm - We are asking everyone to label their contribution to the potluck with a list of the ingredients. Cooks who prepare a gluten or lactose free dis will be much appreciated.



**Program:** 7:00 pm - Feel free to join us for the program only

Our First Annual Chili Cook-Off will determine the best chili cook in Interweave. Details will be announced via the bulletin. We will discuss last minute plans for the All Church Retreat held on Saturday, April 20 from 1:00pm to 9:00pm. Child Care is available with a two week notice.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Roylea Furniss at [xenaphan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:xenaphan2000@yahoo.com) or Leigh Robertson at [leighbrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leighbrobe@umich.edu).



### All-Church Retreat \* April 20

Widening our embrace. Deepening our connections at the All-Church Retreat co- hosted by Interweave and Pastoral Care on Saturday, April 20 from 1:00 to 9:00pm.

We plan to have a full schedule of events to include six afternoon workshops, small groups, and a social hour. Dinner will be catered by Simply Scrumptious with music and dancing to follow.

Admission is \$25 per person, children admitted for free, and childcare will be available. If you will need childcare, please let us know by Saturday, April 6. Stop by the Interweave table to register for the fun. For more information contact Leigh Robertson at [leighbrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leighbrobe@umich.edu).



Get the  
REGISTRATION FORM





## Widening Our Embrace • Deepening Connections

### All-Church Spring Retreat

## Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> • 1 – 9 pm

**\$25 Per Person. Children are free. Childcare is available.**

Children can join us for dinner & evening program - please let us know if they'll be having dinner with us.

**Approximate schedule for the day:**

- 1:00 - Arrivals, In-Gathering Service with Rev. Gail
- 2:00 - Workshops - Widening our Embrace by learning about our communities
- 3:45 - Small Group Circles - Deepening Connections by sharing with each other
- 5:15 - Social Hour (BYOB), Hike the Land
- 6:00 - Dinner, catered by Simply Scrumptious
- 7:15 - Evening Program, Bonfire, Music & Dancing
- 9:00 - Goodnight!

**What to bring:**

- BEVERAGE of choice or healthy SNACK/DESSERT to share
- BOOK - bring one book to trade in at the book exchange!
- BOOTS for a hike on the land (it's kind o' wet out there!)
- JACKET for cooler evening weather on the back porch




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### RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

#### Widening Our Embrace • Deepening Connections • April 20th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 paid: check # \_\_\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ phone H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_

A vegetarian meal is being catered by "Simply Scrumptious" - If you prefer **Gluten-Free** cornbread, check here \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **YES I will need childcare during the day.** (Children can join us for dinner and the evening activity)

Names and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_ Will they stay for Dinner? **Y N**

**WORKSHOPS: Please mark your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices for the afternoon session:**

- \_\_\_\_ *Pathways for Enriching Your Life* - led by Joan Burleigh and Royla Furniss
- \_\_\_\_ *Everything you wanted to know about being TBLGQ / Ally but were afraid to ask* - Leigh Robertson / Victor Hola
- \_\_\_\_ *Connecting our Hearts: Creating Art with Debra Golden* - led by Debra Golden
- \_\_\_\_ *Healthy Boundaries for Healthy Relationships* - led by Carole Kirby
- \_\_\_\_ *Come Sing a Song with Me: Singing the Music of Carolyn McDade* - led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski
- \_\_\_\_ *Movie & Discussion: "Out in the Silence"* - A film for LGBTQ fairness and equality in rural and small town America.

Submit registration and payment by April 12 to our table in the Social Hall or mail it to the church.  
 Make checks payable to the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor with "UU Retreat" on the memo line.  
 Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at 734.678.2805 or email her at leigrobe@umich.edu



Introduction to OUUr Faith \* April 27



This class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for both newcomers and long-time members. The class will be held from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Taught by UUAU ministers and lay members, topics include: history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, how we are governed, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.



Sign up by Sunday, April 21. A minimum of eight participants is needed to run the class and there is a maximum of 20. Registration forms are available at the Involvement table and front entrance literature rack. You can also register on our website [www.uuaa.org/FindingCommunity/Becomingamember](http://www.uuaa.org/FindingCommunity/Becomingamember). The next class will be on May 25.

Childcare will be provided if sufficient numbers are interested. Childcare requests must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the class. Register for childcare by Friday, April 12.

If you have any questions or need help registering, contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 734-665-6158 or by emailing [Hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:Hannah@uuaa.org).

## Announcements and Notices

### Goods and Services Auction Wrap-Up

Success.

Thank UU for your wonderful donations and for your exciting participation in this annual fund raising event. Final revenue results are not yet available, but recognizing our volunteer corps of 120 is certainly possible and a real pleasure. Tell them thank you when you see them, as it would not have been possible without them.



MCs Ken Clein and Phil Tuchinsky hand out "Irish Blessings" to raffle and door prize winners

**Team Leaders:** Phil Tuchinsky, Corrine Deckard, Hayley Boyse, Dave Purcell, Bob Heinold, Lisa Lemble, Ruth Blackburn, Pete Mooney, Cathy Muha, Guala Lauzzana, Erin Dixon, and Jim Gallas.

**Volunteer Corps:** Ingrid Gunderson, Lesley Farrell, Quincy Northrup, Ginny Creasman, Jonena Jones, James Johnson, Neal Foster, Fran Lyman, Bethany Ramirez, Dee Dishon, Ryan Dybdahl, Ed Rutherford, Marry Lynn Stevens, Becky Hoort, Carol Cramer, Thomas Longworth, Betsy Price, Kristen Mogbo, Victoria Moessner, Lois Zimmerman, Ed Lynn, Barb Pickett, Margaret Flannery, Rich Kato, Anne Ramsey, Rick Johnson, Vey Valentine, Cheryl Valentine, Angelina Zaystev, Lisa Sorensen, Maria Arthur, Tim Arthur, Julie Dybdahl, Victor Hola, Katlyn Cameron, Karen Bourdan, Scott Ferguson, Jan Bower, Diane Fead, Sara Mathews, Connie Lippert, Blue Robinson, Barbara Hall, Dave

Hall, Theresa Braunschneider, Christopher Matthews, Kathy McLean, Tricia Smith, Maria Thomas, Debra Golden, Kate Warner, Terri Wilkerson, Carl Williams, Kathy Duquette, Connie Frederick, Merrill Crockett, Ricardo Wyatt, Barb Gales, Lois Gannon, Dixie Hibner, Linda Jones, Terry Madden, Patricia Pryplesh, Tim Richards, Susan Tuller, Laura Bollettino, Mike Muha, Dorothy Haigler, Kathy Friedrichs, Kim Clugston, Peter Russell, Jim Lee, Lisa Mazzia, Beth Hospadaruk, Bob Hospadaruk, Cristy Cardinal, Theresa Rohlck, Lise Anderson, Joan Burleigh, Michele Thomas, Mary Ann Camron, Steve Camron, Dave Blackburn, Bobbi Coluni, Terry Butcher, Craig Butcher, Cindy O' Connor, Bridget Laundra, Betsy Reitbauer, Priscilla Spencer, Rajeev Batra, Margaret Pekarek, Charlie Pekarek, Carolyn Barber, Jenny Kropf, Brandy Sinco, Allison Halerz, Kelsi Grautz, Melissa Grey, Ken Clein, Sandy Eyl, and Arthur Prokosch.

**Staff:** Thom Bales, Debby Casamatta, Maria Thomas, Venus Gregory, and Arthur Whigham.

**Note:** Neal and Meredith Foster will be donating proceeds from the sale of a crystal collection to UUAU. There are several unsold pieces remaining after the Goods and Services Auction. A catalog with pictures of the various pieces may be downloaded here: [Download here](#). Contact Neal Foster at 734-663-0756.



Back: Dean Yang. Front: Edward Norton, Mary Ann Cameron, Steve Cameron, and Margie Teall look at bids on an auction table.

*"May the sound of happy music, And the lilt of Irish laughter, fill your heart with gladness, that stays forever after."*

### Request for Ministry and Program Reports

Lay leaders of recognized groups within the congregation are encouraged to submit written reports for ministry and program activities that took place during the 2012-2013 program year. Submitted reports will be compiled into the congregation's comprehensive Annual Report.

If you are a lay leader of a recognized UUAU group, here are some suggestions for what to include in your group's report:

- Name of recognized group
- Group leader's name
- Report author (if different than group leader)
- Names of active group participants
- Summary description of group's ministry
- 2012-2013 goals achieved
- Other activity highlights
- 2013-2014 goals

Send your report to [annualreport@uuaa.org](mailto:annualreport@uuaa.org) on or before 9:00am on Wednesday, April 15. Questions? Contact Debby Casamatta at [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org) in the Church Office.



## Denominational Connections Team

*The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAA) and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing our congregation, and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs.*

All are welcome to the DCT meetings on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30pm, in the Young Room. For more information contact DCT chair, Roberta Allen, at [bert71allen@gmail.com](mailto:bert71allen@gmail.com).



The 2013 Heartland District Assembly will be Friday and Saturday, April 12 to 13, at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana.

Members of our congregation, George Garcia and Jill Baker, will be presenting a workshop on Justice in the Middle East. Stop by our table during Social Hour or go here:

<http://www.midamericauua.org/heartland-da> to sign up. Delegates to the Heartland's District Assembly will be voting on the change to a Mid America Region.

Thinking about attending General Assembly (GA) from June 19 to 23? It is so close this year, only a six hour road trip to Louisville, Kentucky. So far, 50 people are interested in going. Their names are listed on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall. To add your name, sign up at the Social Justice table during Social Hour or at <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>.

Delegates at the 2012 GA in Phoenix, AZ, selected "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling" as the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, <http://www.uua.org/reproductive/calling/index.shtml>. The CSAI invites congregations and districts to take a topic of concern, engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it, and take action. A CSAI is not a statement, it is a question. Discussions on how to best work on reproductive justice at our Congregation have begun. Those interested in this issue, are encouraged to sign up at the Social Justice table.

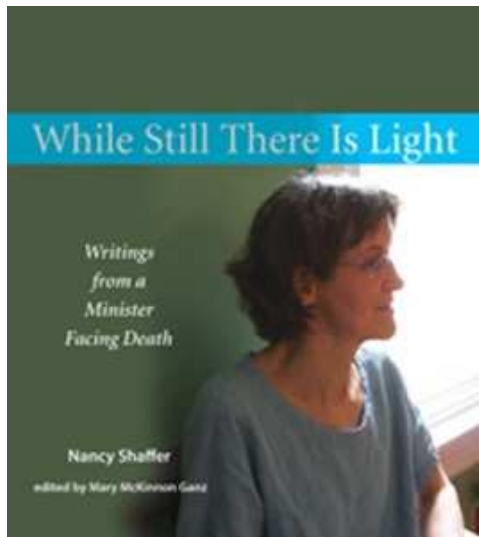


## Quest Bookstore News

The late Rev. Nancy Schaffer's book, *While Still There Is Light: Writings from a Minister Facing Death* comes from UUA's Skinner House this month. The price will be \$14.00.

Isn't the cover photo great? Our UU, Julie Voelck took it.

Notes from the catalog: "Somewhere around five  
on the morning after I've been hospitalized  
I realize I'd better think through  
not just where my possessions might go  
but who may need to lead my memorial service."



From *First Morning*: In 2011, Nancy Shaffer's life suddenly changed when she was diagnosed with what would be a fatal brain tumor. Here is her heartrending and heartwarming account of her final year as she came to terms with impending death. Part journal, part meditative reflection, and fully honest, Shaffer's account of her journey through denial to peaceful acceptance will lend inspiration and courage to those in need, and insight to those who give pastoral care.

QUUest bookstore will be pre-ordering and attempting to keep Nancy's book in stock. We recommend that you place a special order, as demand will be high. Many of us treasured Nancy's presence and her first book *Instructions in Joy* which is still available.

Contact Fran Lyman at [flyman@umich.edu](mailto:flyman@umich.edu).



## Our Land For Worship

Our Land For Worship meets monthly. All are welcome.

One of our goals is to implement the revised Site Plan accepted by the Board last year. Another goal is to communicate the opportunities our congregational land provides.

In that regard, our first newsletter is available on the church website. Look for it on the tab "About Us: Building and Grounds." It is on the right side of the page. Thanks to Bob Lippert and a simple click, it is possible to take a walk in the woods located in the southernmost part of our property.

There are three new things to look for from our team: 1) an Earth Day celebration and program, 2) the spring newsletter to be published in early May, and 3) opportunities for land stewarding.

If you are interested in land stewarding contact John Seeley at [jaseeley@aol.com](mailto:jaseeley@aol.com).



## Scrip Program Update

A testimonial from Lise Anderson: "Give UUAU 10% of your lodging costs with B&B.com gift cards!"

Next time you plan a vacation, think about using scrip to pay for your lodging. At the Bed and Breakfast.com website, <http://www.bedandbreakfast.com>, you can find a B&B that will take gift cards. First, search by your destination (not all the B&Bs on their site take the cards). Next, call the B&B itself to confirm that they accept B&B.com gift cards. Make your reservation on the website with a credit card for the deposit. Finally, go to the shopwithscrip website, <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/>, to buy the gift cards for the expected balance, allowing time for the cards to be delivered to UUAU to pick up at Social Hour before your trip.



In November, Miles Peterle followed these simple steps to make a reservation at the Maison de Macarty, [www.maisonmacarty.com](http://www.maisonmacarty.com), in the Bywater neighborhood of New Orleans. As it turned out, one of the proprietors of this historic house was a very active UU from the Baton Rouge church! He and Lise had a great time, while donating to UUAA.



Remember, the GA is coming up and several locations have Scrip available. Stop by our table in the Social Hall with any questions or assistance with ordering. Contact Becky Swank at [bjswank@gmail.com](mailto:bjswank@gmail.com).



## Family Camp Registration Open

We need YOU to make Family Camp really happen this summer. Register with your deposit now. Get early bird rates.



### A Long Weekend of Fun

Join us for a UU summer getaway at Family Camp from August 23 through 26. Whether you come with family, friends, or by yourself, there's something fun for everyone:

- Swimming
- Sailing, Paddle Boats, Canoeing, Kayaking and other water fun
- Fishing (no license needed)
- Mountain Biking
- Climbing Wall & Archery
- Ropes Courses
- Bird Watching & Nature Hikes
- Interactive Group Discussions
- Campfires with S'mores & Sing-Alongs
- Music (bring your instruments & voices!)



### Where?

YMCA Camp Pinewood, [www.camppinewood.com](http://www.camppinewood.com), near Muskegon, about 3.25 hours from Ann Arbor. Camp Pinewood is situated on beautiful Lake Echo, with a natural sandy beach. There are lots of trails that encircle the lake to explore, winding through 200 acres of forest.



## How to Register

Click to download camp information and the registration form. Return the form with your non-refundable deposit of \$50 per person to the Church. Register by July 15. Payment in full is due by August 1.



## Questions?

Call YMCA Camp Pinewood at 231-821-2421. You may also contact Jonathan Thomas-Palmer at 734-222-0433 or email the Family Camp Committee at [familycamp@uuaa.org](mailto:familycamp@uuaa.org).



## Stepping Stones to Membership

We welcome new members to our congregation throughout the year. Membership is an important commitment - one we hope you will consider as a part of your spiritual path.

Becoming a member involves these steps:

- \*Take the Introduction to Our Faith class.
- \* Understand and be in accord with our mission and by-laws.
- \* Complete forms in the enrollment package, which includes a financial pledge statement.
- \* 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.

If you have any questions, contact our Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [Hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:Hannah@uuaa.org) or 734-665-6158.



## New Members

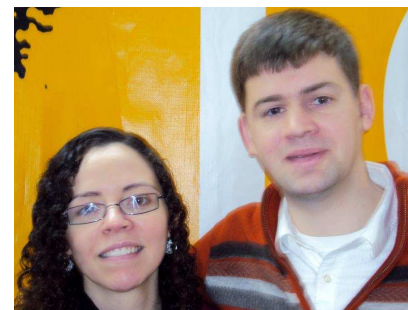
### Ruth Cassidy and Ryan McKendree

#### Ruth Cassidy

Ruth is a Ph.D. student and instructor of Statistics at the University of Michigan. She grew up in Miami, FL and moved to Ann Arbor for graduate school. Ruth enjoys exercising, especially running, reading, and nature.

#### Ryan McKendree

"I work as a clinical Research Coordinator here in Ann Arbor for the Clinical Trials office. I was born and raised in Vassar, Michigan and attended Michigan State University for a degree in physics. My previous religious background is in Lutheranism. I am excited to be a new member of this church and look forward to meeting new people here."



Ruth Cassidy and Ryan McKendree



Sara King



Sara King

Sara has grown up with this congregation for the past ten years. She figures that after going through Our Whole Lives, Coming of Age, and four years of YRUU, she should probably become a member.



## Angela Menengay

Angela, her husband Rob, and their kids Gavin, Lucy, and Brenna traded the congestion of the Washington, DC area for rural living north of Chelsea. Angela revels in her traffic-free commute to Ann Arbor, where she works in the environmental consulting field.

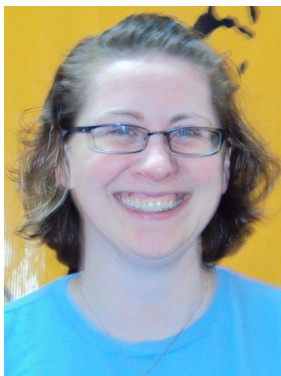
Angela and her family were formerly members of the UU Congregation of Sterling. They are looking forward to getting involved in the life of UAAA. The kids have already shown lots of excitement for their K-1 and pre-K SGD classes!



Angela Menengay



## Shannon Tubb



Shannon Tubb

Shannon recently found Unitarian Universalism and loved it from the start, yet took a while to commit as a member.

As a pagan, Shannon feels welcomed by the "believe whatever feels right to you, and we can do it in the same space" attitude here at UAAA. She feels honored by the inclusion of "Blessed Be" at the end of Gail's sermons.

Shannon is a Masters in Public Administration candidate at Eastern Michigan University and studied Sociology and Spanish at Ohio State University. She is an LGBT rights activist, a (dis)ability rights activist, a forever feminist, and thinks way too much. In her free time she reads and listens to many books, watches a lot of movies, and spends time with her family and cats.



## Lynn Walter

Lynn grew up in Chicago and was strongly affected by the Midwest landscape and her father's great artistic ability. Lynn became an ardent student of nature. This helped form her career as an earth scientist over the last 40 years.

Lynn taught and trained professional geologists in earth surface processes and the water cycle at both Washington University in St. Louis and at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Lynn and her graduate students conducted research projects in many parts of the world, with specialization in mid-continent US geology.

Lynn retired from the U of M faculty in 2010 and tends her large piece of wild forested property in Chelsea, rescues and trains Australian Shepherds, and experiments with abstract painting. Meditation and walks in the woods with her pack of Aussies are important parts of each day. Lynn Walter is new to Universalist Unitarianism but the principles of the faith resonate with her own personal history.



Lynn Walter



## Church Office News

### Volunteers Needed

The Church Office invites you to join our team of volunteers to help our UUAU staff during the Office hours. You would be answering the phones, taking messages, making copies, and light filing. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

If you are interested in giving of your time, contact our Office Administrator, Debby Casamatta at [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org) or call the Church Office at 734-665-6158.



### Hours of Operation:

**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**

**Telephone: 734-665-6158**

**Fax: 734-665-7895**

**General Email: [office@uuaa.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 21st of each month. Send your submissions to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org).

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

### Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, [thom@uuaa.org](mailto:thom@uuaa.org)  
Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org)  
Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Assistant, [venus@uuaa.org](mailto:venus@uuaa.org)  
Arthur Whigham, Custodian, [arthur@uuaa.org](mailto:arthur@uuaa.org)



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