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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

February Newsletter

February 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 2

Worship @ UUAU

Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

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[Standing on the Side of
Love](#)

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

February 03, 2013

"History Month: Detroit's Big Bad Secret"
Rev. Mark Evens

To move into the future toward our vision of peace, good will and justice for all, we must understand our shared past. Our lives are inextricably intertwined. Race was a critical strand in the web of meaning woven by our ancestors. To weave strong, new patterns of justice, we must learn the ways of our forebears, and then make our own choices in love.

February 10, 2013

"The 'L' Words"
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Reflections of Love and Liberalism

February 17, 2013

"Unitarian Universalist Literacy: local dialect and national language"
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer with Laura Bollettino

We will light the actual UUAU General Assembly Chalice as we reflect on elements of what shapes who we are as Unitarian Universalists here in Ann Arbor and in the broader UU community of our annual General Assembly. GA is in the Heartland District this year. In anticipation of GA, come this week to meet our District Executive, the Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley and Jill

Sampson, the Heartland District Coordinator for GA 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky.

February 24, 2013

"Economics for People"

Rev. Mark Evens

We should smash Gross Domestic Product and "growth" as modern day idols and replace them with guide star more closely linked with humane values and ecological sustainability. The book, *For the Common Good*, by John Cobb and Herman Daly is a key resource for this service.



From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



I am familiar with the itinerary for visiting the "Land of Bad News." I have taken the required course titled "Real Life II: The Hard Parts." What always surprises me is how these trips to Bad News and The Hard Parts of life are prerequisites for so many of the destinations of our aspirations.

My travels into Peace, Serenity, Contentment, and Hope have been available to me after navigating the choppy waters of hard times and challenging events. Sometimes it has been immersion into grief and loss that lead to peace or serenity. Sometimes it is the confrontation of challenges that seem insurmountable at the start and open up, later, to a deeper gratitude for things as they are: a new hope.

This I do know. The more challenges I face, the more hard stuff I engage headlong, the less I greet each new day with optimism. I'm thinking of the kind of optimism that U.U. minister Bruce T. Marshall wrote about in his 1996 Skinner House meditation manual titled, *Taking Pictures of God*. Marshall wrote, "optimism is an attitude of expectation that a particular result will occur." (p. 58)

I have learned to greet the day with hope. I no longer believe that only certain predetermined, precise outcomes will lead to serenity or hope. I am learning to be open to possibility. I am learning to embrace the unknown as portals to contentment and peace.

I think the kind of hope we sing about each week within the worship hour is one that begins with a careful and candid assessment of life as it is. We sing of hope not as a magical antidote to the travails of the day. We sing of a hope expressive of the deep

conviction that no matter what comes, we can prevail. When we join our voices in song we give strength to our capacity to "see and cherish signs of new life." (Eric Fromm as quoted in the Marshall meditation).

Three things are the basis for a hope that endures. The willingness to see clearly life as it is and situations as they are, empowered by joining our lives in covenant with others toward common goals larger than our own self interests, and developing, together, the ability to see and cherish signs of new life. These are the basis for a living hope.

I never could stand firmly on that bedrock kind of hope before I became a Unitarian Universalist. I have that hope now. It is available to each of us as we take our own personal risks and grow deeper into connection and covenant with others who aspire and labor to bring alive the Beloved Community. Our Beloved Community, which we offer freely as a well spring to others. All are welcome here.

My love to each,
Rev. Gail



Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

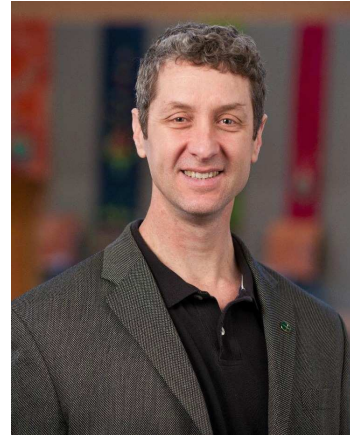
We join our voices in song on Sunday mornings, regularly including these words, our Song of Aspiration:

*From all that dwell below the skies,
Let songs of hope and trust arise,
Let peace, good-will, on earth be sung,
Through every land, by every tongue.*

The words remind us of some key ingredients in our community life: hope and especially trust.

The trust we build with one another is essential to all we aspire to do and accomplish here together. The peace and good-will we seek to bring forth rely on bonds of trust between us. We develop trust over time by taking risks with one another, and creating a place in our hearts for everyone to be respected, listened to, cared for, and treated well.

We build trust with one another when we invest our time here by showing up on Sunday mornings and at meetings and events throughout the week. We build trust with one another when we share stories from our lives about things that really matter to us, whether in a Chalice Circle, a meeting, or a coffee hour conversation. We build trust with one another when we contribute to this congregation's strength by sharing our dollars and our time.



We build trust with one another when we work together with our elected Board of Trustees who oversee the operations of the congregation; who, with the senior minister, and in consultation with its members and friends, chart a course toward greater fulfillment of our values and dreams. The name of this elected body, a group of "Trustees," speaks of the centrality of trust in this core relationship between the congregation and its elected leaders.

As staff support person for the Stewardship Umbrella Group, the group responsible for leading our congregation's development of its capacity to live its values with strength and abundance, I appreciate the work we have done and that we are doing together to build personal connections - the basic foundation of trust. I look forward to continuing this work with each of you in the year ahead, combining relationship with information about our current realities and a clear focus on our hopes for the future, so that we move forward confidently, prudently, and joyously, together.

With love,
Mark



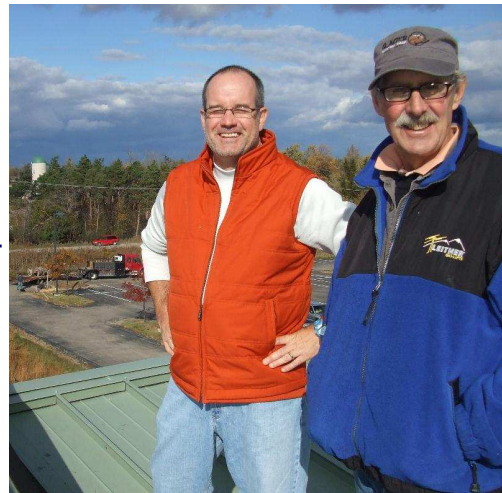
Business of the Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director

Now that the Board of Trustees has approved a 6 month budget, one with deep cuts and little wiggle room to deal with any emergency, financial or otherwise; it falls in large measure to me to communicate to the Senior Minister, Board and other staff how and when we should expend money based on the actual income we receive. I am up to the challenge! Over the past 5 years, we have steadily taken in more money than we've expensed, which has allowed us to worry less and less about "cash flow". This accumulation of approximately \$50,000 will no doubt aid us even more during this the coming months.

Nevertheless, I appeal to you as partners at UUAU for a few actions that you may take to make our cash flow even better:

- 1) Make timely payments on your 2013 pledge. In the past few years, over 60% of pledged income has been received in the second half of the year (July-December). This particular year, we need our income to be received in a more balanced manner throughout the year. Unless you have compelling and lucrative reasons for delaying payments on your pledge, we ask that you make them regular and timely.



- 2) Should any changes occur to a credit card you are using to make payments on your pledge, notify the Church Office of these changes right away. My December newsletter column detailed more fully the protocol needed to

update each specific person's credit card information. As I stated there - If the Church Office doesn't have correct credit card information, any scheduled transactions will necessarily be declined by your credit card company and we will need you to pay any missed payments with cash or personal check.

3) If you pledged to our Comprehensive Campaign and are able make payments towards that pledge earlier than you originally planned, please do so. At the end of each month, we take funds accumulated during the previous period and apply them towards our mortgage principal, thereby reducing subsequent mortgage interest payments. The faster we pay down our principal, the more we will end up paying in interest.

4) If you are a lay leader that has been authorized to make expenditures for a particular activity or program, do so more cautiously. All potential expenses should be approved by the appropriate staff person anyway; but this year, let's perform our own version of a "discount double-check". In other words, let's not discount the importance of double-checking with our staff leaders whether a particular expense is provided for in the approved budget.

5) Let's also have some fun too. One very big way would be to participate in the upcoming Goods & Services Auction on Saturday, March 16, 4:00-7:00pm. This is the largest source of income outside member and friend pledges. Join the festivities as an attendee, donor or volunteer and help us raise more money than ever.

Working together, I believe we shall manage through this challenge and hopefully arrive on the other side.

As always, feel free to contact me at thom@uuaa.org with any questions.



Sandy Garges
Director of Spiritual Growth and Development



Classes are back underway following the holiday break. Without a hiccup the teaching teams, mentors, facilitators, advisors, rovers, and other Children and Youth Program volunteers came back together to serve our children, youth, and Congregation through their committed engagement. Please take a moment to review the following list of Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) volunteers and, if you see a name you recognize, thank them! Because of their efforts our programming is strong.

With much care, Sandy



- | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Rachel | Bair | Katie | Kyndely |
| Daniel | Bair | Bridget | Laundra |
| Shelly | Banet | Jim | Lee |
| Cheryl | Barget | Judith | Lintott |
| Alan | Benard | April | Main |

Dave	Borneman	Greg	Meier
Lara	Brown	Trish	Mooney
Joan	Burleigh	Cathy	Muha
Mary Ann	Camron	Lucie	Nisson
Lorrie	Carbone	Edward	Norton
Sharon	Chapin- O'Leary	Carolyn	Norton
Thomas	Chettleburgh	Charlie	Pekarek
Bobbi	Coluni	Kyle	Pellar-Kosbar
Colleen	Crawley	Christine	Pellar-Kosbar
Merrill	Crockett	Gregg	Peterson
Susan	David	Amy	Phillips
Bryan	Debbink	Jeff	Poliner
Rev. Fran	Dew	Ginny	Preuss
Michelle	Dunham	Larry	Preuss
Ryan	Dybdahl	Leigh	Robertson
Audra	Eddy	Ben	Rowe
Eric	Ericksen	Alissa	Ruelle
Lesley	Farrell	John	Russell
Michelle	Ferguson	Sheila	Sanders
Margaret	Flannery	James	Schaefer
Tom	Goodson	Nic	Sims
Barb	Hall	Karen	Spangler
Rebecca	Hardin	Erin	Spanier
Cynthia	Hegg Krueger	Ann	Stalhandske
Maddie	Hiller	Stephanie	Surfus
Beth	Hospadaruk	Jeff	Surfus
Bob	Hospadaruk	Richard	Telgen
Kate	Hutchens	Kathryn	Thomas-Palmer
Todd	Irgang	Jamie	Todd
Laura	Irgang	David	Tumbarello
Susan	Johnson	Mark	Van Kempen
Keely	Kaleski	Kate	Warner
Jennifer	Kangas	Kathi	Waters
Denise	Kearns	Kate	Wells
Jeff	Kersten	Steve	Wells
David	Kohn	Terri	Wilkerson
Lisa	Kohn	Dean	Yang

YRUU Ski Trip Update

Julile Dybdahl, YRUU Lead Advisor

A small, but hardy band of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) youth and chaperones spent a long weekend at Mark Doman and Jane Allen's cabin in Northern Michigan.



Twelve youth and 5 adults went tubing (ask us about our inner tube trains) and ice skating in 35 degree drizzle, then skied in 15 degree and snowy weather the next

day. Group games, euchre, worship, cooking and cleaning teamwork, lots of laughter, and a night walk on the very frozen lake made this a great bonding trip -- new friendships born and old friendships strengthened.



YRUU skiers enjoy their excursion to Northern Michigan.

Kudos to our intrepid drivers Stuart Downing and Kate Hutchens, and many thanks to Mark and Jane for their hospitality.



Board of Trustees

President's Message

Dixie Hibner, Board President

Personally, and on behalf of the Board, I want to thank you for your pledges of \$1.9M to support of the work of this Congregation. We have pledges of just over one million dollars for the Comprehensive Campaign that will help pay down the mortgage. And, we have pledges of about \$820,000 for support of the annual operating budget. I want to express gratitude to all of you who were able to talk with our canvassers. We engaged in many conversations about why this Congregation is important to us.

Thank you to each of you who were able to attend the Congregational Meeting yesterday afternoon. It was great to see so many of you there. I want to express my gratitude to you for taking time from your Sunday afternoon to learn more about what is happening here at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor(UUAA).



If you were at the meeting, you know that our annual pledge drive is underperforming and that we are short of our goal. The Board is actively engaged in helping all of us to better understand our financial challenges and how we are working to meet them. We have restructured our stewardship teams to work together and coordinate their efforts under the Stewardship Umbrella Group. We are moving to year-round stewardship, rather than a seasonal pledge drive. We are all learning so much more about what this Congregation is trying to do and how we can provide the necessary

resources. The Board is actively engaged in moving us toward our goals and aspirations and our stewardship work is vital in that journey.

Please read the article on Culture of Abundance in this newsletter by the Comprehensive Campaign leaders. It will help you understand what we're creating here.

The next steps that we are taking to move us toward this culture of abundance are:

- The creation of an Income Advisory Team to accept your ideas and to create some of their own about how we can identify more non-pledge income.
- We will deepen our understanding and use of the Scrip program. It has potential for bringing us significantly more revenue than it currently does.
- We are encouraging attendance at the Annual Goods and Services Auction to enhance this source of income.
- We have deferred the impact of the gap between budgetary needs and revenue to the second half of the year to give us time to be reflective and strategic about how we care for the discrepancy.
- We are asking each of you to be creative and suggest your ideas about how we can find additional sources of income. Please send your ideas to office@uuaa.org or place them in the President's mailbox in the office.

Thank you to each of you for all you do to strengthen this Congregation. Thank you for all the work and the dollars that you contribute to allow us to accomplish important work, both here among ourselves, and in the world. Thank you to the young people who are joining us and to the families in the Spiritual Growth and Development program for your investment in our future. You all have important contributions to make and we thank you for them.



Stewardship

Comprehensively Speaking

Margaret Pekarek and Tim Richards, Co-Chairs Comprehensive Campaign

What is A Culture of Abundance?

"A congregation with a culture of abundance believes . . . that diligent stewardship will provide everything needed."

-- Wayne Clark

"In seeking to nurture a culture of abundance among Unitarian Universalists, we must first acknowledge that most of our congregations are actually characterized by a culture of scarcity. Amidst competing demands for our resources, Unitarian Universalists seem inclined to view time and money as commodities in short supply."

--Rev. Stefan M. Jonasson

You might have heard us use the term "culture of abundance" in conversation or in one of our presentations. You might well ask, "What are you talking about?" We try to answer that question in the following paragraphs:

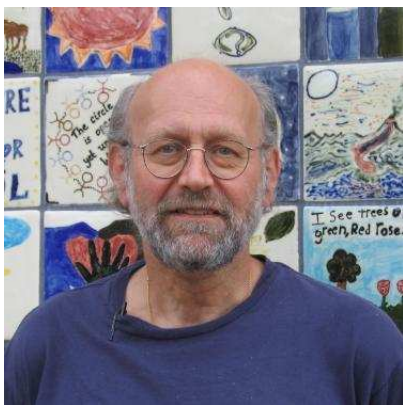
To a congregation that operates in a culture of abundance, the congregation is not simply another charity - it is the locus of where the members live their values individually and in community. A Congregation that lives in a culture of abundance focuses on its outward vision, on the good work its members do, on its members' spiritual growth. Such a congregation shares its abundance with those outside the congregation who are in harmony with its mission and values.



A community that operates in a culture of abundance has faith in itself and a belief that upholding the community's values gives meaning to our lives. When we speak of a culture of abundance, we speak of a community in which the strength of commitment to our shared values is strong enough to elicit from those within the community the resources needed to make robust progress towards achieving our shared aspirations; where there is no gap between aspirations and resources.

A congregation that operates in a culture of abundance emphasizes stewardship rather than fundraising; fundraising refers specifically to money-raising efforts while stewardship is an approach, an attitude, a mind-set that imbues all of the congregation's work, programs, and activities. Stewardship nourishes the rest of our ministries (e.g., worship, music, SGD, Social Justice).

The Stewardship Umbrella Group (SUG) was formed last fall in the recognition that for stewardship in our Congregation to be effective and sustaining, it must be about more than fundraising. In the past, our stewardship dialogues have often focused on the need to cut funding, rather than on the importance of our ministries. Perhaps this is because many of us have come to view the world as a place where resources are limited and life is about gathering or keeping sufficient resources to support ourselves, our families, or our tribe.



We believe that stewardship must involve continuous, open dialog and work to help us build a strong resource base that enables us to fulfill our mission and achieve our core values. For us, stewardship involves all the work we do as a congregation to care for our religious community, to act on our values, and to fulfill our mission to make a difference in the world.

We understand stewardship as a year-round ministry that incorporates practices that affect all areas of congregational life: worship services, music, community, social justice and environmental action, spiritual growth and development, and culture. In short, everything we touch and

everything that touches us is the product of our stewardship. The better we are at stewardship, the more powerfully our core values come alive.

We are emphasizing the importance of building a culture of abundance because it is our experience that we have often acted from a perspective that assumes we don't and won't be able to marshal the resources needed to achieve our goals. We believe that, together, we can change our culture and that now is the time to adjust our view of ourselves to bring it in line with our sense of mission, values, and purpose.

To help us achieve a culture of abundance, the Stewardship Umbrella Group (SUG) has begun taking a new approach to stewardship. What we do may look similar to past activities and efforts; testimonials, published brochures, mailings, pledge forms, etc., but our purpose is to emphasize the abundance we enjoy while de-emphasizing our focus on money. Here are some approaches we are taking:

1. Emphasizing that money is an essential tool; a means to accomplish our Ends/Core Values.
2. Emphasizing the importance and value of strengthening our connections
3. Using the Board of Trustees - approved long range Strategic Plan as the framework for our conversations and our actions
4. Focusing on fully aligning our resources with our values and our aspirations

We are very pleased that so many have already joined in supporting the Comprehensive Campaign to date. We are well on our way to meeting our financial goal for the campaign. More importantly, we believe that we have taken a big step in developing a culture of abundance within this beloved community.

We are deeply grateful to those who have already contributed to the Comprehensive Campaign. If you have not done so yet, we invite you to join us in this effort and help us to live in a culture of abundance, where we have the resources and the confidence to focus on fulfilling our mission and living our core values.

We give the final word to UU Minister Stefan Jonasson, who summarizes the idea of culture of abundance this way: "The culture of abundance is where gratitude and obligation meet. We even have a name for it - it's called thanksgiving."

Margaret Pekarek
Tim Richards
Comprehensive Campaign Co-Chairs



Activities and Events

Leadership & Learning Workshop * February 2

The Leadership Development Team is organizing a workshop for current leaders of the many groups that work with the congregation to fulfill our mission of service in the beloved community.

The first in a series of workshops is: "**Volunteers: How Do We Build Our Dream Team?**" This workshop will target four crucial areas for creating a strong team of volunteers, recruiting, training, managing, and sustaining the team.

The workshop, led by Ann Jones, will be Saturday, February 2, in the Fahs Chapel, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We will provide coffee, snacks and a light lunch (salad and cookies).

This is the first of several workshops that focus on providing skills and information to help our lay leaders feel more connected and supported as we help build our beloved community at UUAA. If you have questions or want to take part of the workshop, please contact Vilma Mesa, ymmesa@comcast.net or Ann Jones, annjones75@att.net.

Ann Jones has a PhD in Organizational Development and Counseling Psychology. She has been an adjunct professor for over 30 years, teaching at Kent State, Cleveland State, University of St. Thomas, the University of Minnesota, and various community colleges. Her work experience has crossed various industries including Ameritrust (Banking); The Cleveland Clinic (health care); American Greetings (manufacturing, sales); Supervalu (wholesale and retail food industry); Ernst and Young (Big 3 Accounting); and, most recently, the University of Minnesota where she was Director of Human Resources for the Academic Health Center's School of Dentistry. With her extensive background in HR, she has worked at recruiting, training, retaining, and managing employees.



Game Day for Everyone * February 3

Stop by for a friendly board or card game. Fun for all ages and stages. We will have many games to choose from. You are welcome to bring a favorite.

Join us for a potluck lunch, too. Please bring a dish to share or just join us if you forget. We will play between 1:00 to 4:00pm on Sunday, February 3. If you have any questions contact Bobbi Coluni at 734-604-0807 or bobbi.coluni@gmail.com.



One-Time Chalice Circle * February 3

A One-Time Chalice Circles will take place on Sunday, February 3 at 1:00pm in the Young Room. The topic for this meeting will be "**What Love Is?**"

Please contact Roylea Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



Rover Training * February 3 & 10

Calling all **Rovers**. If you are looking for a way to become involved with the Spiritual Growth and Development Program (SGD), consider volunteering as a Rover.



Rovers are adults who are posted in the SGD hallways during services and are available to teachers who may need assistance. They may get supplies or locate a parent in the Sanctuary. It is a very supportive role. Knowing that a rover is available is very meaningful to teachers and children in the classrooms.

SGD will offer two Rover Training Sessions: **Sunday, February 3** and **Sunday February 10** from 10:45 to 11:15am. To RSVP or for any questions contact Maria Thomas at maria@uuaa.org.



Senior Dinner Out * February 6

Come join us for Senior Dinner on the first Wednesday of every month. We will meet at 6:00pm on Wednesday, February 6 at the Gourmet Garden Chinese restaurant on Stadium, in Ann Arbor. Good food, lots of conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere. Call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349, if you have any questions.



Folk Song Jam Along * February 9

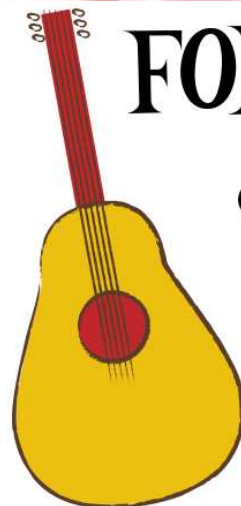
Come join in this month's Folk Song Jam Along on Saturday, February 9, from 6:30 to 8:30pm, in the Jackson Chapel. Bring your voices **and** your instruments and come sing and play in this family-friendly community circle. We'll be singing all kinds of familiar tunes: folk songs, hymns, chants, rounds, and more...

Lyrics will be put up on a screen with chords for the strummers, too. Come play!

If you have any favorites you like to sing - send your suggestions to jeanca2@mac.com.

Feel free to invite your friends to come and join in the fun - this folk-song-jam-along is open to the whole community.

Need more info? Contact Jean Chorazyczewski at jeanca2@mac.com or 734-223-2847.



FOLK SONG JAM ALONG

Saturday
February 9th
6:30 ~ 8:30pm



Mindful Eating Coalition Book Buy * February 14

The Mindful Eating Coalition asks you to help bring attention to inadequate restaurant working conditions by participating in **Love the Hands that Feed You Day** on Thursday, February 14.

Valentine's Day is traditionally a day for eating out. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) United ask that you purchase the book *Behind the Kitchen Door* on Thursday, February 14, the day after the book is released.

The goal is to sell 5,000 copies within the first two days of publication in an effort to place *Behind the Kitchen Door* on national bestseller lists to stimulate discussion of the book's message.

If you plan to buy the book on Thursday, February 14, one option is to make your purchase with an Amazon gift card from our Scrip Table in the Social Hall. Amazon is selling the book for \$14.33, plus shipping. Later in February, copies will be available at the QUUest bookstore for the retail price of \$21.95. Contact Connie McGuire with any questions at cmcguire@umich.edu.

Social Justice Council Event * February 16

Whether you're experienced in the social justice movement or looking for new ways to make a difference in the community, the UUAA Social Justice Council would like to invite you to attend an exciting event that our congregation is helping to sponsor.

Unstuck: Reviving the Movement for Social Justice, Human Dignity, and the Environment will be held on Saturday, February 16, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. This is an movement that we can be a part of reenergizing in our community. Keynote addresses are by Dr. Cornel West and the Rev. James Forbes.

This gathering aims to bring together the activist, academic, and faith-based communities for a public conversation on how to successfully address challenges as our growing social inequality, mass incarceration, sustainable economic development, global warming, and a culture that is still struggling to embrace difference.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students and can be purchased through: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/304212>

For more information, please contact Carol Acitelli at carol.acitelli@gmail.com or Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.





Unstuck: Reviving the Movement for Social Justice, Human Dignity, and the Environment.

Keynotes by Dr. Cornel West and The Rev. James Forbes

Other speakers include: The Rev. Selma Massey, Ahmad Rahman, Deborah Labelle, Patricia Gurin, Bob King & Mary Summers. With music by Brian Buckner & the Incarnation Choir and The Spirit Singing Band.

When: Saturday February 16th, 2013: Noon - 5:30 p.m.
 Where: The Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Ann Arbor MI
 What: A gathering to bring together the activist, academic, and faith-based communities for a public conversation on how to successfully address such profound challenges as our growing social inequality, mass incarceration, sustainable economic development, global warming, and a culture that is still struggling to embrace difference. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$15 for Students available through <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/304212>

Sponsored by: The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Inclusive Justice, The U-M Residential College, The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, & others.

Mindful Eating Food Summit * February 22

Mindful Eating Coalition supports social justice issues that are of interest to both our congregation and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), including ethical eating, food justice, racial inequality, immigration, and unfair working conditions.

On Friday, February 22, the **5th Annual HomeGrown Local Food Summit** will take place from 8:00am to 4:00pm at Washtenaw Community College. The theme of this event is "*(Re)imagining a Fair Food System.*" The program schedule and registration information is at <http://localfoodsummit.org>.

One of the panel discussions will feature Saru Jayaraman, Co-Director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) United (<http://rocunited.org/>). ROC-United's mission is to improve wages and working conditions for restaurant workers. Dr. Jayaraman is also the author of the book, *Behind the Kitchen Door*, scheduled for publication on Wednesday February 13. As described on the book's website at <http://behindthekitchendoor.org>, *Behind the Kitchen Door* is "a groundbreaking exploration of the political, economic, and moral implications of eating out."

Contact Connie McGuire for more information at cmcguire@umich.edu.

2013 Goods and Services Auction * March 16

The **UUAA Goods and Services Auction** is set for **St. Patrick's Day** eve, March 16, from 4:00 to 7:00pm at the church. Not only will the congregation's annual auction feature happy music and lilting laughter, but we can also promise a cornucopia of enticing items to bid on.

Happy (and perhaps other genres) of music will be provided by singer Marsha Gayle and additional performers to be announced. Marsha specializes in the American songbook. A taste of what she has to offer can be found at www.marshagayle.net.

Lilting laughter will be provided by interactions with longtime friends in the congregation, and perhaps the opportunity to meet new ones (not to mention the amusement provided by outfits worn in recognition of the auction theme). If you haven't been to auction in the past and want to learn more email Pete Mooney at pmooney@sfplaw.com.



How can you "fill your heart with gladness" three months in advance of the big event? If you are like most in this congregation, and your heart is filled by giving, we have an answer for you: Donate a dinner or party, a weekend at your cottage, concert or sports tickets, crafts, food, or anything else that comes to mind. In fact, why not make a donation now and beat the rush? Just email donations team leader Hayley Boyse at hboyse@gmail.com.

Another path to a happy heart is to help the church by volunteering your time at auction. There are many things that need to be done to make this event a reality, and in doing so, you can provide a tremendous service to the church and get a discount on your auction ticket.



The auction committee is will have tables in Social Hall until the event. Please come by as we sell tickets, take donations, recuite volunteers, and chatt about the event. If you'd like to learn more or research your options virtually - stop by our section of website at www.uaaa.org/auction.

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



Family Camp 2013 * August 23

Be sure to mark your calendar for a summer getaway with UU friends at West Michigan's beautiful YMCA Camp Pinewood.



This long weekend of fun is not just for people with children, but for **all** members and friends of UAAA. No matter what your age - come with your family, friends, or by yourself - there's something for you at Family Camp.

Family Camp will be Friday, August 23 through Sunday, August 26 at YMCA Camp Pinewood (www.camppinewood.com)

Relax or rev up for fun activities from sun up until late at night: swim, sail, canoe, paddle boat, fish, build sand castles, hike, mountain bike, wall climb, climb a rope course, archery, sing, dance, have a bonfire, stargaze, share great food and conversation, and more. There will be counselor led activities for the young folk, including nursery care for ages 4 and under. Lodging will be in group cabins, your tent, or your small camper.

Look for us at a table in the Social Hall to get more information. We'll also be sending details on registration soon. If you want to be on the email list - please sign up by sending an email to familycamp@uuaa.org.

Come hang out at Family Camp this summer!

Your Family Camp Team: Jon Thomas-Palmer, Edward Norton, Lori Fithian, and Jean Chorazyczewski



Announcements and Notices

Denominational Connections Team News

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAU) 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.



The **2013 Heartland District Assembly** is April 12 to 13, at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana. If you are interested in being a delegate to District Assembly stop by our table during Social Hour and sign up or email Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com. Delegates to the Heartland's District Assembly will be voting on the change to a MidAmerica Region. We are looking for members of our Congregation to be a delegate and represent UUAU at the meeting.

Thinking about attending **General Assembly** this June? It is so close this year, only a six hour road trip to Louisville, Kentucky. The DCT will be holding a GA 2013 meeting on Sunday, February 17 at 1:00pm to share information and answer questions. A representative from Louisville planning team will be our guest speaker.

The DCT will also take up the next **Congregational Study Action Issue** on Reproductive Justice. Discussions on how to best work on reproductive justice at our Congregation have begun. Those interested in working toward providing forums and education on this issue, please sign up at the Social Justice table in the Social Hall or contact Marina Brown at marian@provide.net or Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com. Please read the following from the UUA on Roe v. Wade 40th Anniversary: Celebrating Our History and Recommitting to Our Future <http://www.uua.org/reproductive/action/281697.shtml>.



Guest at Your Table Update

Our annual **Guest of Your Table** fundraiser and membership drive for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is officially over. Our congregation raised \$2,213.86 for the UUSC.

Remember you can always donate online any time of the year. A portion of our weekly coffee and chocolate sales go to the UUSC, so you can support the UUSC and get delicious fair-trade coffee and chocolates year-round.



Contact Cathy Whitaker at cathywhit@gmail.com with any questions.

New Members

Amy Courter and Lisa Presley



Lisa Presley and Amy Courter


Lisa Presley:

"I'm a lifelong UU, growing up in Michigan, then moved to Canada where I lived for 20 years. I returned to the Metro Detroit area when I began my ministry at Northwest UU in Southfield. Since then, I have completed several interim ministries and I am currently the District Executive of the Heartland District.

I live on a lake in South Lyon with my partner, Amy Courter, and our cat, Squash.

Amy Courter:

"Whatever growing up I did, I did in Flint!

After graduating from Kalamazoo College in 1983, I have worked in management and leadership positions, including 20 years at Valassis, a market services company. I was the first female commander of Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the US Air Force, where I led 61,000 members. I currently live on a lake in South Lyon with my partner, Lisa Presley, and our cat squash. This is my first UU church membership." 

Church Office News

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

**The building will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2013
for Presidents Day.**

Communicating at UUAU:

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

The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UAAA's Monthly Newsletter is 9:00am on the 21st 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 Assistant, venus@uuaa.org
Arthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

Office Orientation:

Tuesday, April 2, 2013



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