

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

December Newsletter

December 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 12

Worship @ UUAA

Quick Links

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

Join Our Mailing List!

December 1, 2013

Santa's Secrets

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

We get pressure to find the perfect holiday gifts to show our uncomplicated love for everyone on our lists. And we get harangued about the excesses of commercialism. Finding balance through the wisdom of the "Right Jolly Old Elf" himself.

December 8, 2013

Living With Traditions

Rev. Mark Evens

What do our religious tradition and this religious community give us for this time of year? The freedom and responsibility to engage tradition and holiday ritual in ways that are meaningful and life enhancing for us and those we love.

December 15, 2013

A Winter Light Pageant

Rev. Mark Evens, Sandra Garges, and Debra Golden

In this multi-generational worship service our actors, young and older, will get us thinking about the origins and purposes of our winter holiday traditions.

December 22, 2013

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

If all our variety of mid-winter festivals did not exist, we'd have to invent them. Here's to a bit of mistletoe, a dash of miracle, a few Jingle-y Bells, and a sincere wish for "Peace of Earth, Goodwill To All."

December 24, 2013

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 4:30, 7:00, and 9:00pm.

Candles and Carols

Senior Minister, Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer with Associate Minister, Rev. Mark Evens, Director of Music, Glen Thomas Rideout, and Pianist-In-Residence, Allison Halerz.

At 4:30pm a shorter, more family oriented service will include the Chalice Sparks.

At 7:00 and 9:00pm, we will hear the Handbell Choir and our Chalice Singers.

For each service, we will listen again to the Christmas story, sing the old carols, light the candles of hope, and provide for one another the gifts of companionship and presence.

A special collection will be taken for the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

December 29, 2013

Wise as Serpents, Gentle As Doves

Rev. Mark Evens preaching, with songs by Jennifer Marshall Evens.

Good intentions and more education are not enough to solve the challenges we face. Let's wade in for a bit of theological work on "evil" and "nice." This topic was inspired by Craig and Terry Butcher who purchased selection rights at the Service Auction.



From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



What to ask for? The question has come up often over the past few weeks. In one context it has been about gift-giving. What to ask for? Adults in my family, working hard to be thoughtful about gift giving and very careful about money, have been asking, what to ask for? What is prudent, wanted, reasonable in these tumultuous times when we haven't even spoken the name "Santa Claus" for decades?

What to ask for? It has come up in the context of serious illness, lingering or temporary incapacitation. So many of us want to help, what do you need? Good grief, folks ask me., we can't think of anything we need, and we don't want friends to think we're being rude or unappreciative., Reverend Gail,



what do we ask for?

Well, I, for one, like cards. Seriously. In both situations. I like cards that tell me I'm on someone's mind. I like the rambling holiday letters that tell me about distant relatives and friends and show me pictures of your kids (so changed from last year) or pictures of your pets (so un-changed, over time.). I like knowing what matters to you, about your trips and adventures.

And when it is my turn to be laid low or my family members are ill, I like the cards that tell me I'm on someone's mind. I like the short notes, the funny cards, the bed pan jokes and the band aid images. I like them all.

Then, of course, there is always the gift of Peace..., the presence of Goodwill..., the willingness to include All in our embrace. Priceless.

My love to each,
Rev. Gail



Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Start Out Simple and Keep Going

In early grade school many families start giving children an allowance: money to spend on things they choose. Some families guide their children toward saving some, spending some on themselves, and, importantly, giving some to others in meaningful and helpful ways. These are the seeds of good stewardship, of good use of what we have been blessed with the use of. This is a great way to build a world of generous, connected people that help each other.

Our five-year old daughter Emma and I recently had a conversation about why one needs money. With bills paid by electronic bank drafts, and credit and debit cards these days, what "money" is and why one needs it is an elusive concept to get an initial hold on. The conversation is not yet finished.



The "Giving Tree" our Coming of Age youth are setting up will afford a good opportunity for us to continue our family conversations about generosity. The tree will have chalice shaped ornament tags on it, each with some items needed by a local homeless family. We will take a tag off the tree, buy the needed items, and place them under the tree for delivery to the requesting family. This is, of course, a great thing to do at any age.

On our Stewardship Team we have talked about how we can further support families in teaching good stewardship to our youngest Congregants. I hope we can provide more opportunities in the future, throughout the calendar year.



The Business of Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director



I am a member of a professional association called the National Association of Church Business Administrators (NACBA). It's a pretty large, national, multi-denominational group with a newsletter, job board, large annual conference set in a warm weather locale and various online training opportunities. A few weeks ago, they hosted a webinar, "In Google We Trust". (FWIW, This is also the title of a recent documentary, which offers a somewhat comprehensive look at how governments and large companies keep tabs on us. But that is whole, other story.)

NACBA's webinar was about communicating with the "Millennial Generation", sometimes referred to as Generation Y. While experts vary somewhat in identifying the birth years for this generation, William Strauss and Neil Howe, who coined the term "Millennials", use the 1982 and 2004 as the start and stop birth dates for this generation. Practically speaking, most folks think of Millennials as today's young adults.

The webinar followed a similar script as a half dozen or more other popular articles and blog posts I have read over the past few years about churches and social media, and although positively presented by two bright and knowledgeable experts on the subject matter, I would sum up the script this way:

Millennials are experts at social media , having been ensconced in the technology since at least birth (and perhaps before);

Religious congregations better get on board fast and furious, as you are already way behind;

If you don't, not only will a whole generation's time, talent and treasure be lost, but you will become even more irrelevant than you are now.

Generally speaking, there's quite an undercurrent of anxiety embedded in such discussions about social media and its uses within religious community. I have encountered the above point of view and experienced the underlying anxiety here as well. Within the span of one month, I had three different congregational groups announce their intentions to launch either a separate social media account or create an entirely new platform. My substantial marketing experience told me that wouldn't be very wise. I called the public witness experts at the Unitarian Universalist Association for advice and they concurred - it is not a good idea to have separate social media accounts and platforms for specific groups within the congregation. One UUAA Facebook account is probably more than enough.

We must absolutely do our best to embrace and engage with Millennials at UUAA. Social media might be a tool, but should never be the centerpiece for how we do that. Millennials in the United States are now reporting more anxiety, depression and stress than the national norm. ("The State of Stress in America", *USA Today*, 2/7/13). We might want to offer them more than a few additional "tweets". They might desire a type of friendship that Facebook can't provide.

Next month, I will continue to share with you some of my own thoughts about how we might better communicate at UUAA. And I invite each of you to engage me in the conversation.

My door is open to you.



Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action **Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development**

The Children and Youth Spiritual Growth and Development Program is well-underway this fall. Each Sunday children, youth and adults meet in 15 different classes, with nearly 300 registered children and youth and over 70 volunteers. Our youngest congregants are well-served.



I am often asked about the difference between SGD, childcare, and children's programming. Let me tell you:

- The SGD Program for Children and Youth is the Sunday morning program offered for our youngest Congregants each week. When the Congregation sings our children out to their classes during the Sunday morning service, this is where they are going. There are many ways an adult Congregant can become involved in the SGD program, for example, by teaching, being a mentor, serving on the Children and Youth Committee or providing food for the annual Teacher Appreciation Brunch. If you would like to learn more about ways to become involved in the SGD Children and Youth program, please click here: [Entry Points Into SGD](#)
- Childcare, on the other hand, is not a part of SGD programming and must be formally requested in advance. Childcare provides a safe place for our children to be while their adults engage in on-site UUAA adult programming, such as an adult education class or a chalice circle. Childcare will be provided if at least two families request care for at least two children at least two weeks in advance. Here is a link to the childcare policy if you would like additional information: [UUAA Childcare Policy](#)
- The third category, children's programming, is everything else. Any activity outside of the Sunday morning worship hours which welcomes children, youth and families is children's programming. Children's programming can be coordinated by many different groups. It can be offered by any group in fact. Children's programming can be created solely for children, like the Chalice Sparks children's choir. It can also simply be an event or activity which welcomes all Congregants, such as Family Camp, ICE-T multi-generational potlucks, Drumming Circles, and Game Day. None of these activities are part of the SGD Program but, instead, are lay-led ministries. I would be happy to take credit for these life-affirming ministries, but the credit does not belong to the SGD Program.

With care,
Sandy Garges
Director of Spiritual Growth and Development Program.



News from the Harper Room

Jullie Dybdahl, Lead YRUU Advisor

There's always lots going on in YRUU! Some highlights:

- In October, seven youths and two adults attended the Chaplaincy Training CON in W. Lafayette, IN. We spent a weekend preparing to be supportive listeners and peer chaplains for our fellow YRUU-ers.
- Two weeks later, four youths and one adult traveled to Indianapolis to attend CONTagious, where our youth met many other youths from around our MidAtlantic Region. These CON's are great experiences for our young people and they come back from these events with a stronger UU identity and commitment.
- On November 9, we spent an evening producing the fabulous apple dumplings you have been smelling after services lately. We established a major assembly line operation and created 480 dumplings, using 5+ crates of locally grown apples. This youth baking tradition is in its 30th year here at UUAU.
- December 15 is the date for our annual Holiday Feast / Peace Neighborhood Center gift-giving Gnomapalooza. After a sumptuous feast attended by youth (in formal attire) and parents, we will take the money raised by the apple dumpling sales and go shopping (in formal attire) to fill the requests of approximately 30 kids from the Peace Neighborhood Center.
- We've confirmed that our service trip next summer will be to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. More details on this to follow.
- And in between all these activities and events, on Sunday mornings we've listened to TED talks, done some OWL curriculum, and debated legalizing marijuana use.



We have a great group of lively, interesting, and very positive youth this year, and a wonderful volunteer advisor team, too.



Stewardship

Annual Operating Fund Campaign George Garcia and Dixie Hibner, Co-Chairs



Have you "Renewed Your Covenant" with our Congregation? Have you returned your pledge form? On November 12, the official phase of the Annual Operating Fund Pledge Drive ended. Approximately 285 pledge forms have been returned, with about another 140 forms still outstanding. The total



amount pledged is about \$720,000. We still have a ways to go to fully fund our values.

We, here at UUAU, have high aspirations and goals. We have core values that are important to each other and to the larger community. We want to make the world a better place. Thank you if you have returned your pledge form. If you've lost your pledge form you can pick up a new one in the office or on the stewardship table outside the office. Please return your form to the office or complete your pledge online at www.uuaa.org/support-our-congregation/make-a-pledge-online.



Thank you so much for your support of our Covenantal Community. Thank you for all the time and talent you devote to building our foundations and core values. And thank you for the treasure you contribute to making it work.

Contact co-chairs Dixie Hibner or George Garcia at annualcampaign@uuaa.org.



Activities and Events

Challenging Racism * Wednesday, December 4

The next planning committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 4 from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Young Room. All are welcome.

Celebrate the holidays with the Ann Arbor Our Own Thing Chorale. Drop in to hear the 8:00 or 9:00pm performance at Downtown Hardware on Friday, December 6. Attend their Annual Christmas Concert of Spirituals and Holiday Music on Tuesday, December 10 at New Hope Baptist Church located at 218 Chapin Ave. Donations Welcome. They will also appear at the Kerrytown Concert House George Shirley Scholarship benefit on Friday, December 13. For tickets, \$20, go to <http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com/>.



Save these dates:

Sunday, January 12, 2014 there will be a Second Baptist Church annual MLK march.

Monday, January 20, 2014 there will be a UMS MLK forum. Join us for lunch at Panera's on North University after the keynote address.

Sunday, January 26, 2014 from 1:00 to 2:30pm there will be a book discussion at UUAU of *The Hidden Injuries of Class* by Richard Sennett and Jonathan Cobb. This book examines class divides with accounts that will encourage personal stories. Thanks to Terry Adams who donated nine new book copies to facilitators and the Sunderland Library to enhance this effort. Books and registration sheets will be available at the

QUUest Bookstore in December.

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



Five Wishes * Saturday, December 7

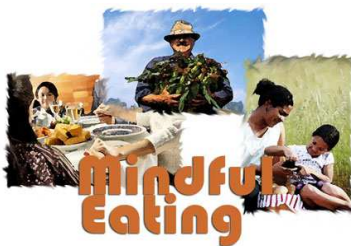
After offering *Adapting Our Exercises As We Age* in October and *Protecting Our Assets* in November, the Pastoral Care Education team continues the *As We Age,...* series first semester offerings with an encore presentation of *Five Wishes: A Gift To You and Your Family* by Marie Pierce, on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 am to 12:00pm in the Fahs Chapel.



Last year's audience left the workshop with a strong sense of the importance in preparing advance directives, which are a "gift" from you to your loved ones. To register contact co-facilitators Meredith Ley at meredith@uuaa.org or Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com



Plant Strong Potluck * Saturday, December 7



Come to a holiday vegan family potluck in the Fahs Chapel from 12:00 to 2:00pm on Saturday, December 7 hosted by the Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC). Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, share information, and eat delicious food. Bring table service and serving tools. Door-prize: cookbook.

Questions? Contact Donna Estry at 734-484-0913 or estry@umich.edu or Jenny McKillop at finnabar@gmail.com.



Holiday Senior Luncheon * Monday, December 9

Get ready for the Holiday Senior Luncheon on Monday, December 9 from 12:00 to 1:30pm in the Social Hall. Pastoral Care will provide the food; all you need to bring is you. Director of music, Glen Thomas Rideout, will supply the entertainment.

Everyone is welcome to partake of a light lunch and enjoy the company of fellow UUs. If you are unable to drive, let us know and we will make every effort to pick you up and take you home. Register at the Pastoral Care or Involvement



tables during Social Hour or call Meredith Ley, pastoral care coordinator, at 734-665-6158, ext. 118 or at meredith@uuaa.org.



Holiday Potluck Party * Saturday, December 14

Celebrate the shortest days of the year in the warmth of fellow Congregants of all ages. Bring a dish to share, creativity, and good cheer on Saturday, December 14 from 11:15am to 1:30pm. There will be crafts at 11:15am, potluck lunch at 12:00pm, then tree trimming and a visit with Santa at 12:30pm.

Want to help with a craft table, donate an activity suggestion, or assist with clean up? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Service of Affirmation * Tuesday, December 17

All are welcome to attend the Service of Affirmation on Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00pm with a reception to follow. This service is for the Ann Arbor Interfaith community that affirms lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people, their families, and allies.



Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.

PROMISING LIGHT
the voice of hope

Service of Affirmation

Tuesday
December 17, 2013
7:00 pm

Social gathering following the service

**Join your spirit with ours
 in a circle of love and support.
 Celebrate hope and the holiday season
 with LGBTQ folks and allies from our community.**

**We'll gather for this Interfaith Service here:
 First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Ann Arbor, MI
 (734) 665-6158**



Sing For Peace * Saturday, December 21



**SING
FOR PEACE!**

A Special Solstice Night
Global Community Song Circle

Join Lori Fithian, Jean Chorazyczewski, Jeanne Mackey & Friends

DECEMBER 21 7:00 PM

We'll gather in the candle-lit sanctuary of the
First Unitarian Universalist Church • 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.

Communities around the world are gathering
to sing this night...for each other and for the Earth!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors
and join us to sing familiar songs & chants of
**PEACE HOPE AND
GOOD CHEER!**

Kids welcome!

FREE! Email folksong.jam.along@gmail.com for more info.

Join in song at the 2nd annual One Earth One Voice event on Saturday, December 21 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Sing with communities around the world who will gather this Winter Solstice night to sing for each other and the beloved Earth.

Bring family, friends, and neighbors and join in the twinkling, candle-lit Sanctuary to sing familiar songs and chants of Peace, Hope, and Good Cheer. This event is free to the community. Children are welcome. Questions? Contact Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski at folksong.jam.along@gmail.com.



Women's Breakfast * Saturday, December 28

Women are invited to join the Women's Breakfast on Saturday, December 28 at 8:15am at the Classic Cup Cafe, 4389 Jackson Avenue, just past Quality 16 and auto row, on the south side of street. Meetings are the fourth Saturday of the month. Wrap up this year in good company. Questions? Contact Judy Slater at 734-679-3497.



Save the Date

Special Services in January 2014

- Sunday, January 12, 2014: Service of Remembrance.
- Sunday, January 19, 2014: UUAU Congregational Meeting after the second service. Questions? Contact Board secretary Priscilla Spencer at paspencer44@yahoo.com or 734-223-7286.



Announcements and Notices

Holiday Poinsettias Orders



Continue the long tradition of filling the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services and the preceding Sunday. Congregants can donate a plant in the name of a loved one or a cherished principle. Names of the honorees and donors will be printed in an insert to the Order of Service.

The cost of each plant is \$11. Orders must be received by Sunday, December 15. Those who place orders may pick up their poinsettias after the last Christmas Eve service. Questions? Contact Rick Johnson at rrjohnson46@gmail.com.



150th Anniversary Celebration

Terry Madden and Sandy Simon, Co-Chairs

The 150th Anniversary Celebration looks back, forward, and out into the community.

This month, co-chairs, Sandy Simon and Terry Madden have:

* Looked back, listening to Jeff Crawford tell the story of how the YRUU apple dumpling sales and donation to the Peace Neighborhood Center program were started 30 years ago.

* Looked forward, conversing with member Tom Schade about his just-released article *Religious Community Is Not Enough* in the *UU World* in which says of the UU direction, "We aim to change the world by creating a humane culture that sustains all people. Not just in here, in our congregations, but out there, too."



* Looked at new ways of engaging with our community, by talking with Glen Thomas Rideout about his longtime dream of hosting an interfaith choir breakfast with one or two other community churches during our 150th celebration year.

Next September 28 begins a year of celebrations that look back to honor our 150 year history, forward to the future that the 150 year trajectory is propelling us on toward, and we will look outward into the community, continuing to take on social justice causes as we have done for 150 years.

Contact Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at Birthday150@uuaa.org with suggestions or offers to help.



Alpha House Giving Tree



The 9th grade Coming of Age Class (COA) is sponsoring collection of needed items for Alpha House. Alpha House provides temporary shelter, food, and support services for homeless families. Items for Alpha House may be placed under the Giving Tree located on the lower SGD floor of the SGD wing. Feel free to take a chalice from the tree as a reminder of the item to donate. A second tree is located in the main entrance foyer outside the Church office.

This collection provides an opportunity to support community members in need, allows children, youth, and adults to share their blessings, and complements the commitment our Congregation has made to Alpha House throughout the year. Questions? Contact Stephanie Surfus, COA facilitator at stephaniesurfus@hotmail.com.

Donations are accepted through December.

Below are items requested by Alpha House:

- New sheet sets (twin).
- New bathroom mats/rugs.
- New plastic mattress covers (twin).
- New shower curtains.
- New trash cans for bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen.
- New warm house slippers for women and men.
- New towel sets.
- New pillows.
- Radio alarm clock.
- Front door mat.
- Baby monitors.
- Small table lamps.



New warm blankets: twin or queen size, no small throws please.
 New pots and pan sets.
 New kitchen towels.
 New dish sets.
 New kitchen utensils.



Guest At Your Table



It's time to give to the annual Guest At Your Table fundraiser. Funds raised will go directly to supporting the operation of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Bring home the *Stories of Hope* booklet to share with loved ones over a meal and learn about how the UUSC partners and works with human rights groups all around the globe.

UUSC works toward a world free from oppression and injustice through partnerships, including with those featured in the *Stories of Hope* booklet. The UUSC effectively reaches people around the world on behalf of their supporting Congregations.

Submit a donation in the GAYT envelope to the UUSC table during Social Hour until Sunday, January 5, 2014. Checks should be made out to "UUSC". Support the UUSC directly at www.uusc.org. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Sharing the Collection

After collecting and reviewing 13 applications for five slots, the Sharing the Collection committee, which consists of David Allen, Lynn Ayres, James Johnson, Terry Madden, and Theresa Rohlck, selected the nonprofit "Growing Hope" in Ypsilanti as the December 1 recipient of the first Sunday collections.



The name "Growing Hope" is apropos for all the nonprofit service organizations selected in order to allow the members of the Congregation to reach out and support these outstanding providers of "hope" and essential services on a shoestring budget.

The UU Service Committee (UUSC) and Habitat for Humanity-Huron Valley chapter are annual recipients. The following recipients were selected through June 2014:

January 5, 2014

Packard Health

February 2, 2014

Corner Health Center

March 2, 2014

Friends In Deed

April 6, 2014

UU Service Committee

May 4, 2014

Habitat for Humanity

June 1, 2014

House By the Side of the Road

A complete report on the support sent to 2013 recipients along with a description of each of these valuable community resources will be at www.UUAA.org and in the January Monthly Newsletter. For more info about the Sharing the Collection program, contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.org.



Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

The Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) for 2014 - 2018 process has started for selecting the denomination's next CSAI. The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) will offer two forums on the process for everyone to attend. The first will be held on December 8 between services and the second will be held on January 12, 2014 after the second service. The six issues for consideration are as follows:



- [*Empowerment: Age and Ability Reconsidered*](#)
- [*Ending the War on Terror*](#)
- [*Escalating Inequality*](#)
- [*Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue*](#)
- [*Renewing and Securing Our American Democracy*](#)
- [*Unitarian Universalist Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians*](#)

There will be a vote at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014 to select five issues to move on to General Assembly 2014 in Providence, RI for delegates to select one to become the CSAI for 2014 - 2018.

The Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) for 2012 - 2016, *Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling* will be in full swing at UUAU during the 2013 - 2014 program year. There will be a series of monthly discussions with topics from the UUA's Commission on Social Witness's recommended CSAI curriculum:

- Session 3: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 *Inherent Worth and Dignity*,
- Session 4: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 *Reverence for Life*,
- Session 5: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 *Right of Conscience*, and
- Session 6: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 *Conclusion: Moving Forward*.

Questions? Contact Angelina Zaytsev at angelina.zaytsev@gmail.com.

DCT serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between 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 UU's.



Partner Church News

We were happy to receive a visit from our Kézdivásárhely, Romania Partner Church minister, Rev. Istvan Buzogany-Csoma, in early November. It was his first visit to the United States and our first chance to meet him, a perfect combination for everyone. Many attended Sunday Service on November 10 and heard Istvan and Gail deliver the sermon, in Hungarian and English. Guest musician Laz Slomovits, a native Hungarian, was delighted to hear the sermon twice, and all appreciated Istvan's performance of *Blowing in the Wind*.



Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer,
Director of Music Glen-Thomas
Rideout, and Rev. Istvan
Buzogany-Cosoma



Eric Fithian, Laszlo Slomovits, and Rev.
Istvan Buzogany-Csoma

Many thanks to all who contributed to Istvan's welcome, particularly hosts Nancy and Steve Schewe, who provided a home away from home for the week. Thanks also to all those who opened their homes for meals and friendship: Margaret and Charlie Pekarek, Hajnal and Chris Minger, Cathy and Mike Muha, Gretchen and John Jackson. Thanks also to those who shared their favorite travel memories with Istvan at the Sunday evening

potluck. Istvan said over and over again how happy he was to be with us and how friendly everyone was to him.

A pilgrimage trip to Transylvania will be planned from June 5 to 17, 2014. This is not a typical tourist trip, nor a shopping opportunity, but rather an opportunity to understand firsthand the roots of Unitarianism, visit many historically significant Unitarian sites, and meet personally with our Partner Church congregants in Kézdivásárhely. Many people have already expressed an interest and our goal is to have about 10 people. Look for more information about this trip in the January Newsletter or contact Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu.



Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)

Unitarian Universalist Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians will be on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) proposal ballot at the Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014. This CSAI is designed to provide a framework to learn about and discuss a peace and justice issue about which there is misunderstanding.

Information will be available at the UUJME table during Social



Hours most Sundays until the Annual meeting. DVD copies of the film *Roadmap to Apartheid* will also be available to take home for a week and watch at your convenience. If not previously convinced, it will surely show that this is an important international human rights issue for UUs to understand better and apply our values accordingly.

UUJME will sponsor a forum on Sunday, December 15 following the second service. The exact time and room will be announced in future Sunday bulletins. UUJME urges everyone to become familiar with the CSAI proposal to understand its importance, and to study and develop a better understanding of the issue. Questions? Contact interim co-chairs Larry or Diane Cooper at cooperdiane@wowway.com or larrycooper@wowway.com.



Social Justice Council (SJC)

On Monday night, November 11, the Social Justice Council and Challenging Racism organized an event with Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, Healing Communities, and Shalom Congregation. The speaker was Fred Van Liew, a lawyer, mediator, and former prosecutor, now the director of the Center for Restorative Justice Practices in Des Moines, Iowa.



Janet Reedy from Shalom Church leading discussion of next steps.

The forum had over 80 people in attendance with many of the participants from our own Congregation as well as those who have been long-standing members of the Washtenaw Prisoner Re-entry program (WPRP). The WPRP is currently being cut but not without a fight. In the meantime, the Shalom Congregation is leading the way to bring Restorative Justice, Victim Offender Conferencing to Washtenaw County.

Many of us are interested in increasing our Prison Ministry at UUA and will be letting you know what the opportunities are for those interested. The Shalom Congregation has set the date for the first meeting of those interested in Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) Monday, Dec 2 at 7:00pm. There will be a sign up sheet at the Social Justice Council Table for those of you who might be interested in attending and getting further notices. Contact Carolyn Madden cgmadden@gmail.com; Kate Warner kpwarner@umich.edu; or Lucia Heinold heinoldcia@aol.com for more information.



Library Committee

The Library Committee has been reinvigorated after a few months' hiatus and would like to thank all who donated books to the bin under the table in the Sunderland Library - especially whoever provided the beautiful new atlas stand.

A web form option for checking out books has been implemented. This helps us remind folks to return borrowed books and to understand which topics are most popular among users for better collection development. There is a link to the checkout form on the desktop on the Sunderland Library computer. Paper slips can still be used but the online form will help make the Library better.

Check out the online listing in LibraryThing at this link:
<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/UUAALibrary>.

Volunteers for the committee are needed. There are a couple of bigger projects in mind, so if any Chalice Circle might be looking for a project, let the Library Committee know. A friendly reminder to those who have a book out for more than a few months, kindly return it when convenient. Questions? Contact the Library Committee at library@uuaa.org.



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



Goods & Services Auction



Don't Miss the Boat

"Love Boat soon will be making another run.

The Love Boat promises something for everyone."

Yes, the upcoming Annual Goods and Services Auction has a theme and a date. The theme is the "Love Boat", and the date is March 22, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Like the venerable '70s series, this year's auction *promises something for everyone*.

There will be dinners, outings, and all manner of services to bid on. Savor a variety of food and drink. Enjoy musical entertainment throughout the church -- although despite best efforts, Charo is not expected to appear. There will be raffles



and door prizes. Ticket sales and donations haven't started yet, but help is needed. Interested in volunteering? Contact Lynn Walter at lmwalter@umich.edu.



New Members

Ryan and Gina Boldman

Gina and Ryan began attending services in July 2012 and immediately felt at home. Ryan is an application architect at Wellness & Prevention Inc. in Ann Arbor and Gina teaches global and multicultural children's literature at EMU. They have been married for 15 years and have two sons: Graham, 12, and Davis, 9.



Megan Jones-Street and Sarah Street

Megan is from Detroit, is an avid crafter, and owns a small commercial cleaning company with wife, Sarah. She has yet to put a label on her spiritual beliefs; however, she places a tremendous importance on being mindful of the presence of God in her life.

Her many hobbies include metal crafting, woodworking, crocheting, felt-work, and reading spiritual literature.

Sarah Street graduated from EMU with an MA and a teacher's certification. Although she has spent some time professionally as a teacher, Sarah is now devoting all of her time to the family business but looks forward to a return to the classroom next fall.

Married in April 2013, they enjoy this honeymoon period by traveling often, domestic and internationally. The significant UU aspect that the couples agrees is important to have in their spiritual home is the UU's emphasis on social change.



Shannon Leutzinger

"Born and raised in the south, I am finding the Midwest a natural fit for me. I am passionate about art and design and enjoy working on graphic design projects for both work and as a volunteer. I have also worked with a number of environmentally-based non-profit organizations. I still work on a volunteer basis doing work for community impact programs with a design



organization while I work for a small company full-time as an in-house designer. I also enjoy being outdoors--hiking, camping, swimming, playing tennis, and taking a walk in the woods is my perfect idea of a break."



Lori Reece

"I am a math instructor sometimes at the U, sometimes at WCC, and always privately in my home. I spend a good deal of my time writing songs and writing plays, so yes, although it is hard to actually say it, I'm a writer.

My husband and I are DIY-ers and always have some project in the works.

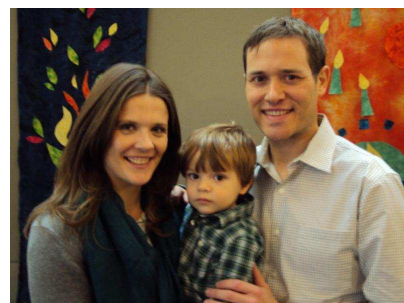
My husband is a long-time educator in AAPS, I have a son at Skyline, another at UMich, and a daughter at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

I love being here at the UU Church. I have heard it often from others, and the same is true for me: I walked in, heard the choir, sang a few songs, listened to a sermon, read the bulletin, and knew for the first time I belonged."



Heather and Justin Schmidt

Justin and Heather recently moved back to Ann Arbor with their son Caleb (almost 2) after living and working in California, New Jersey, and New York. Both received their undergraduate degrees from the University of Michigan. Justin is an attorney who practices aviation law and was previously an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Heather is a stay-at-home mom and writer who previously worked as a policy analyst studying child welfare and fatherhood issues. Justin and Heather spend most of their free time running after their very active toddler.

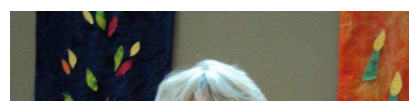


They feel fortunate to have found an open and welcoming community at UUAUAA where they look forward to becoming active members and participants.



Linda Sprankle

"I was born in Ohio, but I call myself a Michigander since moving here in 1973. I enjoy social and



competitive tennis, games, being in the outdoors, and walking my latest rescue dog, Millie. This fall I've been sitting in on a History of 9/11 class at UM and have faith that the younger generation is being very thoughtful and engaged with their place in society at large."



Church Office News

Building Hours:

9:00am. Send your submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

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 Christmas holiday on Wednesday, December 25 and will re-open at 9:00am on Thursday, December 26.**

***Note: The building will be closed for New Years from 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 30 to 9:00am on Thursday, January 2.**

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Changes in Communicating at UUAU:

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's Weekly Bulletin for December are as follows:

| <u>Publication:</u> | <u>Deadline:</u> | <u>Time:</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, December 8 | Wednesday, December, 4 | 5:00pm |
| Sunday, December 15 | Wednesday, December, 11 | 5:00pm |
| Sunday, December 22 | Monday, December 16 | 9:00am |
| Sunday, December 29 | Monday, December 23 | 9:00am |
| Sunday, January 5, 2014 | Monday, December 30 | 9:00am |

Send your submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's January Newsletter is 9:00am on December 16.

Publication:

Deadline:

Time:

January 2014

Monday, December 16

9:00am

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



Find us on Facebook 

[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™



This email was sent to deborah@uuaa.org by newsletter@uuaa.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103