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# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

## September Newsletter

September 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 9

### Worship @ UUAA

#### Congregational Links

##### UUAA Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAA](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

##### Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Two Worship Services begin on Sunday, September 7  
at 9:30 & 11:30am with classes for children K-8  
followed by Social Hour.

#### September 7, 2014

##### Two Services: 9:30am & 11:30am

##### ANNUAL INGATHERING AND WATER COMMUNION

"There's A River Flowin' in My Soul" A Multigenerational Service.

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister,

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Bring a wee bit of water to add to the common bowl (or use a bit of water from our UUAA well). Gather and Join In, Sing, and Reflect. Welcome back our Chalice Singers. Invest the members of our Board of Trustees. All of us together: all ages, all perspectives. Celebrate the regathering of our Congregation as we begin the New Church Year!

#### September 14, 2014

##### SGD classes begin - Both Services

##### "Get Off the Bench! Coach just called your number"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister,

Jennifer Marshall Evens, Guest Soloist

The moral challenge of now is about children: unprotected children at our southern borders, thirsty children in Detroit, targeted-for-death black children in every neighborhood in our entire nation., and every single child, born and not yet born, around our entire planet who might one day hope to breath clear air, drink unpolluted and un-commodified water, or eat food that is still food.

#### September 21, 2014

##### "Religion 3.0: Ecology as the New Theology"

Rev. Michael Dowd, Guest Preacher,

Rev. Mark Evens, Liturgist

Religion has always been about helping people, individually and collectively, live in right relationship to reality. Rev.

Dowd's sermon will focus on 6 points of agreement held in common by tens of millions of religious and secular people around the world. Voiced mythically: "Reality is our God. Evidence is our scripture. Big history is our creation story. Ecology is our theology. Integrity is our salvation. Fostering a just and healthy future is our mission."

Rev. Michael Dowd, author of *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World* will return to our pulpit on this Sunday. The next night, Monday, September 22, he will offer a public lecture, "The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness: Coming Home to Reality." Mark your calendars and invite your friends. Michael is a lively speaker. He has devoted his life to preaching what the awareness of the hope and challenge of evolutionary science means to religion. Please see his website, too: [www.thegreatstory.org](http://www.thegreatstory.org).

### September 28, 2014

#### "Kick-Off: 150 Years of Reason and Compassion in Action!"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister,  
Sandy Simon & Terry Madden, 150th Anniversary Co-Chairs

Sound the Gong! Ring the Bells! Bring the choirs and processions of Celebration! Let the festivals begin! And wear those 150th Anniversary T-Shirts (or a black shirt). The life we celebrate today is the history and the emerging future of this Unitarian Universalist Congregation as we count down to the 150th Anniversary of our founding. Festival worship each followed by a procession, a huge photograph..., and then Cake!



## Gleanings

### Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All:

#### **Prelude:**

*There is a veil of sadness before my eyes. As life fumbles on, here, with the celebratory explosions of our 150th Anniversary and the new church year..., my heart is shrouded. My spark and focus are muffled.*

*The death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri has ignited a firestorm of passionate, polarized response. How can Unitarian Universalists make a response in this time of rupture and possibility? How can this not pre-empt all else that might take our focus? It must. But it doesn't. And it won't. So much is in formation, dangling unfinished and incomplete...,*

#### **My planned column:**

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In!! (T-SHIRTS! SEPT 28th!)

September 7th is our Annual Ingathering and Water Communion, the ritual portal through which we travel together to begin the church program year of 2014-2015.

All Are Welcome to bring a wee bit of water to join in the common bowl.  
(T-SHIRTS! SEPT 28th!)

After each of our worship services on Sunday, September 28th, we will join for a moment of intentional unity amid the rich resplendency of our diversity. WEAR A UUAA 150th T-SHIRT, come to services and SGD, join together for huge group PHOTOGRAPHS after each service. Then eat cake together!

### **Postlude:**

*The lives of our children go on with as little disruption as we can possibly provide. This can be, at once, our moral task and our deepest shame. We live in a time of rupture. There is a fault line in the rigid paradigms that produce and protect racism in America. Fifty years ago there was a fault line in race relations that became the tectonic shift., the earthquake summarized in the word: Selma.*

*The moral challenge of now is about children: unprotected children at our southern borders, thirsty children in Detroit, targeted-for-death black children in every neighborhood in our entire nation., and every single child, born and not yet born, around our entire planet who might one day hope to breath clear air, drink unpolluted and un-commodified water, or eat food that is still food. Children. Climate change is about children. Racism and gun violence and militarization of American police is about children. Gaza., ancient, ruptured, exploding Gaza is about children. Ferguson, MO is about children. On and on the lists grow. Each atrocity targets children.*

*Our moral challenge is to respond. Even as we hold one another in care and continue the programs and structures that nurture and protect our children and one another, still., we must hold one another accountable to study, to listen, and to make a lasting change in our families, our neighborhoods, and for our planet. Quoting a UU historian and theologian, "it is no longer enough to engage specific acts of social justice. Now we must live whole lives of social justice: lives shaped by our values."*

*Now, more than ever, this we will do: together.*  
*My love to each,*  
*Rev. Gail*



## **Musings**

**Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister**

### Self-Compassion

I recently learned about a new perspective in psychology that overlaps with spirituality: self-compassion. Many of us have experienced aspects of the self-esteem movement. Schools have made self-esteem a focus since the early 1990s. Every achievement is noted and celebrated to promote a sense for each individual that they should feel good about themselves. It seems to have worked in that it does help people feel better about themselves, at least in the short term. However, the broader positive effects of cultivating self-esteem seem to be "brittle." Outside of an environment devoted to supporting each person's self-esteem, it does not seem to help people live meaningful, satisfying lives. Some people can tend to feel entitled, and when a time comes that they are actually not the best or above average at everything (and who is?), a bit disappointed and powerless. Others may resort to bullying to bolster their sense of superiority. And it can become evident that the philosophy you have come to depend on is not all that dependable. Self-esteem, at its root, focuses on comparison and positive evaluation, on being better than others. Logically we cannot all be better than average.



In contrast, self-compassion involves cultivating habits of thinking and awareness that accept suffering as a normal part of the human experience and place it in a context of meaningful

connection. From this perspective our own suffering brings us into community with everyone else because everyone suffers at some time. Positive habits of self-compassion help us not take our suffering too personally. We may have made a bad choice that resulted in an outcome we don't like, but that does not make us a bad person. And sometimes our suffering is beyond our control. There is a lot of Universalism in this approach of self-compassion.

We can hold ourselves in care. We can respect ourselves and treat ourselves kindly not just when we are at our best, but rather especially when we are hurting. We know the language of compassion. We use it when someone we love is going through a hard time. The language we often use with ourselves is so harsh, we might not use it on a stranger - on anyone, really. In the practice of self-compassion, we can hold ourselves as we would hold someone dear. With some practice, we can learn to speak and listen to ourselves with love.

I recently began exploring self-compassion by watching a video ([www.self-compassion.org/](http://www.self-compassion.org/)) by Kristen Neff and taking a self-assessment online ([www.self-compassion.org/test-your-self-compassion-level.html](http://www.self-compassion.org/test-your-self-compassion-level.html)). While I missed the self-esteem emphasis in school, I certainly have had to travel a road toward greater self-compassion. I encourage you to check out self-compassion and see if it helps you connect better with yourself, with others in your life, and with the wider creation that embraces us all.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

How and when have you experienced suffering or disappointment in your life?

What do you notice in your internal dialog about your suffering?

How do you connect your suffering with the suffering of others?

In Faith,  
Mark



## **The Business of the Church**

**Thom Bales, Executive Director**



### The 2014 Operating Budget Process

The fiscal year for UUAU is January 1 to December 31. Each fall, recognized congregational ministries and programs, along with UUAU staff, are provided the opportunity to submit Operating Budget requests for the next fiscal year. Each recognized ministry or program group may submit a completed Operating Budget Request Form and Worksheet identifying their goals, planned activities, and anticipated expenses and income for the coming year. Submitted budget information may be reviewed by the appropriate senior staff member, and then, compiled by the Executive Director into a draft of a comprehensive 2014 Operating Budget.

A draft of the 2014 Operating Budget shall be provided to the Senior Minister on or before October 31 for her additional review and modification. That amended Operating Budget shall then be presented by the Senior Minister to the Board of Trustees for their approval in accordance with UUAU's governing policies.

2014 Operating Budget Timeline:

- 9/1/14 Operating Budget Request Forms distributed to lay and staff program leaders.
- 10/15/14 Completed Operating Budget Request Forms and Worksheets due back from lay and staff leaders to Executive Director.
- 10/31/14 Senior Minister receives and reviews draft Operating Budget from Executive Director.
- 12/14 Board of Trustees receives reviews and approves the Operating Budget presented by Senior Minister.
- 1/14/15 Operating Budget presented by Board of Trustees to Congregation.

Operating Budget Request Forms and Worksheets are due from lay and staff leaders to the Executive Director no later than Monday, October 15, 2014.

Should you have any questions or need additional help prior to October 15, contact Thom Bales, executive director, at [thom@uuaa.org](mailto:thom@uuaa.org).



## Board of Trustees

### President's Message Ken Clein, Board President



I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful if somewhat cool and wet summer. Don't forget to bring a little water back from your travels for our annual Water Communion Service in September.

On a practical note, I'm very happy to announce that as of this July, the mortgage amount on our buildings and land has dropped below \$1 million! While this is still a substantial amount, it represents a huge reduction in our debt. Thanks to all of you who generously gave to the Comprehensive Campaign, as well as the continued support of our pledging members and friends. Passing this threshold has allowed us to refinance at a lower rate, which helps with our monthly cash flow and annual budgeting. With your continued generosity we'll owe half as much in five years and be paid off in ten (if not sooner)! Of course you can still make

additional donations to the Comprehensive Campaign.

In Fellowship,  
Ken Clein  
Board President

UU Things to Do ([See Attached](#))



## 150th Anniversary Celebration

### 150th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration

**Terry Madden and Sandy Simon, Co-Chairs**



The kick-off birthday celebration starts on Sunday, September 28. Circle this date on the calendar. Special events are planned to launch the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "season" of celebration.

Starting Sunday, September 28 and ending Sunday, May

17, there will be lots to do and see as we remember our past, celebrate, and look forward to our future.

There will be special kick-off event activities. The launch events are planned for both Services. Pick the best one for you and your family:

- Special Remembrance Sermon and Service.
- Mayoral Proclamation.
- Congregational group picture taken after each Service (Wear your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary tee-shirt or wear black, gold, or red shirts)
- Birthday cake and refreshments for all. Bring the children.
- Group sing-along.

Plan to attend. It will be exciting to have everyone, of all ages, in one of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration photos. Continue to check out [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org) for upcoming events and plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. There will be much to do and see.

Questions? Contact Dixie Hibner at [dixiehibner@comcast.com](mailto:dixiehibner@comcast.com).



## 150th Anniversary Shirts & Hats



Sunday, September 28 is the big kick-off day for the 150th Birthday Celebration. Come look fabulous in 150th t-shirts and hats when an all-Congregation photo is taken that day.

How to order: Black is the new black. All items come in black only. That's okay, though, because you wear it well. Not sure of a size? There are samples in all sizes available at the 150th table in the Social Hall. Price: \$12 for a basic t-shirt; additional charges for long-sleeved performance-fabric.



Orders can be placed online at [www.uuaa.org/150](http://www.uuaa.org/150) and click on the T-shirt store button; then click on UUAU when the Sunrise Silkscreening page displays. Paper order forms are available from the church office, the Social Hall, or at [uuaa.org/150](http://uuaa.org/150).

Pick up orders in the Social Hall. A notification will come by way of email or phone when the order is ready to pick up. Order items no later than Friday, September 12 to have them in time for the Sunday, September 28 group photo.

Questions? Contact Lisa Lemble at [lisaemble@gretchenshouse.com](mailto:lisaemble@gretchenshouse.com).



## 150th Anniversary Display Case



Join on Sunday, September 14 at 10:45am in the Jackson Chapel for the opening of the first in a series of exhibits honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Organized by history enthusiast Doug Kelley, this display will be entitled "May, 1865: End of the Civil War and Beginning of Our Congregation."

It will include a dozen Civil War-era items, among them a large color print by Thomas Nast of many vignettes celebrating Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and a brief summary of Unitarian support for the anti-slavery cause. The exhibit will be available for viewing in the

Jackson Chapel throughout the month of September.

Questions? Contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com).



## 150th Anniversary Buried Treasure Time Capsule



The congregation will be burying a "treasure" in 2015... a 50- year time capsule. The team that has been planning for this event welcomes more help as there is always room for good ideas and helpful assistance. Questions? Contact Jim Gallas at [jagallas@comcast.net](mailto:jagallas@comcast.net) or 248-318-8856.

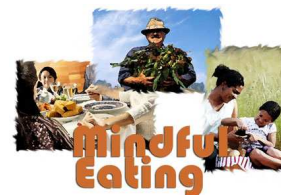


## 150th Anniversary Fall Harvest Potluck



This year's Mindful Eating Fall Potluck theme is "Recipes Through the Ages: 1865-2015" in conjunction with the 150th anniversary. Recipes will be available at the Mindful Eating table during Social Hour starting in mid-September. Come have a look.

Donna Estry already knows she'll be bringing Fruitlands Apple Pan Dowdy, named for the first vegetarian commune in America, established by Bronson Alcott in 1843. The communards spent too much time philosophizing instead of planting crops, so the commune eventually failed. Fanny Farmer, a Unitarian, introduced the concept of using standardized measuring spoons and cups in her famous 1896 cookbook during the domestic science movement. There is much to learn about cooking through the ages. For more info, contact Cathy Muha at [cmuha@att.net](mailto:cmuha@att.net).



## Activities and Events

### Chalice Circles Registration \* August 31

"This is my third year participating in Chalice Circles, and I can't wait to get started again. I look forward to each session, where I build deeper connections, hear new perspectives, and share my thoughts with a caring group. Whether or not I am having a good day, I know I will leave the meeting feeling more grounded and relaxed, which will carry forward into the rest of my week," says congregant and member Ginny Preuss about the Chalice Circle program.



Chalice Circles are a small group ministry program where participants' minister to each other. Each Circle includes 8-12 members and two facilitators. Circles meet twice a month for 14 sessions from October through May. Circle members consider readings and questions in an Advance Reflection provided before each session and then share experiences and thoughts, listening deeply to one another. Each circle chooses and completes a small service project during the year.

Members, friends, and visitors are invited to register.

Nine Chalice Circles will be offered this program year. Seven will meet at the church:

2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday afternoons	2:00 - 4:00pm at UUAA
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday afternoons	10am - 12:00pm at UUAA
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday evenings	7:00 - 9:00pm at UUAA
1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday evenings	7:00 - 9:00pm at UUAA
1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings	7:00 - 9:00pm at UUAA
1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday afternoons	1:00 - 3:00pm at UUAA
1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday evenings	7:00 - 9:00pm at UUAA

Two will meet offsite:

2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday evenings	6:30 - 8:30pm in Plymouth
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday evenings	6:30 - 8:30pm in Tecumseh

Registration begins on Sunday, August 31 through September 21 during Social Hour. Child care will be offered for any circle that meets at UUAA if two households request it. Stop by the Chalice Circle table to learn more.

Registration will continue all September, while openings remain. Beginning September 1, to register, review the instructions, and get more information go to [uuaa.org/chalicecircles](http://uuaa.org/chalicecircles). Questions? Contact [chalicecircles@uuaa.org](mailto:chalicecircles@uuaa.org).



### **Senior Dinner \* Wednesday, September 3**

All seniors are welcome for a monthly dinner at Gourmet Gardens at 6:00 pm. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



### **Senior Lunch Potluck \* Monday, September 8**

Join the Senior Lunch from 12:00 to 1:30pm in Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to partake of a light lunch and enjoy the company of fellow UUers.

Pat Kuessner will be on hand to help gather stories for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Those who are unable to drive, contact Meredith Ley. Every effort will be made to provide a ride to the lunch. Register during Social Hour or contact Meredith at [meredith@uuaa.org](mailto:meredith@uuaa.org) or 734-665-6158 ext. 118.



### **Round Robin Picnic \* Friday, September 12**


Mark those calendars for Round Robin Dinners on the second Friday of each month beginning in October. Prior to that, John and Sally Preston will host a Round Robin Picnic for all past participants and those who may be interested in joining Round Robin Dinners this season.

The picnic will begin at 6:00 at 10956 Scio Church Rd., Chelsea. Pulled pork barbeque and hot dogs to cook over an open campfire will be provided. Bring a dish to share, a chair to sit on, and a favorite beverage. RSVP to Sally at [sally@pctraining.net](mailto:sally@pctraining.net) so there are enough plates for everyone.




### **Alpha House \* Saturday, September 13**




The Gimme Shelter 2014 benefit for Alpha House will be from 6:00 to 9:30pm at the University of Michigan's North Campus Research Complex at 2800 Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor. Note: this is a new location. Gimme Shelter raises funds for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Alpha House to sustain programs for housing and support homeless families in Washtenaw County. The event will include dinner, a wine pull, entertainment, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$55 in advance. Purchase tickets at [alphahouse-ihn.org](http://alphahouse-ihn.org). Questions? Contact Pat Herbst at [pgherbst3665@gmail.com](mailto:pgherbst3665@gmail.com). 

## Interweave \* Tuesday, September 16




This TBLGQQIA (Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Ally) group invites the congregation to join in the Social Hall for the first potluck and program of the year. Potluck starts at 6:15pm and at 7:00pm gather with Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski to build community in a special way. Bring a dish to pass, bring friends and family. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at [leigrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leigrobe@umich.edu) or 734-678-2805. 

## Men's Breakfast \* Saturday, September 20

After a two month hiatus, the men's monthly breakfast is back. All men are invited to attend breakfast at 8:15am on Saturday September 20 at Holidays Restaurant. It is located at 2080 W. Stadium Blvd. across from the Post Office. Enjoy good food and make new friends. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904. 


## Our Land for Worship \* Saturday-Sunday, September 20-21

Come all hikers, dog-walkers, and woods-lovers. The Our Land for Worship team will continue to make the trails more accessible by tugging out and chipping cut brush in the "Back 40." No tools or know-how necessary - all skill levels are welcome. Wear leather-faced gloves. Questions? Contact John Erdevig at 734-709-6594 or [jerdevig@comcast.net](mailto:jerdevig@comcast.net). 

## Pastoral Care - Education \* Sunday, September 21

*Exiting Life with Grace* will be presented from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Janice Summers and Wye Hale-Rowe with facilitator Pat Kuessner will discuss the topic *Exiting Life With Grace*.

All life is a gift. Knowing when one is to exit life is also a gift. The greater gift is exiting with grace and love. Not only is it a gift to ourselves, but to those around us. It gives the departing person an opportunity to say what needs to be said, do what needs to be done, and to buffer any shock that comes with our departure.

Hear from someone facing the mystery, Janice Summers, as well as someone who has been "a paid professional" helping guide people through their journey, Wye Hale-Rowe. To register, contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com). 

## Lecture Event \* Monday, September 22

Join from 7:00-8:30pm for a lecture "The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness: Coming Home to Reality." The day after leading worship on Sunday morning, Rev. Michael Dowd will present a free program geared for adults and teens, expanding on material in his bestselling, bridge-building book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, which was endorsed by 6 Nobel laureates and other science luminaries, including noted skeptics and atheists, and by religious leaders across the spectrum. (See: [bit.ly/52eQDC](http://bit.ly/52eQDC))




Rev. Michael  
Dowd

Each has experienced times of trouble that threaten to overwhelm individual lives. In such times, a vision of possibility is essential. The same holds for the punctuations in history when whole societies face troubles of an immense and uncharted variety. Truly, this is such a time. Humans, unwittingly, have become a planetary force. Each is changing irreversibly the very climate of the world. Henceforth, any actions taken as individuals and societies will be done in the new light of climate change. What vision will carry forward to inspire working together? What vision will give a sense of heroic purpose that the future is indeed calling each to greatness?

Rev. Michael Dowd is an inspiring science-based speaker. He and his wife, Connie Barlow, an acclaimed science writer, have spoken to more than 1,800 groups since launching their itinerant ministry in 2002. Their work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover* magazine, and on CNN, Fox News, and ABC News:

[michaeldowd.org/news/tv/](http://michaeldowd.org/news/tv/).

Share this event with friends and co-workers by copying the above text and pasting it into an email to those who might find this interesting. 

## Folk Song Jam Along \* Monday, September 22

Gather on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Come join voices for a fun night of community singing. Sing and harmonize to familiar folk and pop songs, hymns, rounds, show tunes, and some new things, too.

Lyrics and chords will be projected on a screen. Bring your guitars, ukes, fiddles, and other instruments and come jam along with an in-the-moment community band.



Grab a friend and come sing and play. No experience required.

Questions, suggestions, or other things to share? Contact Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski at [folksong.jam.along@gmail.com](mailto:folksong.jam.along@gmail.com). 

## Woman's Breakfast \* Saturday, September 27

Meet at 8:15am on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Classic Cup Cafe. C'mon over and start off a Saturday with laughter, chatter, and good hot food. Newcomers are welcome.

Questions? Contact Judy Slater at 734-679-3497. 

## Announcements and Notices

### Challenging Racism



All are invited to the following Challenging Racism events:

On Saturday, September 6 from 2:00 to 4:00pm, join fellow UUs, including Reverend Gail, in front of the Federal Building to witness for the welcome of unaccompanied immigrant children with Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR).

On Tuesday, September 16 from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Young Room, join the first Challenging Racism meeting for the 2014-2015 program year. Learn the exciting events that are planned and help design others.

Newcomers are always welcome.

On Sunday, September 28 at 3:00pm, preview the African American Cultural Heritage Living Oral History Project II. See film interviews with Dorothy Wilson, who was born in 1911, Mrs. Tessie Freeman, Mrs. Barbara Meadows, and Mr. John Barfield. Some of these individuals will be there in person. This event will be at the Downtown Ann Arbor Library. Films from the first series of interviews are available on the Ann Arbor Library web site. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at [heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:heinoldcia@aol.com).



## Adult SGD

Opportunities for meaningful conversations in small groups will grow again this fall. A wide selection of relevant classes and workshops to be offered by members and groups will be described in the Adult Spiritual Growth and Development Fall Catalog set for publication online and in paper on Sunday, September 21. Registration will start that day. Most classes and workshops will occur in October and November with some starting earlier. Save calendar room for this great chance to build connections in the community. Questions? Contact Charley Burleigh at [chburleigh@aol.com](mailto:chburleigh@aol.com).



## Adult SGD Study Group

UUs for Justice in the Middle East is sponsoring a nationwide Reflection & Learning on Israel - Palestine program and will be leading a multi-session study group from October to November as part of the Adult SGD program. This is part of a denomination-wide program designed to foster welcoming and respectful dialogue, while increasing the depth of understanding about this conflict, so that UUs are better prepared to act in a constructive meaningful manner on a long-standing human rights issue.

This course will use a study guide used in multi-denominational study groups nationwide, including other Ann Arbor congregations. Stop by the UUJME table during Social Hour any Sunday in September to look through the guide, get more details, and sign up for the study group. Personal copies of the study guide, including a DVD, will be provided to those who commit to participating in the study group.

More information will also be available in the Adult SGD Fall Catalog, expected to be out around Saturday, September 20. The first study session is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 2 at 7:00pm. This is one week sooner than the overall Adult SGD program, allowing for these study sessions to be completed before Thanksgiving, pending on the number of study sessions participants agree upon. Questions? Contact Larry Cooper at [larrycooper@wowway.com](mailto:larrycooper@wowway.com).



## Partner Church News



In June 2014, a small group traveled to visit the Partner Church families in Kézdivásárhely, Romania. The July UUAU newsletter gave an overview of that pilgrimage. In the next few months, individual travelers will provide personal recollections of the trip. Below is an article by Nancy Schewe; photographs are by Steve Schewe.

"While I loved seeing all the sights: beautiful Budapest, the fresco-ed Unitarian Church in Székelyderzs, the site where the Edict of Torda was signed, and Francis David's handwriting in the Unitarian archives. What was most thrilling to me was meeting real people who shared my religion.

It was the taking of communion with Unitarians in Budapest and the afternoon our partner church hosts in



Kézdivásárhely sang for us in their church and we sang back; *Kumbaya* was the best we could do on short notice.



Phyllis Valentine and  
Rev. Istvan  
Buzogany-Csoma

It was the day we traveled with Istvan and Csilla and their darling young daughters and Gizella and the two Ildikos all together in the bus. That day, we rode through fenceless countryside, drank healing spring water (some of us pretended), and ate ice cream cones together. But most especially, I was moved by the Sunday service in Szentivánlaborfalva when nearly the entire village attended the Unitarian Church so that they could sing in the men's and women's ecumenical choirs. Istvan preached, Csilla translated for us, and Phyllis, from Ann Arbor, read a passage from the Bible. We shared the service; we shared our religion. I felt so honored to be there that morning. It is a service I will never forget.

The men and women of our partner church opened their hearts, their homes, and their religious practice to us. It was then that I realized that we Unitarians are not alone stranded here in the US. We are part of a bigger human movement."  
Nancy Schewe, July 30.



## QUUest Changes

QUUest Bookstore is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It all started with a small grant back in 1999 and grew to the current size over the past 15 years. This year, one or two managers-in-training will be sought. These individuals would work with the current chairs, Lucia Heinold and Marion Holt, with the goal of assuming leadership by Friday, May 1, 2015. This gives the newcomers plenty of time to view holiday changes and learn the ordering and bookkeeping systems that other volunteers usually assume.

So, if reading and talking about books is enjoyable, serving the Congregation, raising some money for the General Fund, and having an opportunity to have a personal impact on the growth of a successful UUAU enterprise sound inviting, then visit the QUUest table during Social Hour to learn more. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at [heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:heinoldcia@aol.com) or 734-996-2796.



## Accessibility Team

A preliminary action plan initiative for UUAU ministers, lay leaders, and others will be finalized for review this month. The document identifies ways to strengthen accessibility and inclusion and incorporates ideas of the Accessibility team members, congregants, and staff members. The plan will help to identify and budget priorities for action. This fall, the team will conduct a short survey to gather additional information. Parents will be invited to a discussion session to meet the needs of children with disabilities enrolled in the SGD program. More is going on. Your participation and support in this endeavor is appreciated. Questions? Contact Els R. Nieuwenhuijsen at 734-995-1817.



## Marriage Equality Rally Update



Keeping the 150 year tradition of "Reason and Compassion in Action" alive and motivated by the unanimous congregational vote in support of marriage equality, over 65 UUAU members and friends participated in an interfaith "Celebration for Marriage Equality for All Families" at the Lansing First Presbyterian Church on August 5.

The event was held on the eve of the August 6 date for opening arguments in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in the DeBoer case and marriage equality cases from three other states. Fifteen carpools traveled to the celebration, which consisted of an interfaith service of affirmation, a speech of support by Michigan gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer, and a ringing endorsement of the theme "Love is Love." As hoped by the organizers, there was on-the-scene coverage of our progressive voices of faith by TV and print news media. One article appeared in the Lansing State Journal: [lansingstatejournal.com/article/20140805/NEWS01/308050034/Local-clergy-call-marriage-equality-during-interfaith-service-Lansing](http://lansingstatejournal.com/article/20140805/NEWS01/308050034/Local-clergy-call-marriage-equality-during-interfaith-service-Lansing)

"It was thrilling," said one member, "to see the way the 'love people' filled up the Sanctuary." There was a "sea of yellow" in the congregation there. UUs from Ann Arbor and East Lansing in "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts were supported by our own Rev. Gail Geisenhainer and Rev. Kathryn Bert of the UU Church of Greater Lansing.



Margaret Pekarek  
and Brandy Sinco  
enjoy the day

The organizing team sends thanks and appreciation to all who witnessed for love and justice, to those who volunteered as drivers, to the Social Justice Council, and to Interweave members who worked together to organize participation in the celebration:

Roberta Allen, Joan Burleigh, Roylea Furniss, Carolyn Madden, Margaret Pekarek, and Kate Warner. Special thanks to members from the choir and Brandy Sinco for leading, on very short notice, the singing of "Standing on the Side of Love" as the closing song for

the service.



## Habitat for Humanity (H4H)

The 25th Habitat 'Good News House' is ready for a family. Thanks to all of the generous folks who donated money, made lunches, or painted, insulated, trimmed, and sided this year's 24th and 25th Good News Houses. This is the 15th year that the congregation has worked alongside 15 other area congregations to help families from our own neighborhoods move into affordable, energy efficient Habitat for Humanity sponsored homes.

This year, Habitat is happy to introduce the 1011 Rambling Road family, the Sauls family: Carmen, Elbert, and their adorable two year old daughter Theresa, who already knows her colors, numbers, and ABCs. Carmen and Elbert are both musicians who met at church when they were ten years old. Carmen works at the Ann Arbor Credit Bureau. They both express their gratitude to Habitat for Humanity and all the volunteers who worked on their house and helped their "eventual" home-of-their-own become a reality right now.

Read more about this incredibly effective community outreach ministry at [uuaa.org/h4h](http://uuaa.org/h4h) or read the two recent articles on MLive.com that tell about the important neighborhood saving work Habitat is doing in Ypsilanti:

[How H4H came to the rescue of a blighted house near this year's Good News Houses \(6/4/14\).](#)

[Our efforts are transforming this neighborhood for families in our area \(5/22/14\).](#)

Didn't get a chance to try out hands on gloves and hard hat work this year? The 2015 work starts next May. See you then!



Above are some UUs caught in the act of improving the world. Pictured left to right: Jim Morningstar, Becca Anderson, Dan Siroky, Betsy Price, Mike Muha, and Cathy Muha.

The H4H team includes: Barb Pickett, Fran Lyman, Michelle Lovasz, Mike Muha, and Sandy Simon.



### Chalice Circle Service Projects

The Chalice Circle Program is a vibrant component of UUAA's small group ministries. Chalice Circles provide participants with the opportunity to share personal experiences and explore connection to self, others in their circle, and the world. A Chalice Circle is led by two trained facilitators and follows a curriculum developed by the Chalice Circles Writing Team.



Bruce Lund doing front yard work.

During the program year, each Chalice Circle chooses a Service Project that will be performed by the whole circle. The circles meeting at the church work on projects at UUAA, and the satellite Circles select a project that supports the venue providing the space in which they meet. For the 2013-2014 year, projects at the church included working on the Memorial Garden, Entrance Garden Spring Cleanup, the New Members Dinner, Auction Support (2 circles), Annual Teacher Appreciation Brunch, Senior Luncheon, and planting a perennial bed at the church. The Tecumseh Circle did a spring cleanup at their site.



Pictured left to right: Sarah Bush, Peggy Jensen, Dixie Hibner, Mary Lund, Patty Danks, Barbara Dinan, Ginny Preuss

The Plymouth Circle (shown in the photos) met at the Plymouth District Library. In order to show appreciation for being able to meet at the library, the 8 members of this Circle arranged to clear weeds and debris from the border gardens for the summer session. Susan Stoney, Community Relations Specialist for the library, sent the photos as a "thank you" from the library to the members of the circle.

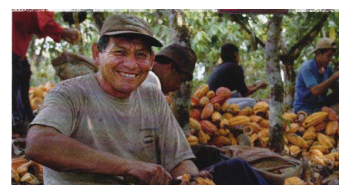
If you are interested in participating in this wonderful program, sign up for the current 2014-2015 program (October-May) begins at the church Sunday, August 31, 2014. For further

information on Chalice Circles go to: [uuaa.org/chalice-circles](http://uuaa.org/chalice-circles).



### UUSC Coffee Project

Meet Eusebio Laron Torres, Peruvian cacao farmer and member of a small farmer co-op supported by the UUSC Coffee Project. He's removing cacao beans from inside harvested pods. That's how the beans grow that become delicious Equal Exchange chocolate bars.



Who knew back when that eating rich, dark, delectable chocolate is no vice, but a healthy virtue. Here's why: Dark chocolate contains antioxidants and polyphenols that reduce inflammation of cardiovascular tissue. On each Equal Exchange chocolate bar, the percentage of cacao content is marked. The higher the cacao content, the greater the potential health benefit.

Not only is dark chocolate healthful, buying Equal Exchange products is consumption with a conscience: the small farmers who grow Equal Exchange products receive fair pay, the UUSC builds farming cooperatives and advances human rights around the world, and a percentage of each purchase benefits the Church. Stop by the Coffee Project table during Social Hour and check out the eleven chocolate bar varieties. Indulge, enjoy - with a clear conscience. Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at [cathie@breidenbach.net](mailto:cathie@breidenbach.net).



## Sharing the Collection



The Sharing the Collection recipient for Sunday, September 7, will be Packard Health, a non-profit family medical practice that serves as a medical home for a diverse group of 15,000 patients, primarily from Washtenaw County.

Packard Health offers high quality patient-focused primary care for everyone - all ages, all income levels, in every state of health. They offer a broad array of integrated services, including mental and behavioral health care, chronic disease case management, complex care coordination, nutrition support that includes food pantries at both offices, health education and promotion, and patient advocacy services to assist patients in need with enrollment in insurance plans and drug assistance programs. They also facilitate access to other available social services.

For more information about the Sharing the Collection program, contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com).



## Road Construction

The road work on Ann Arbor-Saline Road between Eisenhower Parkway and Oak Valley Drive is in the final stage and plans be completed by October. Check out these links for detour maps from the [Washtenaw County Road Commission](#), on [construction phases](#), and more [detour details](#).



## Church Office News

### New Content Guide

All recognized Congregational groups who share activities and events in the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin can now access a Content Guide for writing entries. Find deadlines and details as to the accepted number of words, where to email each article, how to provide a Congregant contact, and more. [Click here](#) for a copy. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org).



### Building Hours:

**Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm**  
**Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm**  
**Fridays, CLOSED**  
**Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm**

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

**Note: The building will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday at 9:00pm on Sunday, August 31 and will re-open at 9:00am on Tuesday, September 2.**

**Telephone: 734-665-6158**  
**Fax: 734-665-7895**  
**General Email: [office@uuaa.org](mailto:office@uuaa.org)**

**Communicating at UUAA:**

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAA's Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to [bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org).

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAA's October Newsletter is 9:00am on Sunday, September 21. 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 ([uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org)) to [webtech@uuaa.org](mailto:webtech@uuaa.org).

For general guidelines on submissions to the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin, refer to the [Content Guide](#).

For more information about how to get things done at UUAA, refer to the [Lay Leader Administrative Guide](#).

**Building & Office Team:**

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