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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

April Newsletter

April 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 4

Worship @ UUAU

Quick Links

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

Join Our Mailing List!

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

April 6, 2014

"JUSTICE SUNDAY: Learn and Engage!"

Carolyn Madden, Kate Warner, with Rev Gail R. Geisenhainer
Local voices speak to national, Michigan, and personal learning and engaging with Economic Justice. This is Justice Sunday for the [UUUC.org](#). The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. We are part of this. Each one of us can help.

April 13, 2014

"Grace"

Rev. Mark Evens

Grace is unearned, unmerited goodness that arrives unexpected. We can name it. We can be grateful for it. We can help pass it on.

April 20, 2014

BRING a Flower to share!

"Earth Day, Easter, and Flower Communion!"

A Multi-Generational Celebration of Our Earth in Spring.

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer will be assisted by readers from our Spiritual Growth and Development leadership teams. Winter is past! Let's sail on this beautiful blue boat we call home and celebrate our earth, our Congregation, and Hope in the rebirth of spring. It has been said, "To be religious today is to act on behalf of the planet." Bring flowers to share and celebrate!

April 27, 2014

"The Welcome Table: Access and Abilities"

Rev. Mark Evens

What would it mean to be a congregation that truly and effectively includes all without regard to ability or disability? Our Accessibility Team has been asking this question

assessing the current state of our welcome and imagining a "larger table." 

From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Annual Reports are due May 1st. They can seem like drudgery to write. And they happen year after year after year. Why do we bother? At their best, Annual Reports are an opportunity to capture our heart's desire; what we dreamed to do, what we encountered on the road to our dreams..., and how we were able to engage our hearts desires, what we actually accomplished, experienced, and learned.

My own understanding of Annual Reports has changed abruptly this year. As I work with the 150th Anniversary Planning Team, I have found a renewed appreciation for the folks who wrote things down a century and a half ago. What may seem like common knowledge to us, here, now, will be a treasure to be uncovered by those who steward our religion and our church in the centuries to come.

Instead of approaching the writing with an expectation of drudgery or a sense of dread, this year I've got a feeling of adventure. Annual Reports can be written as a love letter to our co-religionists of the future. Six or seven generations from now., what would you want

them to know about the ministry you engage here at UUAA? What are your hopes for the future..., their distant past? What would you have them understand of the struggles you face, the challenges that call you to the ministry you offer now?

And I hope many of you can join in the ministries of hospitality as we welcome our part of the UUA Mid-America Region Annual Assembly here Saturday, April 12th. We are one of four sites in the Region to host an Assembly gathering. It's a chance for us to practice our role as South East Michigan cluster's "great pumpkin." Come and enjoy preaching and social witness with fellow UU's from our area. Please see www.midamericauua.org for details. I hope to see you there.

My love to each,
Rev. Gail

SAVE THE DATE:

Planning way ahead, please save these dates: September 21-22, 2014. 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 that Sunday. The next night, Monday, 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. {Rev. Gail}

TRAVELING FOR SPRING BREAK?

Please bring back copies of the Order of Service you find from any UU churches you might visit in other cities. And enjoy the trip! {Rev. Gail}

NEWS!

Just as this newsletter is "going to press," there has been a lot of upheaval and change in Michigan about Marriage Equality. Please stay tuned. We hope to get reflections gathered for

the May Newsletter. {Rev. Gail}



Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Talking to the Future

Sunday mornings we gather in the Sanctuary to share some time reflecting on what makes life good. We gather to remind one another of timeless truths and to reinterpret our human needs in the light of new understandings of our world and changes in how the world works. Outside the Sanctuary, our Sunday mornings are a key time to connect ourselves with the various programs and opportunities the Congregation provides. We meet people face-to-face at reserved tables in the Social Hall and learn about Social Justice projects, ethical eating, supportive spiritual practices, and other programs. In a large church such as ours, there are many options. And for an event or program organizer, the available and necessary communication channels may at times seem just as numerous. There is an art to communicating well in a large congregation. User of multiple channels, clarity, and thoughtful repetition are essential.



Besides conversations in the Social Hall, other common channels of communication include posters on bulletin board, flyers for the Social Hall Involvement Table (near the door to the hallway), the Weekly Bulletin inserted in the Order of Service each Sunday morning (sent out electronically to over 1,100 people each week), the electronic Monthly Newsletter, and the web site. Social media is perhaps the newest communication method. Social media is used by people of all ages, but perhaps most heavily by the younger congregants and potential participants in the wider world who are the future of this Congregation and Unitarian Universalism.

What about requesting that Gail or I say a few words from the pulpit in the Sanctuary during worship? Gail and I have sometimes mentioned events or programs from the pulpit in part to illustrate the breadth of opportunities available, and, in part, to help encourage participation in specific significant events. We have done this sparingly and selectively to preserve the essential quality of our time in the Sanctuary as focused on being together in the moment for reflection and renewal. We plan to continue this practice. **To encourage effective communication efforts using all appropriate channels, we will be asking that requests for pulpit words about programs come to us with a copy of your comprehensive communication plan for the event.** While continuing to limit program promotion during worship, we will be more likely to accommodate a request for a pulpit mention if it comes to us with a well designed, comprehensive plan that makes good use of all the other channels of communication. **Requests received with communication plans that include social media will get gold "talking to the future" stars and special consideration.** We will endeavor in the weeks ahead to provide a template for developing and submitting such communication plans.

Thank you for all the work you do to plan rich, rewarding programs for our Congregation and make them available for our benefit.



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

This past October, I had the opportunity to meet with Reverend Kathleen McTigue, director of the newly formed Unitarian



Universalist College of Social Justice (UUCSJ). To say I was amazingly inspired by Reverend McTigue would be an understatement. She is leading the UUCSJ which was created in 2012 through a partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). By way of background, the UUA is the umbrella organization of UU congregations and the UUSC is the organization that brings us the wonderful chocolates and coffee in the Social Hall each Sunday and sponsors the annual Guest At Your Table program.



The broad goal of the UUCSJ is to serve as a catalyst for deeper social justice work in our communities. It promotes increased social justice engagement in three ways: service-learning trips for all ages, social justice training for high school youth, and internships for young adults. It is not a formal "college" but, instead, offers programs based on direct hands-on experience joined with readings, reflections, and discussion.

The UUCSJ offers various programs throughout the year. For example, this July the UUCSJ is sponsoring a Mississippi Civil Rights Bus Tour in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer. This trip is open to adults and 8th-12th grade youth. Participants will learn from veterans of historic struggles and will also address the connection between these prior struggles and the challenges we face today. The tour includes many stops, among them the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, site of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King assassination, Medgar Evers' home, a meeting with members of the historic Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and a visit to the University of Mississippi where, in 1962, the desegregation of the university became a flashpoint for the state's resistance to civil rights.

To learn more the UUCSJ and its programs, visit the UU College of Social Justice website: <http://uucsj.org>. If you are interested in discussing ways to bring this programming to life here at UUA, I welcome your conversation.

With care,
Sandy



Program Notes

Maria Thomas, Programs Coordinator

A S-UU-per Summer Program is planned for children and youth!

The Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) summer program begins on Sunday, June 15, and will continue through August 31. During the summer, two grade levels are offered: a K-3 class and a 4-8 class. Classes meet in the Fahs and Jackson Chapels, although they often move outdoors to enjoy good weather and the UUA grounds.

This year's curriculum, "S-UU-per Plays", promises to be lots of fun and full of activity. Each week's lesson features a short theater script centered on UU principles, questions, and challenges. For example, July 6's skit is called "Fireworks", and it explores the meanings of democracy, how we agree and disagree, and how we join together. Another script, "Dizzy's Tale", finds the family cat arguing in court for more freedom. "Brain Game" depicts the challenges faced by a losing basketball team, and how the team creates a change in attitude.



The scripts are written by UUA author Richard S. Kimball. UUA's own Debra Golden has

added theater games, warm-ups, and other activities to fully engage all ages. There are also plenty of behind-the-scenes roles for those who prefer not to take center stage.

Calling all S-UU-per Volunteers! Does this S-UU-per curriculum sound like fun? Then please consider volunteering as a summer teacher! The SGD Program is seeking adult congregants who have attended UUAA for at least one year, and who can make a commitment of either leading or assisting in classes for four to six Sundays (more are always appreciated!).

All classes have two teachers, one to lead and one to assist. No teaching experience is required.

The Congregation offers programming for children and youth every Sunday of the year. This would not be possible without the support of volunteer teachers. Please consider contributing your time and your self to our youngest congregants. If interested, contact me, Maria Thomas, at maria@uuaa.org. 

Pastoral Care News

Meredith Ley, Pastoral Care Program Coordinator

The Job Seekers Group was started in 2009 with the intent of assisting congregants and those from the community who were laid off, terminated, or wanting to change careers. Over the last six years, the group has evolved and assisted many folks in finding work, exploring personal interests and skills, emphasizing the need for focus in looking for a new direction. Guest speakers, fellow attendees, and the facilitators have been some of the ways we have added support. The group has a balance of interactive support and practical training.



The group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 9:30-11:00am in the Young Room. The group is facilitated by Meredith Ley, pastoral care coordinator, and Paul Alman, a volunteer with extensive experience as an executive recruiter. The group is very balanced and much of the coaching is between participants. Each becomes an advisor in some aspect of a job search.

I invite you or anyone you know who may benefit from this support to join us once or for longer. If you are or thinking of making a shift in your work, contemplating a career change, or exploring what would be the ideal work situation, I encourage you to visit and find out what we do.

The following testimonials best speak to what the group can offer:

"I strongly recommend the Job Seekers group to anyone who has employment-related questions or concerns. The leaders, Meredith Ley and Paul Alman, are incredible and their insights and experiences in Human Resources and Recruiting are unsurpassed. This group is particularly helpful to those who are actively seeking employment, considering a career change, or returning to the work force. I highly recommend Job Seekers; the discussion is lively and all in attendance benefit greatly".

"UU Job Seekers Group is an enormous source of support and information as well as a bi-weekly anchor while I job hunt. Paul Alman and Meredith Ley are a collaborative powerhouse of encouragement in keeping our heads focused and positive, our strengths uppermost in our endeavors, and in helping manage the common challenges we all face during transition. Both facilitators have incredible insight into how to help job seekers get out of their own way by using new approaches to find what will really be a good fit in their next job."

Questions? Contact Meredith Ley at meridith@uuaa.org.



Activities and Events

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, April 2

Come at 6:00pm to Gourmet Garden for good food and conversation. Since it's the day after April Fool's, you know we're not kidding. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Plant-Strong Potluck * Saturday, April 5

Come to a vegan family potluck in the Fahs Chapel from noon-2:00pm. 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. Questions? Contact Donna Estry at 734-484-0913 or estry@umich.edu or Jenny McKillop at finnabar@gmail.com.



Leadership Development Team * Saturday, April 5

All are invited to explore the topic of discernment in a three-hour experiential workshop in the Jackson Chapel. There will be coffee and a light breakfast at 9:00am. The workshop begins at 9:30 am.

Leadership Development Team will sponsor "What's Discernment Got to Do With It? A Tool and Spiritual Practice for Covenantal Communities". Discernment is a process for individuals to assist each other in developing spiritual direction and understanding. The process is different from and contributes to good decision making. How, can, and should discernment be used in our covenantal religious community?

Tom Darnton, Becky Hoort, and Janella James will lead the workshop. To register, contact Vilma Mesa at ymmesa@comcast.net. Space is limited.



Adult SGD & Pastoral Care Workshop * Sunday, April 6

"End of Life Resources at UUAU" is a workshop offered by Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) and Pastoral Care on Sunday, April 6 from 1:00-3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. UUAU families who are anticipating or experiencing a death are "in covenant" with the Congregation. One of the core values, "Community", emphasizes how we care for each other. This workshop will explore the ways to carry out this core value in the end of life context, with illustrations from three basic topics: memorial service, disposition of remains, and distribution of property.

The program will be facilitated by Terry Madden and Meredith Ley and presented by Rev. Mark Evens, John Erdevig, and Tom Darnton. The workshop will begin with a discussion about planning for disposition of property, move from there to planning a memorial service, and conclude with a conversation about disposition of remains. Emphasis in all three segments will be on resources available within the Congregation. Questions? Contact Tom Darnton at tdarton@me.com.



Round Robin Dinner * Friday, April 11

Join others in small groups of adults for an evening of food, conversation, and congeniality. The next Round Robin dinner will be on Friday, April 11. This is a wonderful way to get to know a few UUs at a time. Questions? Contact Sally Preston at sally@pctraining.net by Thursday, April 3, if you are interested in participating.



Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student Program * Sunday, April 13

The Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student project began in 2002 when then assistant minister, Eva Cameron, returned from a sabbatical stay among the Khasi Unitarians in northeast India. This Congregation shares a special connection with them by virtue of the friendship in the late-1800s between their founder, Hajom Kissor Singh, and UUAA minister at that time, Reverend Jabez Sunderland.

In an effort to further education and build understanding with students and families in the Khasi Hills, the Sponsor-a-Student Project links donors from UUAA with individual elementary school students from the Mawkisyiem Unitarian Lower Primary School in the Khasi Hills of India.

Each annual donation of \$50 gives support to the student and his/her school, helping to provide:

- *A living wage for teachers.
- *Books. In India, parents commonly buy all books every year, often presenting obstacles in educating these children. A book-lending program helps provide equal access to necessary textbooks.
- *A safe and healthy environment. The school facility is very simple and frequently in need of structural repairs, upkeep, and new construction.
- *A year-end gift purchased in India and provided for each child and teacher as a tangible reminder of your friendship.

What does a sponsor receive in return?

- *A photo (when available) of the student(s) sponsored and a yearly letter from the student(s).
- *Periodic updates on the school and the project.
- *A connection with a young Khasi student who will benefit from knowing that somewhere in the world there is a Unitarian who cares especially for him or her.

This is the time of year to renew and initiate sponsorships. If interested, plan to attend the forum and lunch at 1:00pm on Sunday, April 13 for a kick-off to the recruitment drive. Or, visit the Khasi Hills/Big Heart table during Social Hour on Sunday mornings later in the month. Questions? Contact Cathy Doherty at mysarina@aol.com.



The campus of the Unitarian Primary School at Mawkisyiem. In this photo, taken in 2006, the current church building is just above the white bench. The larger building, to the right of the bench, houses the classrooms and office.

Intro to OUUr Faith * Saturday, April 19

An introduction to Unitarian Universalism (UU) for newcomers and long-time members will be taught by Rev. Mark Evens and a board member. Topics include the history of UU and this Congregation, governance at UUAA, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.



This class will be held from 10:00am-2:30pm. Sign up by Sunday, April 13. Space is limited to 20 participants. Registration forms are available at the Involvement Table during Social Hour, in the Newcomer Welcome Room, and in the front entrance literature rack. For childcare to be made available, at least two families must submit a request by Friday, April 4.

For questions or help registering, contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 734-665-6158 or hannah@uuaa.org.



Alpha House Service Week * April 21-27



Over 100 UUAU volunteers completed a successful service week at Alpha House in February. Many say they get more out of their experience than what they give.

Tim Whittemore, often found at the Alpha House table during Social Hour, reports, "We had a great time making breakfast at Alpha House on Saturday...The kids were hungry and came right in at nine, but some of the adults came a bit later. We'll do this again next round, provided no one else signs up."

Justin Poliner had a great time entertaining a toddler. He says, "Everyone should try to volunteer at Alpha House at some point... I signed up to play with the kids. While it may appear intimidating to interact with kids you've never met, it's really easy. They unquestionably talk to you and ask you to play games. There's no better feeling than to be a positive influence on these children."

Thank you to all February volunteers: Dee Dishon, Denise and David Frick, Carol Cramer and Thomas Longworth, Kim Clugston, Audra Eddy, Delphine Benard, Eileen Wright, Katie Kyndely, Nancy Schewe, John Sepp, Ginger Luke, Robert Treadway, Monica Cochran, Sandy Simon, Jennie Lofgren, Brandy Sinco, Cathy Muha, Carol Maccini, Terri and Spencer Wilkerson, Kirsten and Johannah Mogbo, Cindy Krueger, Grace Dreyer, Justin Poliner, Lara Brown, Paul Lalinsky, Gretchen Ridenour, Becca Manery, JoAnne Diehl, Fran Dew, Tricia Smith, Linda Sprankle, Janet Duncan, Cheryl and Vey Valentine, Edie Hough, Joy Shannon, Margaret Pekarek, Diane Connaughton, Louise Kazarinoff, Kristan and Markeeta Graban, Ann Brennan, Joe and Katie Krushelnik, Edward, Carolyn, and Patrick Norton, Rebecca Hardin, Carey Allen, Bridget Laundra, Sara Mathews, Bethany Ramirez, David Tumbarello, Terry Kress, Lisa, David, Tim, and Sam Kohn, Fred and Natalia Stelson, Terry Butcher, Diane Fead, Tim Whittemore, Lora Girata, Carol Girata, John and Rosemarie Russell, Sharon Guyton, Kate Burkhardt, Gina Boldman, Lorraine Gutierrez, Robert Kropf, Michelle and James Dunnum, Angela Menegay, Bruce and Chantelle Shields, Roen Montalva, Kate Hutchens, Pauline Loewenhardt, Susan David, Katlyn Cameron, Betsy Reitbauer, Tim Richards, Madeline Goodson, Sandy Eyl, Melissa Villanueva, Marlene McGrath and Jeff Kahan, Larry Junck, Stephanie Surfus, and the Coming of Age class. Special thanks to Pat Herbst for his continuing dedication to coordinating the Alpha House service project.

The next service week will be Monday-Sunday, April 21-27. Find out how to help. Go to the Alpha House table during Social Hour or the UUAU website and click on Alpha House. Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at cherylnatzmervvalentine@gmail.com.



Folk Song Jam Along * Tuesday, April 22



Join a musical Earth Day celebration on Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Each year, Earth Day marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Learn more at

www.earthday.org.

Bring a favorite "Earthy" poem, quote, or short reading to share with the circle. All ages are welcome to sing in the Earth Day "Sing-for-the-Earth" Choir. To learn some of the songs, chants, and harmony parts ahead of time, join in the Fahs chapel at 6pm on Thursdays April 3, and 17. You'll be the "folks to follow" in this impromptu chorus. Questions? Contact Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski at folksong.jam.along@gmail.com or call Lori at 734-426-7818.



Interweave Circle * Saturday, April 26

Interweave, Social Justice Council, and Challenging Racism invite the Congregation to the 3rd annual spring retreat. Join on Saturday, April 26 from 1:00-9:00pm for worship, discernment, small group sharing, good food, music, and fellowship.



Registration begins on Sunday, April 6 at the Interweave table during Social Hour. Childcare and scholarships are available upon request. Childcare request deadline is Saturday, April 12. For an event flyer with more information [click here](#). Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.



MEC Forum* Sunday, April 27



Mindful Eating Coalition will sponsor "The New Food Philosophy for Health" from 1:00-2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Paul Krause, president of VegMichigan and a pharmacist, will speak on how food choices affect not only health, but also the welfare of the planet. This event is free and healthful snacks will be provided. Questions? Contact Donna Estry at 734-484-0913 or estry@umich.edu.



SGD Teachers Appreciation Brunch * Sunday, April 27

Each spring holds a tradition to honor and thank those who serve as volunteer teachers, assistants, and rovers in the SGD Children and Youth Program. The Teacher Appreciation Brunch will take place on Sunday, April 27, from 10:30 to 11:30am in Fahs Chapel.

This potluck brunch is a way to express gratitude to the program's volunteers who commit their time and develop meaningful relationships with this community's children and youth. Parents, caregivers, and other congregants are invited to contribute a dish or help with set-up or clean-up. Sign-up at SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0D4AA8A922A46-teacher3. Questions? Contact coordinators Aleza Merkel at aleza3@yahoo.com or Lissa Oliver at lissa@earthlink.net.



Folk Song Jam Along * Monday, April 28



Join in the Social Hall at 7:00pm for a fun night of community singing to welcome back spring and sunshine. Sing and harmonize to some old favorites and learn a few new ones, too.

Lyrics and chords will be projected onto a screen, so bring strummy instruments to jam along. Grab a friend and come sing. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski.

Questions? Contact folksong.jam.along@gmail.com or call Jean at 734-223-2847.



Announcements and Notices

150th Anniversary Celebration

On May 14, 1865, the First Congregational Unitarian Society of Ann Arbor was founded by 40 people who undoubtedly would not recognize this Congregation now. Next program year, from September 28, 2014 through May 17, 2015, we will celebrate the Congregation's 150 years as we "revere the past but trust the dawning future more".

Mark your calendars for a kick-off celebration and an all-Congregation photo on Sept 28. The Service of Commemoration of our Founding will be on May 17, 2015.



Human rights advocate Rev. William Schulz, president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) will be the guest presenter at the 150th Anniversary Celebration Klein Lecture on Sunday October 12. Bill Schulz is a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and served for 12 years as executive director of Amnesty International USA.

If you have a brief (less than 500 words) story about a connection with the Congregation or have a good memory of a significant event (whether it's from 50 years or 50 days ago) please share it. Next program year, the story of the Congregation's 150 year journey will be told. We want to add your personal story to the mix-whether it is spiritual, humorous, pithy, or just makes you smile. The History Detectives "Story Catchers" will gather these stories into a memory book. Some may be posted on the web site or Facebook page. Email each story to StoryCatchers@uuaa.org or sign up at the Involvement Table to tell your story orally to an interviewer.

Questions? Contact Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at birthday150@uuaa.org or go to www.uuaa.org/150.



Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

The Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) for 2012-2016, "Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling", a series of monthly discussions, with topics from the UUA's Commission on Social Witness's recommended CSAI curriculum, will have the last session on Wednesday, April 16 entitled "Conclusion: Moving Forward". Questions? Contact Angelina Zaytsev at angelina.zaytsev@gmail.com.



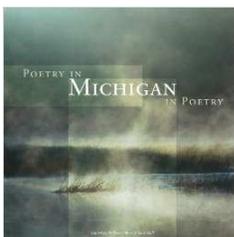
"Hunger For Justice" is the theme for the 2014 MidAmerica Regional Assembly (RA). UUAA is one of the host sites on Saturday, April 12. It will be a day of coming together for fellowship, inspiring lectures and workshops, and deepening worship. Keynote speaker Paul Razor will deliver the [Arthur M. Judy Memorial Lecture](#) live in Topeka and streamed to UUAA. Anyone may attend. If you are interested in being a delegate or attending, sign up in the Social Hall at the DCT table or contact Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. GA 2014 will be in Providence, Rhode Island from Wednesday-Sunday, June 25-29. Attendees will worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for UUA through a democratic process. Anyone may attend. The theme is "Love Reaches Out". Delegates will select the next Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2014-2018. If you are interested in being a delegate or attending, sign-up in the Social Hall at the DCT table or contact Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com.

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



QUUest Poetry Month



April is Poetry Month at QUUest Bookstore. Poetry lovers, check out our great collection. There will be a chance to win a new poetry book. This year's selection is *Poetry in Michigan in Poetry*, a collection of Michigan poetry and photographs that has a list price of \$40.

This anthology gathers an intriguing range of poets and artists, their visions and voices, and explore the variances in Michigan landscape, shoreline, lives lived in the city, town, and countryside, our uncommon diversity of cultures, points of view, concerns, celebrations, losses, and histories.

Stop by to look at the book and fill out an entry form on any Sunday in April (one form per person please). The book winner will be selected at 1:00pm on Sunday, April 27. Questions? Contact: Lucia Heinold at Heinoldcia@aol.com.



Challenging Racism Events



Accept Reverend Mark's challenge: Support and learn more about Detroit. Join African-American History and Culture Tour of Detroit on Saturday, May 3 and Thursday, July 10 from 9:30am-5:30pm.

Celebrate Detroit's black past with stops at historic markers impacted by Councilman Ernie Brown in 1971. Stops include Negro Baseball Site, Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project, Elmwood Cemetery, Black Bottom, Paradise Valley, the Tuskegee Airmen's Museum, and more. Lunch on your own at Steve's Soul Food on Franklin Street.

The tour leaves from the Westminster Church at 17567 Hubbell in Detroit. Google "Westminster Church" for directions. Cost: \$35. RSVP by Tuesday, April 1 with payment by Saturday, April 12. Make checks out to Stewart McMillin, 2136 Seminole, Detroit, MI, 48214. He can be reached at 313-922-1990, 313-244-7184 or stewart@mcmillintours.com. To carpool on Saturday, May 3, contact Kathy Friedrichs at kamf@umich.edu. Save this date: Saturday, May 17 from 1:00-4:00pm for the showing and discussion of *Inequality for All* in the Fahs Chapel.

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



UUSC Coffee Project

A win, win, win, win endeavor - that's 4 wins. The small farmer cooperatives that grow our products are guaranteed fair prices by Equal Exchange (farmers win. That's #1 win) and Equal Exchange donates 20 cents for every pound of product to the UU Service Committee's small farmer fund, which partners with other cooperatives to build sustainable livelihoods for small farmers, many of whom are women (the UUSC and farmers win. That's #2). Plus, the Church receives a percentage for selling equal exchange products (\$3000 last year). (UUA wins. That's #3) The products sold are top quality and guilt free. (You win. That's #4) Check out the

table every Sunday during Social Hour. Questions?
Contact Cathy Breidenbach at Cathie@breidenbach.net.



Hal Breidenbach made and donated this storage-display cabinet for the UUSC Coffee Project

Social Justice Council (SJC)

Minimum Wage Campaign: Stop by the SJC table (or the Mindful Eating table) to sign petitions to get the minimum wage issue on the November ballot. Take a petition home, get 12 signatures, and bring it back to the Social Justice table. UUs statewide have committed to getting 4,000 signatures for the ballot initiative.

Stop by to see events that SJC will co-sponsor in the coming months. Sunday, March 30: ICPJ Annual Meeting, Restorative Justice panel/readers theatre at 7:00pm. Saturday, April 12: Mid American Regional Assembly - Raising the Minimum Wage at 3:30pm. Saturday, April 26: Interweave All Congregation Retreat - Panel on Chicken or the Egg: UU and Social Justice at 2:00pm.

Crop Walk: SJC is pleased to announce that James Todd will be leading the Crop Walk Fall 2014 for UUAA. For over six decades, Church World Service has been working in solidarity with people around the world to eradicate hunger and poverty and to work for peace and justice. In Ann Arbor, the Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice organizes the local CROP Walk. CROP stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty".

Guest at Your Table: The SJC, UUSC coffee project, and SGD is pleased to announce that \$1099 was collected for Guest at Your Table this year.

Information about these opportunities will be on the SJC table during Social Hour. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Renewable Energy in Action



Three March events related to the Congregation's leadership in renewable energy are worth noting: (1) Rev. Gail Geisenhainer provided testimony to the State Senate's *Energy and Technology Committee* urging lawmakers to create policies that expand clean renewable energy production; (2) visitors from Edgewood United Church in East Lansing came to learn about our solar & wind project in hopes of finalizing a plan for their facility; and (3) DTE approved an incentive payment to UUAA if it is able to add an additional 5.0

kilowatts of solar within the next 10 months. Those interested in helping to draw up a plan for presentation to the Church to add this solar are invited to contact Dave Friedrichs at

dave@homelandbuildersgroup.com. A meeting to discuss the possibility will be scheduled in April.

Of special note, in February, the Church passed the \$12,000 mark in cash savings on electricity - since first installation of PV panels (and the small turbine) 3-yrs ago. 

Accessibility Team

UUAA joins with nine other UU churches across the country to examine the accessibility of the Church to people with disabilities. Join in May to hear six members who have disabilities describe their experience with accessibility in the Church. They will share the ways that Church Policies, Church structure and environment, communications, and attitudes support or hinder accessibility in all Church activities. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 2:00-4:00pm. Questions? Contact Pauline Loewenhardt, Disability Panel discussion co-coordinator at loewenhardt@sbcglobal.net. 

Annual Reports

It is that time of the year to prepare an annual report that will be shared with the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in June. Individual recognized congregational groups are asked to include the elements listed below in each annual report:

- The recognized ministry name.
- The author of the report.
- A brief description of the group.
- A description of how UUAA core values were met by the group.
- Highlights of activities that took place.
- Goals reached.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Describe future ideas, plans, and goals.



Send each report to annualreport@uuaa.org by Thursday, May 1 at 5:00pm. Early submissions are welcome. Contact your group's lay leader or staff liaison with any questions. 

Khasi Hills Sweater Project

Since October 2011, 96 hand-knit sweaters from members and friends were delivered to the village of Mawkisyiem in the Khasi Hills via many interesting routes.

The Mawkisyiem Unitarian Primary School is a partner with UUAA. Enrollment has been relatively steady for several years, with nearly 100 new students entering the school each February. We will keep knitting and delivering as long as there are interested sweater makers on our end, students who have not received a sweater on their end, and willing folks to make deliveries.

If you (or a friend) would like to knit (or crochet) for this project you can learn more about it at the Khasi Hills table during Social Hour on Sunday morning - or on the project's Facebook page: Knitting Up a Storm. www.facebook.com/pages/Knitting-Up-a-Storm/261128913912663?ref=hl. 



Dozens of colorful sweaters were among those delivered in 2011, when several members traveled to northeast India

New Members

Welcome Newest Members

Extend a warm welcome to our newest members. For more information on how to become a member, contact welcome ministries coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuua.org. 

Cindy Hegg- Krueger



"I've been involved with this Congregation since 1987, but just never signed the book cementing my commitment. Soooooo UU, right?! I had never even heard of the UU Churches when I moved to Ann Arbor. One Sunday I went to check it out, and realized very quickly it was the right place for me. Most recently, I have enjoyed teaching in the Spiritual Growth and Development Program, as our children grow up in it.

I took a hiatus from the Church from 1994-2006 or so, working in Wisconsin for several years and starting my career as a mother. Their dad, Mark Krueger, and I co-parent our two girls, Grace (13) and Jessica (16). My other career is that of anatomic/cytopathologist. Of late, my hobbies are skiing, biking, and gardening." 

Erin Krajcik

"I am so delighted to join the UUAU. I feel very welcomed and at home here and look forward to further involvement in this community. I was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, where I grew in the UU Church of Savannah. I moved to Ann Arbor ten years ago and live with my partner, Michael, and children Juliet (11), Elise (7), and Maggie (5). I believe that my UU upbringing led me naturally to my profession, Social Work. The UU Principles not only inform my major life decisions, but my practice, perspective towards life, and interactions on a daily basis."



Lou and Carol Maccini

Carol and Lou grew up around Boston, eventually meeting each other at Boston College, where Carol majored in English and Lou in Economics. They married after graduation and moved to Chicago so Lou could attend Northwestern University. Carol taught English in an inner city high school. Then they moved to Baltimore, where Lou taught Economics at Johns Hopkins for 44 years, serving as department chair for 15 years. Carol got a pair of master's degrees in Liberal Arts and Publications Design, then taught English at various local colleges.



They raised two children there. It was also in Baltimore that they joined a UU church. Unfortunately, their son died young. Their daughter married, moved to Ann Arbor, and had two children of her own. When it was time to retire, it seemed like a no-brainer to come to Ann Arbor to be closer to family. 

Thom Omar and Kate VanHorn

The Omar-VanHorns have been Ann Arborites for many years and are very happy to be full members of the UUAU community. Thom and Kate live in town with their two girls Gracie and Molly, who are



in kindergarten and first grade respectively. Kate is a small business owner and entrepreneur while Thom has spent many years in the service sector.

The family loves camping, hiking, and many outdoor activities and sports. Also, the family loves volunteering, crafts, and enjoying music and theatre together. The Omar-VanHorns are very excited to become more involved with the UUAA in order to grow and create lasting relationships.



Church Office News

Building Hours:

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm

Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm

Fridays, CLOSED

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

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

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: 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.

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAA's May Newsletter is 9:00am on Monday, April 21. 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.

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

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

Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, dewon@uuaa.org



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