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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

December Newsletter

December 1, 2015 - Vol 12, Issue 12

Congregational Links

UUA Links:

[Make a 2016 Pledge](#)
[Calendar of Events](#)
[Social Justice at UUAU](#)
[UUAU.org](#)

Other Links:

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

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Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Dir. of Worship & Music

Sunday Worship | 9:30am * 11:30am

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24, 2015 | 4:30pm * 7:00pm * 9:00pm

The conversation of worship we called *October* reminds each of our hands to hold others, to focus on a religion of **covenants**.

The worship we named *November* calls each of our feet to step closer to love, to mind a **pilgrimage** of justice in this faith.

Now, we walk with *December*, teaching hands and steps and voices wisdom from repose.

Now, with brief, lighted holy days, sprawling starry lullabies on ebony evening silence.

December is a Michigan sun reaching its **rest**, the next step in earth's ancient story of **balance**.

In December's worship,
we mind the practice of **rest and balance**.

*All of you are welcome here,
as we gather again for worship.*

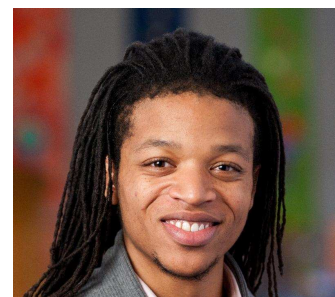


December 6, 2015 |

9:30am * 11:30am

Returns of Phrase

Systems of indignity breathe
in the language we inherit.
New hope can spring in the
language we carry on.



All words matter.

**December 13, 2015 |
9:30am * 11:30am
Solstice : Celebrating the
Dark**

Worship for All Ages (no SGD
classes K - 12. Nursery &
PreSchool remain open)

"Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more
clearly... And then my soul may hear a voice, a still,
small voice of love eternal."

- from Shelley Jackson Denham *Dark of Winter* (SLT
Hymn 55)



**December 20, 2015 | 9:30am* 11:30am
Marginal Wisdom**

Privileged royals choose a yonder star.

Three men called "kings" pilgrim long into the night
to find new wisdom in the ruckus of a barn.

There, a houseless newborn teaches of heavenly peace
in his sleep.

The ancient Christmas story has so much to tell.
Still more wisdom speaks from the margins.

**December 24, 2015 | 4:30pm * 7:00pm * 9:00pm
Christmas Eve Worship Services**

4:30p - a shorter, more family-oriented Service.

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

Carols and stories, old and new.

Candles of hope.

Warm gifts of companionship,
of presence.

**December 27, 2015 | Other People's Children
9:30am * 11:30am**

The Christmas story tells of more than one child.



Winter Solstice Pageant

On Sunday, December 13, the annual Holiday Pageant will be a multi-generational Service focusing on winter solstice, honoring the gifts of darkness, and the longest night of the year. Except for nursery and preschool, which welcome our youngest children every Sunday, no SGD classes will meet.

A few people are needed to read parts from a script, and a bunch more are needed to participate at various points in the Service. Meet 45 minutes beforehand to go over everything. Note: No other rehearsals are required. Everyone is welcome to join.

Interested in being one of the readers? Contact SGD Program Assistant Debra Golden at debra@uuaa.org.



Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



News from Rev. Gail SUMMARY:

1. December is **Minister's Discretionary Fund** month. Special collection in Christmas Eve services. Donations to assist those in need, empower new ministries, and support spontaneity.
2. **Staff Title Changes:** Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music, Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister.
3. There will be a **vote to ordain** Lindasusan Ulrich to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, January 31, 2016, 1:00pm during our Congregational Meeting.

Dear Ones, All,

Only a Congregation can ordain a minister. No other body, group, or person holds that authority within Unitarian Universalism. On the agenda for our January 31, 2016 Congregational Meeting is the opportunity to vote to ordain Lindasusan Ulrich. I sincerely hope this Congregation votes to do just that.

Lindasusan came to us in August after a VERY brief time of interview and reflection. I knew she could serve us well for at least a year. I knew she had the skills to assist me in discernment for a focused area of congregational life. That's pretty much what defines a Consulting Minister. Come in for a brief time, help with discernment, leave, and move on. Within only a few months of being here in Ann Arbor, Lindasusan Ulrich has shown me there is more to her ministry here than a quick consultation.

I am pleased to announce that Lindasusan has agreed to a two year contract, renewable. Her title is changed from Consulting to Assistant Minister. Her purview is broadened from consulting on reorganization to engaging wholeheartedly in preaching, worship, and building alongside lay teams the new conversations we need to live into our goals for financial management, defining our income streams, and strengthening our Bonds, locally and nationally. She will be working to articulate a theology of generosity, the language of mission and vision, and all the many conversations we cherish as we learn to live lives of deeper meaning and purpose.

Rev. Jack Mendelsohn wrote, "The future of the liberal church is almost totally dependent on these two factors: great congregations (whether large or small) and effective, dedicated ministers. The strangest feature of their relationship is that they create one another." Lindasusan is trusting our Congregation to be formative for her ministry, here and beyond. We, in turn, now have the opportunity to be shaped by her ministry among us.

It is a rare opportunity to be able to ordain a minister. I embrace this possibility wholeheartedly.

Our restructuring has produced more than one title change. As Glen Thomas Rideout has taken the lead in more and more of our worship planning and presiding, so, too, has his title changed. He is now our Director of Worship and Music. He continues to be our most "senior" of senior staff, now in his 9th year with UUAA! In addition to his new worship responsibilities, Glen Thomas has gathered the conversation for the use of technology in church life. His knowledge and creativity are serving our Congregation beyond the purview of music alone. I delight in these changes.

'Tis the Season! Once each year we turn our attention toward the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The Fund is a collection of donations available to be spent at the discretion of the settled minister. We take one collection each year for this fund. Donations are welcomed and received at any time during the year, certainly. But only during the Christmas Eve services do we take an actual collection.

The central purpose of the fund is to make money discreetly available to assist Congregants in financial need. This support is held in complete confidence. Abundance in the Fund is directed to local area groups assisting others or to encourage new ministries.

Everyone is invited to offer something to assure that our Congregation can be present for all of us who may be in need in the coming year. Please indicate "Minister's Discretionary Fund" on your check memo line. Contributions can be sent to the office any time or brought to a service on Christmas Eve. Thank you, All, for your tender generosity. It provides me a way to be spontaneous on your behalf. So, Dear Hearts, let's deck the hall, savor the deepening dark, and take very good care of one another this Winter.

As fall ends and the Solstice beckons us toward the stillness of winter, I wish for each of us warmth, companionship, purpose, and a good laugh now and again. For our planet, I wish peace, prosperity, and the balance that sustains all life. In all the struggle, the pain, the anguish of war, the disrespect of Black Lives, the devaluing of Syrian lives, for all the pain..., may there be hope and balance. Hope and balance and safe harbor.

My Love to each,
Rev. Gail



Upon Reflection **Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister**

You may not have noticed, but my by-line has a slight edit to it. Well, not so slight, really, because the shift from Consulting Minister to Assistant Minister contains within it some of the larger conversations going on at UUAA.

When I first arrived at this Congregation, the plan was that I'd be here for a year and offer my perspective on the structural changes needed to fulfill Gail's promise of becoming affordable and sustainable. I was also excited that I'd have the chance to preach regularly - not something a first-year minister can necessarily expect. I feel grateful beyond words that we



stumbled into the kind of extraordinary match that exists between this Congregation and my particular ministry.

Now that I plan to be here at least two years, the arc of what I can contribute takes a much different shape. And I have to admit...I'm rather giddy about it.

Gail, Ed Lynn, and I have spent considerable time thinking through what's needed at this moment in UUAA's history to fulfill our mission with the resources available, and I'm excited about the major areas we've come up with to structure Congregational life. We've also sketched out how to deploy the gifts and talents of members, staff, and clergy alike to bring this vision to life. The Board has started talking about the recommended realignment, and I'm sure you'll hear more in the weeks and months ahead.

Given the collaborative and experimental mode we're in, we may need to do some course corrections as we go, but I'm inspired by the direction in which we're setting out.

What talents can you offer to your spiritual community? What new skills would you like to develop? How will your gifts be of service?

Peace,
Lindasusan



Board of Trustee News

President's Message

Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to December, such a busy month with the holidays, maybe some traveling, and family get-togethers just around the corner. I look forward to all of this but sometimes I have a hard time slowing down enough to enjoy it. The excitement around church is something to look forward to as well. Special services, the annual poinsettia display and the Christmas Eve service with the ever beautiful hand bell choir...I can hardly wait!



Your Board of Trustees continues on with the good work of this Congregation. Our annual work plan is in place, and small teams are busy with extra meetings discussing, planning, discerning, and deciding how to meet our goals. The Sunday, November 15, the Senior Minister and Board President Q & A went well, and some of this work was shared with those present. This is a wonderful way for you to join in our ongoing conversation about the happenings and changes going on as well as a great way for you to share your concerns and comments about your experience here at UUAA. Watch the Newsletters and Bulletins for our next one. Rev. Gail and I are trying to hold them on a regular basis. Of course, you can always talk with me in coffee hour or send me your thoughts at president@uuaa.org. It matters to me what you think!

One item that should be on your radar is the upcoming proposed by-law changes. You may recall that they were on the agenda of last May's Congregational meeting and

were tabled for further review. The Board has done the work, and they will be ready for your review again very soon. We have scheduled an informational meeting on Sunday, January 10, so mark your calendar and please be present. The proposed changes will be mailed out on Wednesday, January 6 after the New Year. The final proposed changes will then be on the agenda for our winter Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2016. This is our legal document that guides our work and keeps us legal as a non-profit organization; it is important work for all of us.

Two reminders before the end of the year: make sure you have fulfilled your 2015 pledge to this Congregation and be sure to make your 2016 pledge. In order to create a balanced budget that is affordable and sustainable, our CEO and interim administrator must know what you will provide to support that. Hopefully you have taken the time to consider what is important to you and make that commitment. Three easy ways: drop it off on Sunday, call the office at 665-6158, or pledge online at uuaa.org. Thank you to all of you that have already taken the time to do so!

Be well friends and I hope to see you in church,
Beth Hospadaruk
2015-2016 Board President
president@uuaa.org



Congregational Meeting * Sunday, January 31, 2016

There will be a Congregational Meeting following the second Service on Sunday January 31, 2016. All are welcome and encouraged to come. Questions? Contact Priscilla Spencer at bot@uuaa.org.



Comprehensive Campaign News

The Comprehensive Campaign Draws to a Successful Close

Three years ago we began a journey to retire our mortgage. At the time, the outstanding mortgage principal was \$1,981,973. Through your generosity to the Comprehensive Campaign, at the end of November 2015 the outstanding principal on our mortgage will be below \$540,000, a 72% reduction.

December is the last formal month of the Comprehensive Campaign. Any and all donations, both pledged and unpledged, will be warmly and gratefully received. If you would like to make a pledge or contribution now or if you have any questions about your pledge status, contact Ed Lynn at ed@uuaa.org. Thank you.



Spiritual Growth and Development News

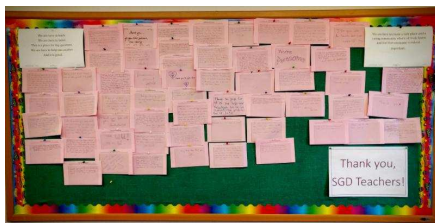
Program Notes

Aaron Gibson, Programs Coordinator

Greetings everyone,
SGD Students are off to an amazing semester. Sixth grade students have visited multiple religious places of worship and heard from speakers of Native American, Hindu, and Judaic traditions. Over the summer of 2016, YRUU will be going on a service trip to Appalachia. The 7th grade class has enjoyed a parent potluck as they crafted \$1/serving meals to better realize what living with a limited food



budget is like.



During the Teacher Appreciation ceremony on Sunday, November 15, Congregants showed their love (see image) for the many volunteers who work with our students every Sunday. All are invited to view the many messages that have been written. Find them posted on the SGD wing bulletin board near the main entrance of the Congregation.

Thanks so much.



News from the Harper Room

Julie Dybdahl, YRUU Coordinator



YRUU is off to a great start again this year. There are 38 registered 10th-12th graders and a large group attending each Sunday. Our team of adult advisors is all new this year. Next time you see Jon Thomas-Palmer, Laurin Tuxbury, and Tom Goodson, give them a high-five for volunteering!

So far this year, we've been working on building community and safe space within the group. We've elected youth leaders and begun our topics for the year. We've had two gnomapaloozas and participated in the "Out of the Darkness" fundraiser walk for suicide prevention and awareness.

By the time you are reading this, we will have baked and sold 100's of apple dumplings at coffee hour. Hopefully you've tasted them. Proceeds from dumpling sales go to purchase Christmas gifts for needy kids at Peace Neighborhood Center.



SGD Class Holiday Schedule

Due to the holidays and multi-generational services, SGD Classes will follow the schedule below:

- November 29, No Classes, Activities available for K-5
- December 13, No Classes (Multi-generational Service)
- December 20, No Classes, Activities available for K-5
- December 27, No Classes, Activities available for K-5

Grades 6-12 are welcome to attend Services during the above dates. Some teachers of your child may decide to meet during these dates. If so, expect timely correspondence from them.

Questions? Contact Program Coordinator Aaron Gibson at aaron@uuuaa.org.



SGD Cheer

The Halloween Party was a success thanks to the energy of creative volunteers, staff programs coordinators and assistants, and YRUU students and advisers. Over 150 party-goers carved pumpkins, created a haunted house, took a turn at the candy wheel, made s'mores by the fire, and walked the costume catwalk. And let's not forget those



mummies, literally and figuratively, who got wrapped up in the group game.

Thanks to all who made this event so fun. Keep on the look-out for the next multi-generational party, the Holiday Potluck Party coming up on Sunday, December 12. There may be a pony...or two. Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Activities and Events

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, December 2

The meeting for dinner will be at a new location. Come at 6:00pm to Bravo Restaurant located at 760 Briarwood Circle. It's a new restaurant in the parking lot outside Briarwood Mall. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



GRACE Program * Saturday, December 5

Well-Being Education will present the UM "GRACE" Program from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Fahs Chapel. Donna Fox, RN program administrator, has been invited to explain the University of Michigan Health System's "Geriatric Resources for the Assessment and Care of Elders" (GRACE) program. GRACE provides a team approach to home-based geriatric care. All patients are followed by a doctor, nurse practitioner, and care manager to discuss their health and care goals. The team focuses on issues common to geriatric patients, make visits to the their homes to see how they can make improvements to health, safety, and quality of life. The GRACE program is provided free to all participants.

To register contact Well-Being Education facilitator Robert Kropf at rk48103@comcast.net.



Alpha House Giving Tree * Sunday, December 6

"For it is in giving that we receive," Francis of Assisi

It's the holiday season - a time for generosity and compassion toward others. The Coming of Age class will sponsor the annual Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Giving Tree. As a part of IHN, this Congregation provides time, services, and materials needed by Alpha House, which provides temporary shelter, food, and support services to homeless children and families.



Starting on Sunday, December 6, the Giving Tree will be in the vestibule right outside the office. Each ornament on the tree will be labeled with an item from Alpha House's Wish List. Members of the Congregation may pick an ornament and purchase the item for Alpha House. The items will be delivered to Alpha House on Friday, December 20. Please be aware that there is only a two week time period for purchasing items this year due to the Holiday being close to a weekend.

Alpha House also posted that they have an urgent need for: New twin mattress pads, new twin comforters, new pillows, and booster seats for toddlers and older children.

Those who are able to meet an immediate need for Alpha House may place the purchased item(s) in the Emerson room to assure delivery as soon as possible.

Questions? Contact Lorrie Carbone at 734-883-0072 or lorrie.carbone@gmail.com. 

Service of Affirmation * Tuesday, December 8

All are invited to the Annual Interfaith Service of Affirmation at 7:30pm for transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, questioning, and intersex people, their families, friends and allies at St. Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth. (Note the new location.)

The theme for this year's service will be "Lighting the Path of Justice" featuring the speaker Rev. Roland Stringfellow, Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. There will be a free-will offering for ACLU Michigan's LGBT Legal Project to support their work of advocating justice and equal rights for all. Music will be provided by Jean Chorazyczewski, Lori Fithian, Katie Geddes, Brandy Sinco, Laz Slomovits, and David Vaughn.

The service will be held at St. Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Street located at the corner of Eastover and Jewett), Ann Arbor. For a map and directions go to templebethemeth.org/directions.

Questions or volunteer? Contact Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com. 

LIGHTING THE PATH OF *Justice*

INTERFAITH SERVICE OF AFFIRMATION

You're invited to an interfaith service of love and support
with TBLGQI folks and allies from our community.

Tuesday, December 8th
7:30 pm

Social gathering following the service

St. Clare's Episcopal Church & Temple Beth Emeth
2300 Packard at Eastover/Jewett, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(248) 210-7583

A collection will be taken to support the justice work of ACLU Michigan, LGBT Legal Project



FEATURED SPEAKER
Rev. Roland Stringfellow
Senior Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit



Women's Breakfast * Saturday, December 12

It's that time again for women to get together and solve the world's problems...or at least have breakfast together. Think about joining us at 8:15am to have good talks and great fun! The breakfasts are held at the Classic Cup Cafe on Jackson Road, across from the UM Credit Union. Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com. 

Holiday Party and Potluck * Saturday, December 12



UUA Holiday Party 1937.

Celebrate the shortest days of the year in the warmth of friendship with fellow Congregants of all ages. Join in the Sanctuary and Social Hall from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Bring a dish to share, some creativity, and good cheer. Crafts and activities will begin at 11:30am; lunch will be served at noon with tree trimming and Santa to follow.

Those who would like to help with a craft, donate an activity suggestion, or assist with set up or clean up may contact the

Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Winter Solstice Pageant * Sunday, December 13

The annual Holiday Pageant will be a multi-generational service focusing on winter solstice, honoring the gifts of darkness, and the longest night of the year. Except for nursery and preschool, SGD classes will not meet.

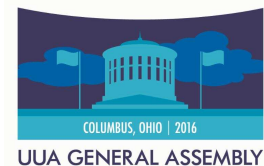
A few people are needed to read parts from a script, and a bunch more to participate at various points in the Service. Meet 45 minutes beforehand to go over everything. NOTE: No other rehearsals are required. Everyone is welcome to join.

Interested? Contact SGD Program Assistant Debra Golden at debra@uuaa.org.



Coffee and GA * Sunday, December 13

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) will sponsor a Q&A to encourage Congregants to attend General Assembly (GA) 2016. GA is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2016 GA will be held from Wednesday to Sunday, June 22-26 in Columbus, OH. Most GA events will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, less than 200 miles from Ann Arbor.



The theme will be "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect." People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The traditional labels Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist, and non-theist no longer define how Spirit moves in our lives. GA will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides, but connects to an interdependent future that works for all.

The DCT will sponsor several events to encourage Congregants to attend. The next event will be a Q & A about GA held between Services on Sunday, December 13 in the Young Room. There will also be Forums to discuss what GA is like and what it means to be a Delegate at GA. Watch the Weekly Bulletin for upcoming events. Questions? Contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.



Scrip Drawing * Sunday, December 20



Give the scrip program a try. There will be a drawing for gift cards of the winners' choice. Established users will get one entry and new purchasers (or those who haven't placed an order in over a year) will

receive three entries for each \$200 online purchase or \$250 purchased at the Scrip Table. Scrip cards can be for personal use, but they also make wonderful gifts - no worries about which item to order, what color, or what size. See how easy gift-giving can be. Questions? Contact Carolyn Barber at cmbponyclub@sbcglobal.net.



College-Age Holiday Reunion * Sunday, December 27

Join Rev. Gail, Julie Dybdahl, and past YRUU advisors for conversation and light refreshments at 1:00pm for a holiday reunion for college-age adults. RSVP's to Program Coordinator Aaron Gibson at aaron@uuaa.org are helpful, but not required. Parents, let those young adults know about this event, as current email addresses are not available for all former YRUU students. Questions? Contact YRUU Coordinator Julie Dybdahl at julie@uuaa.org.



Holiday Building Closure December 27-January 3, 2016

'Twas the after week Christmas and all through the building;
 Not a staff member was stirring and all work was yielding.
 The signage was hung throughout the building with care;
 In hope that congregants knew not a soul would be there.
 Staff will be enjoying hot chocolate and sleds;
 While rest and relaxation balance their heads.

UUAA Building will be closed for holiday:

Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 4:00pm – Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 8:30am
 Sunday Services will meet during this time frame at 9:30am and 11:30am.

Sending good tidings and joy to you and yours,

- UUAA Staff




Announcements and Notices

Holiday Poinsettias

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



The cost of each plant will be \$10. Orders may be placed during Social Hours on Sundays through December 13. Those who place orders may pick up their poinsettias after the last Christmas Eve Service. Click here for an [order form](#). Questions? Contact Rick Johnson at rrjohnson46@gmail.com. 

Guest At Your Table

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's human rights work. This year Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people.




For those who are new to Guest at Your Table, the collection box (see image) is a key component. Boxes will be distributed Sundays, November 29 and December 6 during the Social Hour, and will be handed out to SGD students. Place the collection box in your home's dining space. Use the box to collect the amount of money that would be spent to have a "guest at your table". The collection box serves as an important reminder of the work UUSC is doing to defend human rights around the world.

All are invited to take part. For over 40 years, Guest at Your Table has raised millions of dollars for human rights projects that have made a real difference in people's lives. Boxes will be collected on Sunday, January 10, 2016.


Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at QNorthrup@gmail.com. 

Food Buckets

As the holiday season approaches, remember the significant impact contributions have made to the community. SOS and HARC are grateful for donations made to their food pantries by Congregants and welcome more. While holiday shopping, try adding a nonperishable food item or personal care item to those shopping carts. One item per family can add up to hundreds of items for delivery to those in need. Contributions can be left in the Food Buckets outside the Sunderland Library in the SGD wing. SOS and HARC wish lists can be found above the Food Buckets. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org. 



Hospitality Hosts Needed

Have a gift for hospitality? Those who enjoy creating a welcoming atmosphere are treasured. Be a part of a team that has given a face to the UUAU core value of Community. The behind-the-scenes tasks include kind smiles and making warm coffee during a memorial service reception. Interested in representing the Congregation? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org. 

Alpha House Thank You

A huge "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money and/or time for the final Alpha House Host Week from Wednesday, November 25 through Sunday, November 29. Without these contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all that it does for homeless families in Washtenaw County. The following lists the volunteers for UUAU's Thanksgiving Host Week:

Day Host: Barb Gales, Diane Fead, Angela Menegay, Sally Preston, Brandy Sinco.

Make Dinner: Delphine Benard, Cathie and Hal Breidenbach, Constance Bridge, Rachel Caufield, Kim Clugston, Carol Cramer, Melanie Dever, Fran Dew, Jo Anne Diehl (2), Pat Herbst (2), Dixie Hibner, Hildebrandt Family (2), Mary Locey (6), Thomas Longworth, Jackie Mills (2), Lorelle Otis, Deana Shields, Brandy Sinco, Sara Wesser (2).
Serve Dinner and Clean Up: Jackie and Jeremy Koch, Cathy and Mike Muha, Garges/Kersten Family (2), Brandy Sinco, Carol Cramer, Mary Locey (2).

Play with Kids: Brennan/Krushelnick Family, Brown/Wakeman Family, Faith Butu (4), Don Chery, Laurel Durrett, Lorna Gibson (2), Gwen Guthrie, Hildebrandt Family, Amy Hortop, Irgang Family, Amyleigh Johnson, Cynthia H. Krueger, Ginger Luke, Angela Menegay, Vilma Mesa, Christina Samida, Milan Seth, Ryan Tamblyn, Cheryl and Vey Valentine, Sophia Wakeman, Steve Wells.

Make Weekend Breakfast: Kate Hutchens, Bridget Laundra, Gretchen Ridenour (2), Sara Schaefer, Mark VanKempen.

Overnight Host: Terry Butcher, Peter Cipparone, Caroline Drake, Alison Paine, Ryan Tamblyn.

Alpha House Shopping Team: Tricia Smith, Angela Barber. Alpha House provides a shopping list for the weekday breakfasts, the bag lunches, cleaning and laundry supplies, baby supplies, etc.

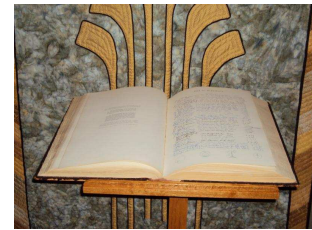
Social Hall Recruitment Table: Jo Anne Diehl, Sandy Eyl (5), Sally Preston (2), Tricia Smith (2), Angela Barber.


Accept apologies for missing or misspelled names. Thanks again to a wonderful group of volunteers.

Questions? Contact Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com. 

Stepping Stones to Membership

UUA welcomes new members to the Congregation throughout the year. To become a member, attendance at an Introduction to Our Faith workshop is requested to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, this Congregation, and the spiritual paths of others in the UUA community, and to reflect upon one's own spiritual journey. After the workshop is completed, an invitation to take part in upcoming membership signings will be sent, as well as an enrollment packet.



Interested in taking the next step toward membership? Sign up for the Introduction to Our Faith Workshop on Saturday, January 23 from 10:00am to 2:30pm. To register, or to sign the Membership Book once the workshop is completed, contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuua.org. 

New Member Bio's

Darwin and Cesilie Cordovilla



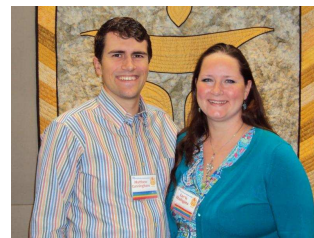
Cesilie is from Southern Indiana. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and International Studies. Her hobbies include volunteering, vegetarian cooking, and playing with her puppy, Suca Bella.

Darwin was born and raised in Ambato, Ecuador. He moved to the US in 2010 when he started college. He is passionate about scientific progress and research to better humanity.



Matthew Cunningham and Carrie Rheingans

Carrie is originally from Linden, Michigan, about 40 minutes north of Ann Arbor. She moved to Ann Arbor in 2000 to begin studies at UofM and now has three degrees: BS, MSW, MPH. Carrie is the program manager for the Washtenaw Health Initiative, a county-wide collaborative focused on ensuring access to coverage and healthcare for low-income residents. Matthew is originally from Raleigh, NC. He moved to Ann Arbor to get his MSW, met his wife Carrie, and decided to become a Michigander. He runs a community program at the YMCA in Detroit but lives in Ann Arbor with Carrie. He looks forward to making friends.



Josh and Catie Hausman



Josh and Catie met in grad school at UC Berkeley, where they both studied economics. They were thrilled to move to Ann Arbor in 2013 with their son Alex, currently in preschool. They both now work at the University of Michigan. They enjoy exploring Ann Arbor with Alex (who really loves UU), reading (fiction for Catie, history for Josh), and occasionally traveling.

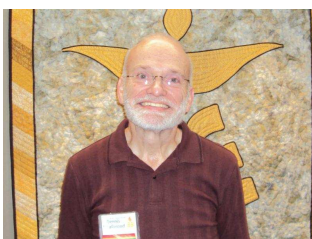


Derek and Eva Johnson

Derek is a Software Engineer and Eva is a Personal Trainer. Eva enjoys abstract painting, volunteering at HSHV, walking, reading, and writing. Derek enjoys home brewing, reading, and tinkering with code. When Derek isn't brewing, Eva is making wine. They both love having people over to visit and sample the latest batch. The kids enjoy playing computer games, listening and playing music, asking life questions, cuddling with the doggie and being silly. The whole family is happy to be members of UUAU and look forward to meeting new friends and making a difference.



Dennis Smallwood



"I was born in Bay City and moved to the Ann Arbor area in 1987. I am a single gay man with six children and many grandchildren. My spiritual journey has taken me from Catholicism to Agnosticism to Theism. I believe in a presence higher than myself - a loving presence whose substance cannot be known, but whose effects can be. I am searching for and continually discovering those effects more each day.



Carol Thomas

Retired from a career in computers, Carol has been in Ann Arbor for little more than 5 years after spending almost fifty years in and about Philadelphia, PA and then living for varying lengths of time in British Columbia, Ohio, Minnesota, and



California.

Carol's son and his family live nearby so there are many opportunities to spend time with her one-year-old grandson. Carol's daughter is in Berkeley, CA, applying to grad school now.

The inner journey that led Carol to UUAA included stops at assorted Protestant religions, Roman Catholicism, Zen Buddhism, and Atheism. Here, surrounded by those who wish her well, Carol feels at home. "This community of people who gather to make the world a better place, one small but necessary step at a time, is where I belong."



Church Office News

Building Hours:

Sundays: 8:30am-9:00pm

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

Friday: Closed

Saturdays: 9:00am-4:00pm

*** Note: The UUAA building will be closed from Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 4:00pm and will re-open on January 3, 2016 at 8:30am. Services will meet on Sunday, December 27 at 9:30am and 11:30am.**

The staff and volunteers give thanks as they use this time to restore their spirits, and be enabled to make UUAA an even more collaborative, affordable, sustainable, and experimental community.

Church Office hours: Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Changes in Communicating at UUAA:

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the Weekly Bulletin for December are as follows:

<u>Publication:</u>	<u>Deadline:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
Sunday, December 6	Wednesday, December 2	5:00pm
Sunday, December 13	Wednesday, December 9	5:00pm
Sunday, December 20	Monday, December 14	9:00am
Sunday, December 27	Monday, December 21	9:00am
Sunday, January 3	No Submissions	No Submissions

Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the 2016 January Newsletter is 9:00am on Monday, December 14.

Publication:

January 2016 Newsletter

Deadline:

Monday, December 14

Time:

9:00am

Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website (uuaa.org) to webtech@uuaa.org.

Building & Office Team:Ed Lynn, Interim Administrator, ed@uuaa.orgDeby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.orgArthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

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