

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

March Newsletter

March 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 3

Worship @ UUA

Congregational Links

UUA Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)
[Social Justice at UUA](#)
[UUA.org](#)

Other Links:

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

Join Our Mailing List!

Worship Services begin
at 9:30 & 11:30am
followed by Social Hour.

March 1, 2015

The Art of the 'Matter'

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music, preaching

A growing chorus of American voices-
in New York and Detroit,
in Ferguson and Ypsi, in line and online-
cries out the hopeful refrain "Black Lives Matter."

Will this Congregation have a verse to sing?
How will it sound?
And when will we write it?

March 8, 2015 Clocks Forward One Hour "Inside Brown Chapel"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer with Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
and Rev. Mark Evens

After "Bloody Sunday" on the Edmund Pettis Bridge,
The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issued a call
to clergy to come and join the Civil Rights march from
Selma to Montgomery. Fifty years ago Unitarian
Universalists responded to Dr. King's Call to Selma.
Today we revisit the call, retell the stories, and reaffirm
our commitments to dignity, worth, wholeness, and
justice for each person, all persons.

MARCH 15, 2015 The BIG SING 4:00pm 150th Anniversary Music Event

A Choral Gathering and Community Sing Along!
Bring Your Friends!

March 15, 2015 Our Story Sunday

Wear 150th T-Shirts!

"Singing for Our Lives"

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music, preaching

Eight years ago you sang to me
and saved my life.
Who's next?

March 22, 2015

"U(being)U"

YRUU: Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Finding our place in the world and exploring Unitarian Universalism in our lives.

March 29, 2015

"Reflections on Humility"

Many Voices

Several voices from the Congregation consider their experiences of humility. Rev. Mark will reflect on the intersection between humility and our Congregation's capacity to fully include people with mental and physical disabilities.



Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All,

I am inviting everyone within the embrace of our Congregation to pick up a button and join in the movement to affirm #Black Lives Matter. Buttons are available on Sundays and in the Church office.

BlackLivesMatter.com asserts that they represent a movement., not just a moment. I encourage each of us to learn about #BLM. Find them on Twitter, on their web site, on Face Book. In 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. sent hundreds of telegrams calling upon clergy to come to Selma after Bloody Sunday. In our time, #Black Lives Matter is sending Twitter messages, posting to Facebook and on the web, beckoning all people of good will to strengthen the movement for human dignity now. In our time.

We can respond by wearing the buttons. We can join in the conversations offered by our Challenging Racism Group. We can learn Black History, read Henry Louis Gates, and visit the Charles H. Wright African American History Museum in Detroit.

We can read Unitarian Universalist authors. Richard Leonard, *Call to Selma*, Gordon

Gibson, *Southern Witness*, Mark Morrison-Reed, *The Selma Awakening*. Rev. Morrison-Reed will be here at UUAA the first weekend in May. He will host workshops on his writing and he will preach with us on May 3.

We can respond to institutionalized racism by diversifying our news sources. Find the app for *The Root* or *NewsOne*. Look for news and commentary written by and for Black people.

We can respond and push back against racism by using the rich and deep resource of our religion. Unitarian Universalism is a religion growing in the heart of the intersection between Love and Justice. There are resources in the hymnal, in the bookstore, in the witness of other UUs, and in the practice of coming together each week for Spiritual Growth and Development.

And we can sing. There will be joy in the work of rebuilding our society. We can bring purpose and joy and tenacity when we sing together. Come to the Big Sing on March 15. Be part of the Big Sing, sign up and join your voice.

No matter how lonely we get, no matter how depleted or confused or misdirected we may get, we can always come back to center on Sundays. Come, be a part of the weekly Celebration of Life each week. Come, be a part of the core practice that will turn our society toward Love and Justice. Come, learn and teach and celebrate how it is that we shall never, never give up on our vision of a Beloved Community, woven together in Martin Luther King's vision on "an inescapable network of mutuality," gathered in the clear waters of human dignity for all. For. All.

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail



Musings
Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Humility

As part of our developing effort to integrate worship themes with other areas of Congregational life, we are coordinating two worship themes with Chalice Circle topics this program year. The first topic was "Silence," which I addressed on December 7, 2014 with a Worship Service titled "Silence and Waiting".

Our current topic is "Humility". Rev. Gail preached on humility on February 8, 2015. On March 1, 2015 the one-time Chalice Circle theme will be humility (sign up in advance in the Social Hall to participate). On March 29, I will lead a Service including selected Congregants sharing personal stories and reflections that touch on some aspect of humility. The Service will include a homily from me on connections I see between humility and better welcoming of those with disabilities in our Congregation.



If you find this topic to be highly meaningful AND would like to share and reflect on a personal story of your own (think "I statements") as part of this Worship Service, write up a draft or outline of your story and points you want to reflect on. Email your

draft or outline to mark@uuuaa.org with an email subject of "March 29 2015 Worship" by March 8, 2015.

All submissions will be appreciated and acknowledged. Congregants selected to participate will edit and refine their piece in conversation with me and present it at both the 9:30am and 11:30am Worship Service on March 29, 2015. Completed pieces will be between 300 and 600 words in length, roughly 3 to 6 minutes of speaking time. If you like to write, but are not yet ready to speak before several hundred people who love you, it's possible that Rev. Mark might deliver your piece for you.

Gratitude: Monday, March 9 Senior Luncheon to Thank Meredith Ley for Her Service.

Meredith Ley served as our Pastoral Care Coordinator twelve hours per week from April, 2010 to January 12, 2015, when we ended this position due to budget constraints. During this time Meredith did a lot to build up and develop the Pastoral Care program. She touched many lives in positive ways. In recognition of her work, Meredith will be the guest of honor at the Senior Luncheon on March 9, 2015 starting at noon in the Social Hall. All are invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to express gratitude for her caring service.

In Faith,
Mark



Board of Trustees

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



Okay. Confession time: I sing in my car. Not just with the radio or mp3. Not just quietly. I sing choir music out loud, while driving to and from work. It makes me feel good. So why am I telling you this? Our music director, the inimitable Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout is fond of saying, "Music saves lives!" and he's right! It saved me - twice! After the death of my mother when I was a young child, music became an important part of my life. It was my refuge. After not making music for quite a while, I joined the Chalice Singers about six years ago and now I think of myself as a musician again. Judging by the size of the choir and the exuberance of voices on Sundays, I'm not alone. We are a singing Congregation with a vibrant music ministry.

You make that happen! Through your attention, appreciation, voices, and through your generous financial support. In addition, we have a dynamic Spiritual Growth and Development ministry for all ages and are blessed with a 150 years of reason and compassion in action supporting the defining social, racial, and ethical issues throughout our history. You make that happen too - through your love, service, and generous financial support.

I thank you for all you give and do and hope that you also receive the kind of support that this loving community offers - whether it is through music, worship, spiritual

growth, pastoral care, small groups, retreats, social justice work, or just a friendly word. This Congregation sings and saves lives!

In March and April, the Board of Trustees will be asking everyone to consider increasing their 2015 Operating Pledge. Over the past several years, we have been deferring important investments in our mission, ministries, and physical plant to make ends meet, but have reached a point where continuing along this path would not be responsible. We need your help. Please take time to review the upcoming request and give serious consideration to increasing your financial support to a sustaining level, so that we will continue to be a liberal religious beacon in the Ann Arbor area.

Hope to see you at the Big Sing on March 15!

Ken Clein
Board President



150th Anniversary Celebration



Mass Choir Rehearsal * Saturday, March 14

There will be a Mass Choir Rehearsal and Fellowship from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Scores and lunch will be provided. No choral experience is necessary.

To participate, contact Glen Thomas Rideout at glen.thomas@uuaa.org.



The BIG SING * Sunday, March 15

The goal is to host 150 singers from around the state in a hybrid choral festival/statewide collaboration/community hymn sing to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

Performances will include: "Breaths" by Ysaye M. Barnwell, "Set Me As a Seal" (from *A New Creation*) by René Clausen, "Alleluia Incantation" by Andrew Miller, and "It Takes a Village" by Joan Szymko. Meet at the Church at 4:00pm.

Questions? Contact Glen Thomas Rideout at glen.thomas@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary Member Chalice Lighting * Sunday, March 15

This year, as the 150th year is celebrated, Congregational members are honored by inviting each member to take part in lighting the chalice at the beginning of special "Our Story" Services. Members who have signed the membership book in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s have been honored. Each member is invited to take part in one or both Services if you signed the Membership Book in:

2000-2010: Sunday, March 15

2010-2015: Sunday, April 12

An email invitation will be sent close to the date as a reminder. Hopefully all will be able to be there.

Questions? Contact Co-chairs Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at

birthday150@uuaa.org.



150th on the Horizon

Sunday, April 12: "Our Story Sunday": Reason and Compassion in Action.

Saturday, April 18: Historic Buildings Tour: Tour two historic church buildings at the corner of State and Huron (now Hobbs & Black) and at 1917 Washtenaw Ave (now the Stone Chalet Bed and Breakfast).

Thursday, May 14: A Service celebrating the founders on the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Articles of Association at 7:30pm.

Saturday, May 16: Panel discussion on the Dawning Future of UU from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

Sunday, May 17: Celebratory Service for all ages at 10:30am.

Sunday, May 17: A special Service of Commemoration and Commissioning featuring keynote speaker Rev. Vanessa Southern at 4:00pm.

Questions? Contact co-chairs Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at

birthday150@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary Tile Sales

Orders for this beautiful commemorative tile made by Ann Arbor's Motawi Tile will be accepted through Tuesday, March 10 for delivery at the end of April. The tiles are priced at \$35 each. They may be ordered through www.uuaa.org or at the History table during Social Hour through March 10.


Questions? Contact Margaret Pekarek at 734-998-3522 or

mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com.



Historic Building Tour Tickets

Plans are underway for the tour on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00 to 3:30pm of Ann Arbor buildings once home to this Congregation. The tour will include what is now the Hobbs and Black architectural offices at the corner of State and Huron. The tour will be led by congregational President Ken Clein. All can view the famous Tiffany window. The tour at 1917 Washtenaw, now the Stone Chalet Bed and Breakfast, will be led by Minister Emeritus Rev. Ken Phifer. Local historian Grace Shackman will assist, and stories of the building and congregational life will be told.


The tours are free, but those wishing to participate must have a ticket in advance. Tickets will be available on a first-come-first-served basis in the Social Hall in March. There are limitations on numbers who can participate. Note that there are some accessibility issues for both buildings. Minimum age for the tour is 16. Questions? Contact Kathy Edgren at kkedgren@gmail.com or 734-424-3019, or Lucy Bauman at lucy.bauman@gmail.com or 734-761-6394. 

150th Anniversary in Review

Photos and videos and more. Keep abreast of all the wonderful things happening at the Church commemorating the 150th anniversary at the web site: <http://uuua.org/index.php/about-us/birthday150>. Find photos, the Klein Lecture video, Ken Phifer's sermon video, and letters of congratulations from partner organizations.


Questions? Contact Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at birthday150@uuua.org. 

Donate Frequent Flyer Miles


The 150th celebration in May 2015 will include special guests who will fly to Ann Arbor for the occasion. Those interested in donating frequent flyer miles as airfare for a guest may send information that includes the airline and the number of miles gifted to Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu. 

Activities and Events

Spring Fling * Monday, March 1

Teachers and youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to the first Spring Fling Youth Event from 12:45-3:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. The event will have lunch, games, and an open area for contra dancing. Enjoy live music with a caller and teacher for the contra dancing. Teachers and youth in grades 6-12 are welcome. Strengthen the connections within the youth community. Questions? Contact Stephanie Surfus at stephaniesurfus@hotmail.com or 734-276-2779. 

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, March 4

Unless old-man winter interferes again, seniors will meet at Gourmet Garden for fun and conversation at 6:00pm. Wear a smile; a group picture will be taken. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com. 

Turn Clocks Forward * Sunday, March 8

Benjamin Franklin conceived the idea of Daylight Saving Time. On April 26, 1784, at the age of 78, Franklin wrote *An Economical Project*. This was a whimsical debate on the thrift of natural versus artificial lighting using an oil lamp to explain his points. Over two centuries later, nations around the world use a variation of his concept to conserve energy and more fully enjoy the benefits of daylight.

Remember to turn those clocks forward at 2:00am. 

Mindful Eating Coalition Book Read * Sunday, March 8



The UAAA, through Mindful Eating, will participate with other congregations throughout Ann Arbor in a several-months-long discussion on Food Justice.

There will be a discussion of the book *How Faith Communities Can Change the World One Meal at a Time* on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00pm. A panel of interfaith leaders and participating book study groups will explore how our faith traditions deal with issues of food justice and how these communities can

make changes toward a more just food system at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch.

To prepare for this interfaith panel, all UAAAs are invited to read then discuss the book on Sunday, March 8 at 1:00pm in the Jackson Chapel. Join in one or both events; reading the book is optional.

Book copies are available at QUUest bookstore, or contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net to borrow a copy.



Senior Potluck Honoring Meredith Ley * Monday, March 9

At noon, there will be a luncheon in the Social Hall to honor Meredith Ley for her work as Pastoral Care Coordinator. Meredith served in this role from April 2010 to January 2015. During this time, Meredith helped the Pastoral Care program grow in visibility and made many lasting contributions to its health. She has touched many lives in positive ways.



Roll-up sandwiches will be provided. Members are invited to bring a salad or dessert to share as they are able. To assist with planning, sign up at the Involvement Table in the Social Hall or contact Joan Burleigh.

Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com or 248-219-7583.



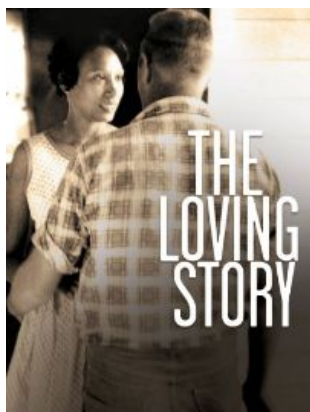
Round Robin Dinners * Friday, March 13

Dinners are held on the second Friday of each month in members' homes for small groups of adults. The dinners are potluck in style and provide the opportunity to foster community by sharing food and conversation with other congregants. Increase a sense of belonging by getting to know more people in the Congregation. To be added to the list of participants, contact Sally Preston at sally@pctraining.net. Reservations for the Friday, March 13 dinner must be confirmed by Wednesday, March 4.



Interweave Film Night * Friday, March 13

Interweave invites all to the first film of a monthly spring film series. A potluck dinner will begin at 6:00pm. The film *The Loving Story* will begin at 7:00pm. This highly acclaimed documentary has many parallels to today's struggle for Marriage Equality. Bring a dish for the pot luck dinner prior to the movie. A brief discussion of the movie will take place afterwards.



This Oscar-shortlisted film is the definitive account of the landmark 1967 Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage: *Loving v. Virginia*. Married in Washington, DC on June 2, 1958, Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter returned home to Virginia where their marriage was declared illegal - he was white, and she was black and Native American. Hope Ryden's luminous, newly discovered home movie footage of the Lovings and their feisty young lawyers and rare photography by Grey Villet are stitched together in the debut feature by Full Frame Documentary Film Festival founder Nancy Buirski in a film that takes viewers behind the scenes of a pair of unlikely civil rights pioneers and their real-life love story.

Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.



Islam & Muslims 101 * Sunday, March 15

Standing on the side of love with our neighbors begins by learning about who they are. Come to this discussion in the Fahs Chapel from 1:00 to 2:30pm to learn more about what Muslims believe, how they practice, and where they come from. Common UU misperceptions about Muslims will be addressed as well as the active efforts to promote and fund Islamophobia in America that are contributing to them. Presenter Jaye Starr was raised as a UU before embracing Islam. She is currently completing an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Christian Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary as well as a G.C. in Chaplaincy.

Co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council, Challenging Racism, and Justice in the Middle East. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



Interweave * Sunday, March 22



Join between Services at 10:45am for an Interweave Circle in the Fahs Chapel. Interweave circles help to create deeper connections with each other, and widen each embrace. TBLGQI people, their children, friends, and allies are welcome.

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



Game Day * Sunday, March 22

Beat the cold weather from 1:00 to 4:00pm for a multi-generational day of board and card games. Some games will be available, but bring a favorite and introduce it to others. Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even without a dish. Questions? Contact Arthur Prokosch and Bethany Ramirez at bethanyramirez@gmail.com.



Announcements and Notices

2014-2015 Annual Reports

It is that time of the year for each recognized congregational group to prepare



information to share with the Congregation in an annual report.

The annual report deadline will be Monday, April 27 1 at 5:00pm. A full collection of all annual reports will be distributed before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 31.

Recognized congregant group leaders are encouraged to write an annual report. Basic elements to include are:

- The recognized group's name.
- The author of the group's report.
- A brief description of the group or ministry.
- A description of how UUA core values were met by the group.
- Highlights of activities that took place (from approximately May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015).
- Goals reached.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Described future ideas, plans, and goals.

Send the report to annualreport@uuaa.org. Early submissions are welcome.



Challenging Racism News

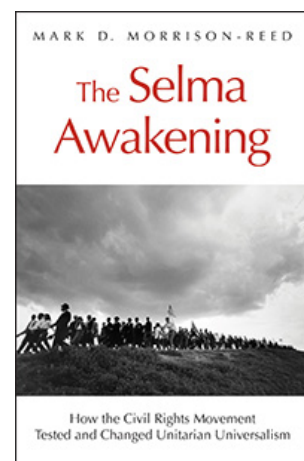


In February, in response to the "Welcoming the Stranger" Service and Sanctuary Family history, a small group started up under Challenging Racism sponsorship: The Immigration Action Coalition.

The initial mission of this group is to form stronger relationships with county partners such as the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR), Casa Latina, the Washtenaw ID Project, and the Latin American Task Force of ICPJ. The group then wants to help direct congregant energies into hands-on action projects like the WICIR Rapid Response (to ICE Raids) team, ESL tutoring, and needed volunteer support for immigrant families. Once the groundwork has been laid, the plan will be to have few meetings, spending time on concrete actions. Want to learn more or help out? Contact Cheryl Valentine to be on the contact list at cherylntzmervvalentine@gmail.com

Attend the group's Saturday, March 7 meeting at UUA from 10:00 to 11:30am. This spring Challenging Racism, the UU Social Justice Council, the League of Women Voters, Reclaiming Our American Democracy (ROAD) and ICPJ will memorialize last year's showing of *Inequality for All* with a new film about corruption in political campaigns, *Pay 2 Play: Democracy's High Stakes* on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Program details to be announced.

A Book Discussion of *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism* by UU Rev. Mark Morrison Reed will be held on Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Jackson Chapel. Charlie Pekarek and Lucia Heinold will facilitate. Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be preaching at UUAA for both Services on Sunday, May 3. The book is available at the QUUest Bookstore or from UUA. An eBook is available in the Amazon Kindle store and on Google Play.



Sign up for a workshop with UU minister and author Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed on Saturday, May 2 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. "African-American Unitarian Universalists: Exploring our Heritage and History through the written works of Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed." It's two hours of lively UU history as seen through his various books and includes a debriefing lunch at 1:00pm.

Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Adult SGD Spring Catalog



In the icy grip of winter, it might be hard to think beyond the onslaught of record low temperatures, but members of the Adult Education Advisory Team have been helping prospective teachers and facilitators prepare and submit proposals for classes in the Adult SGD Spring Term. Space in the building has been reserved on most days of the week.

On Sunday, March 8, the Spring Catalog will be published online at www.uuaa.org and in hard copy. There will be registration by email and on paper in the Social Hall between Services. Spring Term classes and workshops will begin within days to provide opportunities to engage in conversations that matter in quiet surroundings with fellow members of this community.

Think of it like a seed catalog.

Questions? Contact Charley Burleigh at chburleigh@aol.com.



Adult SGD Class

Reflection and Learning Project on Israel-Palestine will be on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

UUAA Justice in the Middle East (JME) will offer a repeat of the Adult SGD program on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Sessions will meet at 7:00 to 8:30pm on all four Wednesdays in March. Course materials



include a 72-page Study Guide and DVD that are provided free of charge thanks to a grant from the Community Church of New York-UU.

March 4 (Jackson Chapel):	The Zionist Enterprise - History Before 1948
March 11 (David Room):	A Jewish State - History After 1948
March 18 (Jackson Chapel):	Christian Theology and U.S. Middle East Policy
March 25 (David Room):	Voices of Faith for Justice in the Middle East

"Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide" curriculum will be used. It was developed by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church. It examines the historic and current realities of anti-Semitism, the Jewish nationalist movement known as Zionism, Christian Zionism, and their religious and political impacts. The ethical, moral, and political implications of a scheme to end the persecution of one group by dispossessing another group will be discussed.

In struggles for freedom, justice, and reconciliation between peoples, religious institutions have played a major role by providing a theological critique of ideologies of discrimination, domination, forced separation, and dispossession. This course is designed to foster a respectful discussion among Unitarian Universalists on the fundamental issues driving this conflict.

Register by signing-up at UUAA-JME table during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact Anne Garcia at awgarcia@wccnet.edu or Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com.



Partner Church
by Jan Bower



Since September, those who went on the June 2014 pilgrimage to Transylvania have been sharing their stories in the newsletter. Here is Jan Bower's story about her personal connections with what she saw and experienced.

"Childhood memories coming alive.

When I was very young, my grandmother would sew for my doll the ethnic clothing of the girls of her childhood. She told me stories of when she was growing up in a far-away place across the sea many years earlier. Her parents were tenant farmers in a place then called Austria Hungary, which is now in the part of Romania called Transylvania. From what she described to me, Granma lived in a small village similar to the one we visited when we were there this past June.



The houses were attached to sheds where animals were kept. As I remember, Granma spoke of a few chickens, fewer pigs, and perhaps a cow or goat. Granma and her sister left home with few material possessions to come to the US in 1916. But they did bring with them pieces of the culture they had left behind. Chicken and meat dishes flavored with paprika were a mainstay of our diet. Sandwich cookies with apricot or plum filling and finely ground walnuts on top

were baked from Thanksgiving until Christmas and stored in tins on the back porch. Strudel was also part of the preparation.

How thrilled I was then to find that what I had only imagined as a child was still, in many ways, the life in the Transylvanian village we visited. As in the time of my grandmother, houses were attached to barns where a few animals were kept. The beauty of the Carpathian Mountains in the background made the scenery even dreamier for me. Inside the homes, the food flavors were identical to what I savored as a child. I was not surprised then to find that the trees we saw growing were apricot, plum, and walnut. And the clothing my grandmother sewed for my doll? Not only did I see these outfits on dolls in the market, but the girls at the church service we attended wore them to celebrate our stay. I never thought that I would actually see in reality the images of my childhood. How extremely fortunate I was and how appreciative I am of having been able to make this visit."



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project

Feel frustrated by the fierce winter cold, icy roads, sloppy snow? The antidote to winter chill is a hot cup of Equal Exchange coffee, tea, or cocoa. Every purchase from the UUSC Coffee Project helps the farmers who grew the products get fair exchange for their work. It helps the UUSC promote cooperatives to give small farmers opportunities to make a decent living. Many of those who benefit are women who are too often denied the chance for success. Plus, as UUSC President Bill Schultz described when he spoke last fall at UUAA, the UUSC works to right injustices around the world.



Purchases of Equal Exchange products also benefit this church. On sale every Sunday in the Social Hall, first-class products at reasonable prices. Ten different flavors of chocolate bars; more than a dozen different coffees, whole bean and ground, caffeinated and decaf, dark and medium roasts. Teas, cocoa, dried fruits, nuts, and olive oil. All of excellent quality. So, ward off the chilly end-of-winter doldrums and make a real difference by supporting the UUSC Coffee Project.

Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at cathie@breidenbach.net.



All-Church Gathering Registration

Interweave and friends invite the Congregation to a spring gathering. Join on Saturday, April 25 for singing, small group sharing, and a catered dinner.

Click here for the [registration form](#). Register at the Interweave table in the Social Hall. Scholarships are available upon request. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.



Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

Save these dates:



The MidAmerica Regional Assembly will occur Friday to Sunday, April 17 to 19 in Naperville, Illinois. Hear from great speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and meet and mingle with UUs from all over the Region. Go to www.midamericauua.org/RA to see all the events and to register. Youth are welcome and childcare is offered. Limited partial

scholarships are available. Hotel rooms are available at a group rate. Those who plan to attend, sign up at the Social Justice/DCT Table during Social Hour. Deadline to register at the early bird discount is Sunday, March 15.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. See <http://www.uua.org/ga>. Attendees will worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2015 General Assembly will be Wednesday to Sunday, June 24 to 28 in Portland, OR. The theme for the 2015 GA will be "Building a New Way". The religious, cultural, and demographic landscape in the United States is changing dramatically. There are many kinds of Unitarian Universalists - some deeply involved in their congregation and others who reject the traditional forms of the institutional church. The denomination is looking for people to work within a congregation and those to work beyond congregational walls to participate in General Assembly 2015. The Congregational Study/Action Issues will be [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](#) and [Escalating Inequality](#). GA is multigenerational and inclusive, with an active youth and young adult contingent. Scholarship and volunteer opportunities, childcare, and accessibility services are available. Sign up at the Social Justice/DCT Table.

Questions or suggestions? Contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.



Alpha House Thank You



A successful Host Week that was held from Monday to Sunday, February 9 to 15. A HUGE thank you to the many people who called the volunteers, brought food, prepared and served meals, played with the kids, and/or stayed overnight. It could not have been done without these volunteers: Carey Allen, Heather Banet, Shelly Banet, Delphine Benard with Claire, Suzanne Benloucif, Jon Boyd, Sandy Breck, Ann Brennan with Krushelnic, Lara Brown, Kim Clugston, Carol Cramer and Thomas Longworth, Matthew Cunningham, Sandy David, Susan David, Suzanne Davidson,

Jeff Della Rovere, Melanie Dever, Fran Dew, Jo Anne Diehl, Vicki Echegoyen, Sandy Eyl, Diane Fead, Barb Gales, Madeline Goodson, Amy Grant with JC Grant, Venus Gregory, Dixie Hibner, Carli Hildebrandt with her two children, Beth Hospadaruk, Kate Hutchens, Amyleigh Johnson with her two children, Eva Johnson, Rick Johnson, Gloria Jones and her husband, Sivan Josef, Louise Kazarinoff, Robert Kropf, Cindy H Krueger, Paul Lalinsky, Dan Lane, Bridget Laundra, Lisa Lemble, Christine LePottier, Pauline Loewenhardt, Becca Manery, Sara Mathews, Kathleen McGaw, Cordelia McGovern, Connie McGuire, Angela Menegay with three children, Ki-Wing and Louis Merlin with Sam and Isaac, Kirsten Mogbo, Roen Montalva with Tim Farmer and children, Erin Moore, Steve Nason, Margaret Pekarek, Ms. Quist, Carrie Rheingans, Brandy Sinco,

Darien Skifstad, Tricia Smith, Linda Sprankle, Bennett Stark, Mary Lynn Stevens, Robert Tamblyn, Carol Thomas, Esty Thomas, Robert Treadway, Melissa Villanueva with two children, John Wakeman, Kate Wells, Sara Wesser, Terri Wilkerson with Spencer, and Carra Wilson with Joshua.

Apologies go out to anyone whose name has been misspelled or missed. Thank you, thank you for all the wonderful work on behalf of Alpha House during this Host Week.

The next Host Weeks at Alpha House will be from Monday, April 20 through Sunday, April 26, plus a portion of a week in August, and Thanksgiving week of November 25 to 29. In mid-March, an email will be sent out to the list of past volunteers with a link to the on line sign up for the April Host Week. That link will also appear in the Weekly Bulletin.

Send any comments, recommendations, or feedback from the volunteer work to Angela Barber, UUAA Alpha House coordinator, at abarber@gmail.com.



Habitat for Humanity



Very good news for the 2014 Good News Homes. Last summer, UU volunteers pitched in with 16 partner "Good News" congregations to rehab two homes on Rambling Way in Ypsilanti, turning them into well insulated, updated family-ready homes. In the Fall, the Sauls family became the new owners of 1101 Rambling Way.

Good News Homes is also very happy to announce that 1091 Rambling Way has an owner: Angela Peters, who is also a new member of the UUAA Congregation.

What a wonderful surprise to find that donations and the work painting, insulating, and siding would benefit a member of this Congregation. Angela's home is already well filled with love and laughter from Good News volunteers. Welcome Angela to this Congregation AND to her carefully rehabbed Good News home.

Watch for news about the 2015 Habitat for Humanity home projects as the work moves to a new neighborhood this summer. Visit www.uuaa.org/h4h to learn more about the partner families and about the annual Habitat for Humanity Good News projects.

Questions? Contact Sandy Simon at sandy@triltech.com.




Goods & Services Auction

Some have thought UUAA's Annual Goods & Services Auction had simply vanished, as if someone possessing magical powers had cast a spell upon it. Worry not. A team has assembled to conjure up another evening of good fun and fundraising. These folks have tentatively scheduled the festivities for Saturday, October 31, on Halloween. Lots of help is needed now and then to make this event possible. There are many more details yet to come. Interested in helping plan the event? Questions? Contact Pete Mooney at pmooney@sfplaw.com.



Church Office News

Communications Content Guide

Recognized Congregational groups who share activities and events in the *Monthly Newsletter* and *Weekly Bulletin* can access a Content Guide to aid in writing entries. Find deadlines and details on how many words to write, where to send each article, learn about Congregant contacts, and more. [Click here](#) for a copy. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at 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

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUA:

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

The deadline for submitting UUA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2015 April Newsletter* is 9:00am on Saturday, March 21.

Send your 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.

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 UUA, refer to the [Lay Leader Administrative Guide](#).

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Venus Gregory, Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, dewon@uuaa.org. 

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