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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

April Newsletter

April 1, 2016 - Vol 4, Issue 4

Congregational Links

UUA Links:

[Make a 2016 Pledge](#)
[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!

Weaving Worship

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

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

What Do You Notice?

On the cusp of a season changing to another, I have made a practice of sketching verses in my journal to remember what I noticed in those days of rapid change. This spring:

Heavy coats find pockets of dry and rest.
 Impatient tulips preview the purple
 they plan on wearing in a few weeks.

Gravel-peppered snow mounds
 (once resistant to snow plows)
 retire on the Huron
 to weave warm April rain.

Revival of colors you forgot the ground could make,
 blizzards translated into mounds of memory.
 Another earthen resurrection.

Just as any Michigan spring, of course.
 Different from the rest.

How do you engage the practice of taking deeper notice?
 How do you strengthen your capacity for reflection?
 How do we hone these vital tools of living within ourselves, our community, our world?
 Let us learn from each other.

For April's worship, we focus the question: "What do you notice?"



Leading this month's worship conversation:
 Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Senior Minister
 Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship and Music
 theresa rohlck
Worship Associate
 Lindasusan Ulrich, M.Div.
Assistant Minister



April 3
 Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

**Noticing You : A Smooth
 Stone Communion**

The roughest edges can be smoothed when stones
 move together.

Noticing ourselves in the Beloved Community.

April 10
 Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Where Breath Turns

Between what we take in
 and what we give out,
 is there a space for stillness?

Exploring the vital discipline of observation and
 reflection.

April 17
 Worship for All Ages (no SGD classes K-12; Nursery &
 PreSchool remain open)
 Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Earth Day
 "...for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
 and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
 which is natural which is infinite which is yes"

(from e.e. Cummings, "i thank You God for most this
 amazing day")

April 24
 Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

The Congregation welcomes Nic Cable, Ministerial
 Intern for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater
 Lansing, back to our worship planning team as guest
 preacher.



Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All;

Our March worship theme of "Renewal" has given way to a question for April. Who and what do you notice? In the natural world, the winter snow cover has melted to reveal mud and new growth and the general rubble of early spring. Daffodils close to our building on east facing walls are much farther along than the ones on the north side. And "things" are heating up in my email inbox.

Last month I announced that it was time for me to retire. The initial surprise is fading. But I'm noticing it is still a "big thing" in the week-to-week life of our church community. Folks who speak "systems theory" would say that our whole system is "twitchy." I agree.

When a change this large hits a system, there is a general disruptiveness that is normal and predictable. Folks who are happy with the change get agitated because even a welcomed change can be agitating. Folks who are not happy with the change get agitated because, again, change can be agitating.

All of this is normal. Right and honest though it may be, my retirement notice is a disruption. And disruptions trigger wider disruptions. (Think ripples from a pebble in a pond.) Some of us are angry, some sad, and some elated. And some of us go through those emotions all within a day or a week!

My own feelings are still all over the map. I am feeling the depth of loss. I weep to think of conversations cut off, of not watching our children grow, of not singing with you all each Sunday. I'm feeling timid about the magnitude of the changes on my horizon. And I have moments of deep calmness, the kind that comes from clarity.

There is no one right way to grieve or even to celebrate when change comes. It is really OK to be feeling whatever we are feeling, day to day or week to week. I take comfort knowing that our Congregation has walked through change before. We've been OK before, and we will be OK through this clergy transition as well.

Years ago I had a seminary professor named Harvey Guthrie. (Some of you know him. After he retired from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass, he came to Ann Arbor to serve at St. Andrews.) Harvey taught us this, over and over, "It's OK to be where you're at."

What I'm noticing as we enter April is how much comfort I'm finding in Harvey's wisdom. It's OK to be where you're at.

Love Abides,
Rev. Gail



Upon Reflection

Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister



As creation myths go, this one was pretty mundane: the yarn was on sale.

I'd just finished knitting a comfort shawl for someone and wanted a particular color for the next friend on my list. When my partner Emily showed me an ad where the yarn I use was half its regular price, I thought, "Oh, great! I'll check to see if they have anything suitable." While the color palette on offer didn't match my next giftee, I figured I'd buy several skeins anyway. Over time, I could build up a stock of shawls we could give to congregants having a tough time.

That's when the creative flutter of a "What if?..." showed up.

I was familiar with comfort shawl ministries from both my home and internship congregations - the church bought the yarn, and people donated their knitting or crocheting skills. Then when someone was grieving, or ill, or going through a particularly rough patch, the person would receive a comfort shawl. It was a tangible way to offer care to one another and a literal embrace of warmth from the congregation.

"What if," I thought, "we try an experiment? Just test the waters and see if anyone is interested in doing this?" Thanks to your generosity, I knew the Ministers' Discretionary Fund - which is intended, in part, to support experimental ministries - was available for the tiny financial commitment I was making that day.

As I shared the idea for my experiment with other staff members, we started generating more ideas for how it might evolve. For example, what if there was an informal monthly gathering where people met face to face to connect and work on shawls together? What about the possibility of making hats for preemies? Their energy convinced me I might be on to something. (I even went back to the store and bought a few more skeins while they were still on sale.)

But I wanted to avoid the temptation to promise more than I could fulfill. If we're serious about making our Congregation sustainable, then we have to take seriously how we allocate the resources called time and energy as well as money.

So for now, let's try this on. I'm delighted that several people have already emailed me about picking up yarn. One inquiry prompted me to find a crochet pattern to offer along with the knitting one. Maybe someone will get excited enough to start that monthly gathering, too. Already the co-creating has begun.

Where are you experimenting these days? How is intentional sustainability showing up for you?

Peace,
Lindasusan



Ordination of Lindasusan Ulrich * Sunday, May 7



Ordination of Lindasusan Ulrich

On Saturday, May 7 at 3:00pm, UUAU will ordain Lindasusan Ulrich to the Unitarian Universalist (UU) ministry. In UU tradition, the power to ordain ministers resides solely with congregations. In this case...that's you!

Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, co-minister at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, MN and Secretary of the UUA Board, will be preaching. Everyone is welcome!

The Ordination Planning Team can also use help. Volunteers are requested to help with organizing the reception, giving rides to guest clergy, ushering, and more. Donations of hotel points and frequent flyer miles to reduce the cost of the expenses for out-of-town participants are much welcomed.

For questions or to help with planning contact ordination@uuaa.org.



Board of Trustee News

President's Message Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to spring; a time of hope, renewal and change. I hope you have had a chance to review the transition timeline that went out via e-mail a few weeks ago and is also found on the homepage of our website uuaa.org under the [Ministerial Transition Updates](#) link. This link will be updated regularly as we have new information. Regarding change, I have been asked some very important questions. I hope I can answer them here to help you, however, please feel free to contact me or any Board member with other questions or concerns.



"Do we have to have an interim minister?"

1. Yes, while going through the search process, we need

another minister here to fill that role and work with us to prepare for our next Senior Minister.

"Why does it have to be for two years?"

1. The search process for a called Senior Minister takes about 12 to 18 months. There is just not enough time for us to complete that work for the 2016-17 cycle, which starts each spring.
2. We need time to say goodbye well to Rev. Gail and mourn our loss of our Senior Minister of eight years.
3. During the interim years, our Congregation has an opportunity to reflect, discuss, discern, and decide what we want from our next called Senior Minister. It is a process your Board is committed to doing right and not hurrying through.
4. We are in a different position than 11 years ago. We have worked hard to develop a governance structure that works for us. We still have work to do but we have learned from the past, and I am confident that the interim years will be good ones. We will move forward as the vibrant, active, and dedicated Congregation we have been for over 150 years.

"Does this mean Lindasusan will leave too?"

Lindasusan is a hired Assistant Minister with a two year, renewable contract. Her employment is not in jeopardy and is not tied to Rev. Gail's retirement.

To shift gears a bit, I'd like to offer something for you to consider....

When I was gathering information for the Congregational meeting in January, I asked Carolyn Barber to give me facts about our Scrip program. This is a fundraiser for the church. What appeals to me more than anything is that the income earned does not come from our own pockets but from businesses. I was shocked to hear that we only have about 30 members who buy them regularly and from this relatively small group, the church earns \$7000 per year. Just think what we would earn if 200 members or more used the cards - \$50,000! The process is simple: I pay \$50 for a Speedy Gas gift card, I get \$50 worth of gas, and the church gets a percentage of that because Speedy sells the card to us at a discount. SIMPLE. If you buy groceries or put gas in your car then there's no excuse why you don't use these cards. There are many, many other businesses that also participate such as: Whole Foods, Panera, People's Food Co-op, and Ace Hardware. You can learn more [here](#) or better yet, stop by the table during Social Hour and talk with Carolyn or any of the other volunteers who do the important work of raising money to sustain the ministries of this Congregation.

Be well friends,
Beth Hospadaruk
2015-2016 Board President
president@uuaa.org



Ministerial Transition Timeline

With the recent announcement of Rev. Gail's retirement in summer 2016, the Board of Trustees has been hard at work, learning, gathering information, and making decisions toward the future.

A link on the homepage of the UUAU website, uuaa.org.



has the most up-to-date information to learn about this [ministerial transition period](#). Check out this link regularly or ask any Board member. The basic timeline is below:

April 22, 2016| Application for an interim senior minister goes to the UUA from the UUAA Board of Trustees.

May/June 2016| Interviews with interim minister candidates (Board of Trustees), selection made.

July 31, 2016| All congregation gala farewell and good wishes party for Rev. Gail

August 2, 2016| Rev. Geisenhainer's last day at UUAA.

August, 2016| Selected Interim Senior Minister joins us for two years.

Spring 2017| Search Committee forms, meets with UUA consultant, begins search process.

April, 2018| Presentation of final candidate to the UUAA Congregation.

September, 2018| UUAA enthusiastically greets our 13th Senior Minister.

Questions? Contact Beth Hospadaruk at president@uuaa.org.



Activities and Events

UUJME Series * Saturdays, April 2, 9, 23, & 30

UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) will offer a four-part series designed to foster a respectful discussion among UUs on the fundamental issues driving the Israel-Palestine conflict. Sessions will meet on the following dates from 1:30pm to 3:30pm:

Part 1: Historical Context

Saturday, April 2 in the Fahs Chapel: The Zionist Enterprise - History Before 1948

Saturday, April 9 in the Fahs Chapel: A Jewish State - History After 1948

Part 2: Religion and US Policy

Saturday, April 23 in the David Room: Christian Theology and US Middle East Policy

Saturday, April 30 in the David Room: Voices of Faith for Justice in the Middle East



Part 1 will examine the historical origins and current realities of the conflict with a focus on anti-Semitism and the Jewish nationalist movement, also known as Zionism. The ethical, moral, and political implications of a solution to end the persecution of one group that results in the dispossession of another group will be discussed.

Part 2 further explores the role religious institutions play in either advancing ideologies of discrimination, domination, and separation; or promoting freedom, justice, and reconciliation between peoples.

Register by signing up at the UUJME table during Social Hour. Questions? Contact Anne Garcia at awgarcia@wccnet.edu or Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com.



Challenging Racism Film Series * Sunday, April 3

The third and last part in this series of film segments and discussions will be held on the issue of the ways racial codes, both spoken and unspoken, interfere in life. Questions or [to register](#) for the series? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Senior Dinner * Wednesday, April 6

Maybe spring will have sprung in time for a monthly dinner at Gourmet Garden at 6:00pm. All seniors are invited to come and enjoy each other's company and conversations. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.




Tofu Cooking Demonstration * Saturday, April 9

Mindful Eating will present a tofu cooking demonstration with Chef Ming from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the Social Hall. The tofu is locally made in Ann Arbor, organic, vegan, and cheap...what's not to like? Chef Ming will prepare the tofu and provide generous samples. A \$5 materials fee is requested. Questions? Contact Ruth Vail at ruthvail@aol.com or 734-913-2761.



Climate Action Group * Saturday, April 9

 Climate Action Group will host meetings on the second Saturday of each month from 12:45pm to 2:45 pm for the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). The meetings will be a dial-in to a national CCL expert talk followed by local discussion. For more information visit citizensclimatelobby.org. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu or 734-649-7945.



Dream Group * Sunday, April 10


Final session of the year: Come join a lively group of dreamers to share dreams, tap into sources of creativity, and find guidance through Active Dreaming. Some may re-enter dreams or act them out through dream theater. All are welcome from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the Brown Room. Questions? Contact Julie Tumbarello at info@dreamingjulie.com.



Friends of Restorative Justice (FRJ) * Tuesday, April 12

Friends of Restorative Justice (FRJ) was able to invite Fred Van Liew, an authority on restorative justice practices, to Ann Arbor for three days. This was accomplished with the support of the Social Justice Council, Shalom Community, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and other faith-based individuals.

Highlights of Fred's visit included a workshop on court-watching, a discussion with Sheriff Jerry Clayton at the Gerald Ford School of Public Policy, and a discussion with judges and commissioners to promote restorative justice - an alternative to the current punitive justice system. Those interested in finding information, participating in any of these activities, or advocating for restorative justice may contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com. See the play *A Tough Case* on Wednesday, April 20 in the Fahs Chapel at 6:45pm to find out what restorative justice looks like.

FRJ meetings will be held the second Tuesday of every month, with the next meeting happening on Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00pm in the Jackson Chapel. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com. 

2016 Annual Report * Thursday, April 14



It is time to consider what to share in an annual report about your recognized Congregational team's events and activities for the past year. The 2015-2016 Annual Report deadline will be Thursday, April 14 at 5:00pm. A full collection of all annual reports will be available before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 5.

Recognized Congregant team leaders are encouraged to write annual reports. To conserve resources - financial, environmental, and human - this year's annual report will be online only. Each group's report will appear as a link on the [2015-2016 Annual Report page](#).

Note: UUAUAA staff will not be able to provide the same level of detailed editing as in past years, so please be sure to proof each text before sending it in.


Aim for a word count of 250 to 300 words. When appropriate, use a bullet list to encourage others to read what has been shared. Basic elements to include are:

- The recognized team's name.
- The author of the team's report.
- A brief description of the team or ministry.
- A description of how UUAUAA core values were met by the team.
- Highlights of activities that took place from May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016.
- Focus on major themes or a few key accomplishments. Each report need not include every detail to give others the flavor of the group's ministry.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Describe future ideas, plans, and goals.
- Submissions beyond a word count of 250 to 300 words maximum will be returned for further editing.

Submit each annual report as a Word file to annualreport@uuaa.org. Early submissions are welcome. 

Men's Council Annual Dinner * Saturday, April 16

Join the conversation at 6:00pm in the Social Hall. Featured speaker, Domenic Tamborriello, LMSW will share on *Healthy Masculinity: Oxymoron or Hope for the Future?* All are invited; bring friends and significant others.

Tickets are available during Social Hour for \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. There will be a limited capacity of 100 attendees. Dinner will be catered by Tavolina (part of Sava's). Questions? Contact Kurt Skifstad at kurt.skifstad@gmail.com. 

How to Register for GA * Sunday, April 17



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, learn, connect, and make policy for UUA

through the democratic process. Anyone may attend. GA 2016 will be held from Wednesday to Sunday, June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio. Most events will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The drive is less than 3.5 hours from Ann Arbor.

The theme for GA 2016 is [Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect](#). The faith world is increasingly multifaithed. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels of Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist, and non-theist no longer define who or what to love, or how the spirit moves in lives. GA 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to create a new vision of faith that no longer divides, but connects to an interdependent future that works for all.

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) will sponsor events to encourage people to go to GA 2016. A forum: *Being a Delegate for the UUAUAA at GA* will be held on Sunday, April 17 at 10:45am in the Brown Room. Those interested in being a delegate, be sure to attend this forum where general questions about GA will be answered.

The UUA has three hotels next to the Columbus Convention Center at good rates. Registration is required online at uua.org/ga for both the conference and housing. The deadline to sign up for the conference before prices increase is Saturday, April 30.

Those interested in attending may sign a sheet located at the Social Justice Table during Social Hours. This list will be used to keep everyone abreast of GA 2016's important news.

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




Meet Your Farmer * Sunday, April 17

The *Meet Your Farmer* series will continue with a chance to meet Farmer Bill Schmid from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Participants have heard about all the great work volunteers have done on the Farm Project, like raising fresh and nutritious produce for Food Gatherers. Hear Farmer Bill talk about the history of the project and plans for the 2016 season, which kicks off in May. A light lunch will be served. RSVP at the Mindful Eating table during Social Hour or by contacting Colleen Crawley at ccrawley59@gmail.com.



Climate Action Group Forum * Sunday, April 17

 Join the discussion of "Earth Day: How can we best make progress on climate?" where the agenda is up to the participants. Discuss how to increase momentum after the Paris UN Climate Conference and toward major progress on climate change. Bring questions and ideas from 10:45am to 11:25am or 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu or 734-649-7945.



Alpha House Host Week * Monday - Sunday, April 18 - 24

The next host week at this shelter for homeless families will begin on Monday, April 18 and run through Sunday, April 24. Over 90



volunteers will be needed to provide meals, serve and clean up dinner, play with the kids, stay overnight, and to be day hosts. Sign up during Social Hours or at signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4daaaa2ea02-april. Questions? Contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



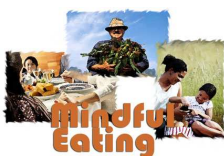
Tough Case Reading * Wednesday, April 20

Challenging Racism and Friends of Restorative Justice will present a dramatic reading of the Canadian play *Tough Case* by David S. Craig. The play tells the story of a 16-year-old boy who vandalized the home of an elderly widow and then, in an attempt at restorative justice, must confer with her on how to heal the harm he has done. In a restorative justice process, the community, the victim, and the offender have the opportunity to work together to repair the harm.

UUAU members Edith Croake, Phil Tuchinsky, Ric Witten, and others are featured in this production directed by Terry Madden. A discussion entitled "Can justice be done restoratively?" will follow. Meet from 6:45pm to 8:45pm in the Social Hall. Questions? Contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Mindful Eating Movie * Friday, April 22



Enjoy popcorn and a free showing of *The Other Inconvenient Truth: How Agriculture is Changing the Face of Our Planet*. Originally presented in 2014, this TED Talk features Jonathan Foley and "looks at the skyrocketing demand for food resulting in agriculture becoming the largest driver of climate change and environmental destruction." A discussion will follow. Presented by the Mindful Eating Coalition and the UUSC Coffee Project. Movie will start at 7:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at cathymuha@sbcglobal.net.



Khasi Hills "Big Hearts" Presentation * Sunday, April 24

After each Service, the Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student Committee will wrap up the 2016 sponsorship renewal with a presentation of *Celebrating Our Relationship with the Khasis*, a program by Mark and Nancy Kinney.



The new Hajom Kissor Singh Memorial Unitarian Church at Mawkisyiem in the Khasi Hills.

On their 2015 visit to the Khasi Hills, they represented the "Big Hearts" (as those in Ann Arbor are known there) at the dedication of a new Hajom Kissor Singh Memorial Unitarian Church in Mawkisyiem. Many members of the UUAU Congregation contributed to the building fund for the new church and will be excited to see the results of their generosity. Mark and Nancy will share pictures from the church dedication, of a visit to the famous "double-decker living root bridge," the training they ran for secondary teachers, and an international conference full of dancing, culture, and other

"interesting stuff." Be sure to join.

Questions? Contact Allen Duncan at aduncan85@gmail.com or Cathy Doherty at mysarina@aol.com.



Adult SGD * Wednesday, April 27

Join the discussion "Living the Secular Life in America Today," sponsored by the (hUUAA)manists and facilitated by Terry Madden. This series of three discussions will take place in the David Room from 1:30pm to 3:00pm on Wednesdays April 27, May 4, and May 11. Topics include raising kids without religion and how to cultivate morality; and death without an afterlife, coping with our own mortality and the death of a loved one.

The discussions will be based on Phil Zuckerman's book *Living the Secular Life*, which will be available at the bookstore in April during Social Hours. To register, contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Announcements and Notices

Rideout to Provide GA Worship & Music Leadership

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, our own Director of Worship and Music, will bring his leadership to several venues for this year's General Assembly (GA) in June. He will be Director of the GA Choir, Director of Music for the CLF Worship Service (Church of the Larger Fellowship), and lead Musician and Liturgist for the Grand Sunday Morning Worship Service.



This is an opportunity to showcase what UUAUAA is developing on a much larger scale. He will be teaching what is possible with our model of deep collaboration and theological reflection in worship preparation.



Board Votes Muslim Support at MidAmerica Regional Meeting

Rev. Gail reports this: "At their February meeting, our Board of Trustees joined their voice with the Boards from several Michigan congregations to endorse a statement to be taken up at the MidAmerica Regional Assembly. The Assembly will gather in St. Paul this year. The dates are Friday, April 29 to Sunday, May 1. Registration is now open at MidAmericaRegion.org.

The statement was drafted by clergy of the SouthEast Cluster in Michigan. After all the appropriate "Whereas" clauses, the statement is this:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The 2016 MidAmerica Regional Assembly expresses its love and support for Muslims in our communities and encourages congregations in the MidAmerica Region to

- *build bridges of partnership with Muslim neighbors in our local areas;*
- *increase understanding of Islam within and beyond our local congregations;*
- *learn more about the realities of religious discrimination and the Syrian refugee crisis; and*
- *work to foster greater inclusion of all peoples, regardless of their religious, ethnic, national, or racial identity(s).*

I am grateful to our Board for encouraging us so directly. I sincerely hope our Regional

Assembly hears this proposal and acts to support it." 


Accessibility Team News

The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) 2016 conference will take place in the Netherlands from Sunday, July 17 through Saturday, July 23. The theme will be *Winds Of Change: Global Connection and Climate Change*. What should be a faithful response to the threatened physical environment known as home? What spiritual responsibilities are shared as part of an interdependent web of existence? The ICUU is a network of member groups around the world working to inspire and support each other in building spiritual community.

Els Nieuwenhuijsen, former UUAU pilot test coordinator for the UUA Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Certificate Program, will submit an abstract for a participatory workshop to be presented at the ICUU conference. The title of the workshop is *Climate Change: Impact on Disability Issues and How UU Congregations Can Respond*.

At this workshop, three questions will be explored: What are the major disability-related issues associated with climate change? How can UU congregations develop strategies so that people with disabilities feel welcome and can participate fully? How does this apply to congregations and/or community?

During the workshop, Els will share examples from the AIM program, as well as some of her experiences as the coordinator of the Accessibility Team.

For those not able to attend this conference, a trial version of this workshop will be held on Sunday, June 5 at UUAU. Questions? Contact Els at elsni@comcast.net. 

Ele's Place Privacy

Ele's Place is a center that helps grieving families in the community. They gather in the UUAU home three days a week in the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) wing. In the rental contract with Ele's place, UUAU has agreed to help maintain the privacy they promise these grieving families.



To ensure this privacy, all are asked to enter by the main door to the UUAU building on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings and to not enter through the SGD lower entrance. All are encouraged to use rooms in the main building and not to visit or use rooms in the lower SGD wing during this time frame. Those groups that are scheduled in the upper SGD wing may use the main entrance to access rooms.

Let us help to provide an example of the core value of "Community" by providing a welcoming and safe environment where all feel valued and cared for by honoring the privacy that these grieving families at Ele's Place have requested.

Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuau.org. 

New Member Bio's

David Borneman

"I first found UUAU nearly 15 years ago when my older daughter was starting school. I wanted to give her a spiritual home but just couldn't go back to my own Lutheran roots. I immediately loved it here but wanted to join as a family. After my divorce, I found real refuge in this community. Again, I had hoped to join with a partner, but have come to realize that my commitment to this community doesn't depend on my family or a partner. YOU are my family. I've become most active in the Men's Fellowship here. I'm also the guy who burns the prairie every spring, which is part of what I do professionally."



Tracy Darrow



Tracy first visited UUAU in the spring of 2009 after returning from living for two years in Munich, Germany, with her husband Jeff and children Meg and Alex. She was looking to find the diversity of thought and culture they had come to love living in Munich, and she found it instantly here. Since then, her children have grown through the OWL and Coming of Age programs. Witnessing her children develop their personal credos is a treasured memory. She lives with her family in South Lyon.



Larisa Kruger



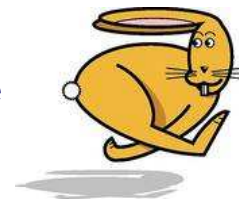
Larisa has been living in Ann Arbor since 2010 with her husband Travis. Larisa has since completed a Ph.D. in Pharmacology at the University of Michigan. She and Travis are looking forward to welcoming their first child this month. After many years of avoiding church experiences, they decided to try attending a UUAU service after listening to some of the sermons online. Larisa is looking forward to being part of the UUAU community and growing together spiritually.



Church Office News

Technology Upgrades are Here

The internet speeds at UUAU have received a big upgrade. The recent installation of Comcast cabling has brought higher internet speeds that will allow this Congregation to grow and thrive in online forms of communication and workflow.



Also, those who explore the main offices will see new phones. Currently, a Ring Central phone system is in the process of being installed. These new technology changes are an exciting addition to the sustainability of UUAU. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org.



Building Hours

Sundays | 8:30am-9:00pm

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

Friday | Closed

Saturdays| 9:00am-4:00pm

Church Office Hours| Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone| 734-665-6158

Fax| 734-665-7895

General Email| office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUAU

The deadline for submitting UUAU 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 UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2016 May Newsletter* is 9:00am on Thursday, April 21. 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.



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