

# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

## February Newsletter

February 2017 Newsletter - Vol 115, Issue 2

### Congregational Links

#### UUAA Links:

[Make a 2017 Pledge](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAA](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

[Geisenhainer Music Fund](#)

#### Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

### Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

#### February 2017 | The Art of Resistance

##### The Worship Planning Team -- February

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence  
Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development  
Cristy Cardinal, UUAA Member  
Rev. Doug Wadkins, Senior Minister  
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music  
Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister  
theresa rohlck, UUAA Member

#### February 5, 2017 | The Art of Resistance Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

The lasting work of justice requires an unrelenting, focused, resilient approach. Can we shape our dissatisfactions and our dreams, our anger, and our aspirations into an even greater force of loving resistance? How can our desire to be present to this time in history more effectively guide our work as a religious community?

#### February 12, 2017 | What's Love Got to Do With It? Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

In a season meant to celebrate love in all its forms, we notice the beauty and challenges of gift-giving. More than ever, this time can remind us how to give from a place of mindful love, to practice a radical embrace untethered from materialism.

#### February 19, 2017 | Micro-Graces Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

How can we respond to micro-aggressions, the subtle, indirect, sometimes-unintentional forms of discrimination we notice in our daily living? Last year, Rev. Lindasusan coined the term "micro-grace" to describe these everyday acts of resistance. For this service, we explore creative strategies to respond to injustice with care and candor.

It becomes more tempting by the day to motivate our resistance to injustice with rage. Yet, the lives and work of Dorothy Day, and King, and Gandhi make a convincing case for the effectiveness of non-violent resistance. What power will the "gentle, angry people" wield in today's work for universal justice?



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GTR'.

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout  
Director of Worship & Music  
[glen.thomas@uuaa.org](mailto:glen.thomas@uuaa.org)



## In the Interim

Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins, Senior Interim Minister

I write this on the weekend of the Inauguration, a time that I have dreaded since November 9. I also write in the midst of unprecedented protest with some event in all 50 states and in at least 32 countries. The Women's Marches have been an amazing and heartening worldwide phenomenon. However, as Micah White, one of the driving forces behind the Occupy movement, points out in a thought-provoking article in *The Guardian*, without a path from protest to power such events will not bring about political change by themselves. What matters is what happens in the days, weeks, and months after such a unifying experience.



By the time you read this we may know a bit more about the direction for our country, but we know that much of what has already happened raises intense concerns about the threat to core values of our country and our faith. We must work for change. White offers a brief history lesson about what does tend to bring about change, and he concludes in terms of true political change "we can march to the ballot box or the battleground." White is not advocating war, and neither am I, but he is advocating for a mobilization of this energy into effective political action that perhaps steps outside of the strategies that have come before. This work will require much of us all. In keeping with such truths, the Worship Team has decided to explore the theme of "resistance" for February. The Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association has also picked up the theme of "resistance" and is sending out weekly communications entitled "Resistance and Resilience" to aid the work of our clergy. That combination of exploring resistance and resilience feels right! I believe it is especially meaningful, upon further reflection on resistance, that it involves our entire being and asks us to start where we are in doing its work. (That phrase again!) Resistance may demand that we disobey things as they are, or resistance may ask us to just be ourselves and not hide who we really are. As one set of thematic source materials, *Soul Matters*, says about resistance:

*Sometimes it involves defeating the enemy; other times it is a matter of noticing that treating them as the enemy defeats us all.*

*Sometimes being a person of resistance is about fighting all the way to the top; other*

*times it's about picking yourself up off the floor and taking one tiny step. Sometimes it depends on the will to never let them win; other times it hinges on the wisdom to follow the path of least resistance.*

It certainly takes the form of speaking our truth. But more often than not, it's about the harder task of speaking the truth in love.

I hope you will join us this month as we explore this important theme in worship and beyond.

In solidarity!  
*Doug*

Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins  
Senior Interim Minister  
[doug@uuuaa.org](mailto:doug@uuuaa.org)



## Board of Trustee News

### President's Message

Beth Hospadaruk, Board President



#### Welcome to February!

So far, I'm feeling like spring is near as this weather we are having is not the winter weather I grew up with. Cold and snowy weather has always been weather I seem to just put up with in order to get to spring, but now that I don't have it, there is something missing. When I'm honest with myself, I realize that I actually value the cold and snowy weather. It is a time for me to reflect, rejuvenate, and plan for the coming year. It is sort of like hibernation, which is usually a time to slow down, save energy, and get through a period of less activity. I'm thinking that this weather is telling me something. There is no time to slow down, no time to rejuvenate, no time to be less active! We must all stay woke. I attended the Women's March on Washington, in Washington, D.C. Many of us here at UUAA attended. Many of us attended local marches. There is no time to be less active; now is the time to pick up the pace....and stay woke! No hibernation for us, none at all!

Speaking of picking up the pace, your Board of Trustees (BoT) has an important job to do this spring. We are tasked with forming a Search Committee that will have the great responsibility of selecting a candidate for our approval to be called as our next Senior Minister. As per UUAA Bylaws, the members of the congregation will vote for four members; the BoT will appoint three for a total of seven members. The following process was recommended by the UUA Transition Office and was shared and discussed at the January President/Senior Minister Q & A. It is a similar process to the one we followed in 2005 with one major difference. Instead of a nominating committee putting a slate of candidates together, the entire membership of UUAA will put the slate together. Please read the following and watch for further information coming in February on how you can participate fully in our democratic process.

**Search Committee -- Nominating Process:** The entire membership of the congregation is the nominating committee. Members will be asked to submit names in March of any member\* of UUAA whom they trust and respect to represent the entire congregation in the important work on the Search Committee for our next Senior Minister.

**January-February: Education Months.** The Board of Trustees will spend this time educating the congregation on the nominating process, advertising the methods of nominating, etc.

**March:** Members submit names via the various methods offered by the BoT. There is no limit to how many members can be nominated; it is allowable to nominate yourself.

**April-May:** The Board will spend this month contacting the leaders who have been nominated to determine if they are willing to serve in this capacity. The scope of the responsibility, including time commitment, will be explained thoroughly. These candidates will be asked to write their own bios to be shared with the congregation. This is the same process we use for the nominees for the Board of Trustees. The slate of seven to ten members will be announced and the bios will be published no later than May 14, 2017.

**June 4, 2017 -- Annual Meeting:** A slate will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Each nominee will have up to two minutes to introduce themselves and share why they would like to be elected to this position. Members will then vote for no more than four from the list. The four members voted in by the congregation will be announced at the end of the meeting. Within one to three days, the board will fill the other three positions from the original slate, and an e-mail blast will be sent to all members with the names of the seven members of the Search Committee.

**\*Member definition -- from our Bylaws:**

***Article III.1.1 Full Members:***

*Persons who wish to become Full Members are eligible to sign the membership book after consulting with one of the Ministers or attending orientation classes in order to acquaint themselves with the guiding principles and the heritage of Unitarian Universalism and to learn about the opportunities and responsibilities that accompany membership in the Congregation.*

*Any eligible person eighteen years of age or older who is in sympathy with the Congregation's purpose may become a Full Member.....*

***III.2.2 Leadership Roles:***

*Full Members may serve in the governing and leadership capacities established by these bylaws one (1) year after Full Member status has been conferred....*

***III.3.1 Financial Support:***

*Full Members shall make a pledge and financial contribution of record to the congregation's operating budget each calendar year. Such pledge and financial contribution of record shall be a condition of continued membership. This requirement may be waived for an individual by a minister.*

The next President/Senior Minister Q & A is scheduled for Sunday, March 26 (topic TBA).

Stay woke, be present, participate, and have your voice heard!

Be well, friends,  
Beth

Beth Hospadaruk  
2016-2017 Board President  
[president@uuuaa.org](mailto:president@uuuaa.org)



## Whole Congregation. Whole Week. Whole Lives.

This month, we are exploring the many ways we can resist injustice in our country and in our world. But a key part of resistance is educating ourselves about the issues and exploring potential solutions. This is why I am so proud of the work being done each week in our Spiritual Growth & Development classes for all ages.



- In our K/1st grade class, they have transitioned to a new curriculum that focuses on the importance of love and how different spiritual practices can help them create more love in their lives.
- In our 2/3rd grade class, they are exploring how interpersonal conflicts begin and how to resolve them or deescalate them. Each week they will practice concrete ways to cultivate more peaceful relationships, and these skills will prepare them for the more complex conflicts they will handle as adults. Maybe they can even pass these skills onto a few of our world leaders!
- In our 4/5th grade class, our children are using the story of Harry Potter to remind them that love can conquer the powers of hatred and injustice. They are also putting their love into action through a series of hands-on projects like food drives, book drives, and the most recent project - creating scarves to donate to local homeless shelters.
- In our 6th grade class, our children are not only learning about different world religions, they are also visiting different houses of worship to experience another's faith and build relationships. This willingness to learn about different religions will be crucial as they grow up in a diverse and closely interconnected world.
- In our 7th grade class, our youth are learning how to work together as a team and share leadership (more skills for our world leaders!). They are also exploring their values and have already had a chance to put their values into action by participating in the Rockin' for the Hungry fundraiser and hosting a Food Stamp Diet Potluck.
- In the Our Whole Lives class, the youth continue to learn that our bodies and our sexuality are sacred. They are getting concrete and accurate information about important issues like safe sex, and they have a space to explore what it means to be in a healthy relationship. This is a vital ministry for our youth, and I hope we can continue to expand it into the wider community in the future!
- In our Coming of Age class, youth continue to deepen their relationships with their mentors and are exploring some of the big questions: What is the purpose of life? What happens to us after we die? Is there a higher force? What does spirituality mean to me? During this critical transition time in their lives, they are also getting a chance to bond with each other through social events and social action projects in the community.
- In our YRUU class, the youth have been empowered to take on leadership roles and map out what they want to learn for the year. Together with their advisors and other volunteers, they've been able to explore topics that range from the history of voting rights to the life lessons found in improv. They've also worked to give back through projects like creating the haunted house at our annual

Halloween party and running the Apple Dumpling Fundraiser to buy presents for children at Peace Neighborhood Center.

- In our Adult SGD classes, we've offered a wide variety of classes to enrich our community, ranging from spiritual practices like the Heart Sutra Practice, to informational classes like Personal Decisions at Life's End, to social justice classes like Examining Whiteness. The spring catalog will be released around March and will feature many returning favorites plus enriching new additions. Are you interested in teaching something? Is there a topic you hope will be offered? This is the time to reach out and let us know! (email [cassandra@uuaa.org](mailto:cassandra@uuaa.org))

There are so many vital and exciting things going on in our SGD program that I am constantly renewed in my hope for the future. Each time we gather to learn and work together, we find the strength we need to create a "more just and peaceful world" for ourselves and for our children. May we continue to learn the art of resistance. May we continue to create love.

Rev. Cassandra Hartley  
Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development  
[cassandra@uuaa.org](mailto:cassandra@uuaa.org)



## Activities and Events

### UUA Senior Dinner Out \* Wednesday, February 1

It's that time again to gather for dinner at Gourmet Garden (2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor) at 6 :00pm to discuss church happenings, politics, family memories, or whatever comes up while enjoying continued friendships as well as new ones. No reservations are required. You can just show up. Questions? Contact Marie Duke, 769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



### First Friday Fun Night \* Friday, February 3

# ♥ FEBRUARY ♥

## FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, February 3rd, 6pm to 9pm

All are welcome to UUA A for the February First Friday Fun Night! This month will feature...

- a shared meal (\$5 suggested donation)
- classic video games
- a movie: The Princess Bride
- kid's crafts
- a knitting & adult coloring table
- a euchre room  
(back by popular demand!)

From September through May, all are welcome for a night of fun at the UUA A Congregation! Dinner will be provided, and donations are welcome.



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR  
4001 ANN ARBOR-SALINE ROAD // ANN ARBOR, MI  
Questions? Contact [firstfriday@uuaa.org](mailto:firstfriday@uuaa.org)



### Plant-Powered Family Potluck \* Saturday, February 4



Join Veg UUA A for healthful, delicious food, good cheer, and the sharing of information in the Social Hall from noon to 2:00pm. Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. Sign up during Social Hour at the Mindful Eating Table. Questions? Contact Sheila Sanders at [sheilasanders@comcast.net](mailto:sheilasanders@comcast.net).



### Khasi Hills Open House Gathering \* Sunday, February 5



**Quench your curiosity and palate.  
Come listen, eat, and learn.**

Join us in the Brown Room at 10:45am or 12:45pm for a light fare served after first service or for Indian food served after second service.

Hear a few testimonials from some of our UUA A members who have sponsored students. UUA A members sponsored 100 students last year.

See pictures of the charming Khasi people and the lush, rolling hills where they live. Learn what UUA A has been doing with Unitarians in the Khasi Hills since 1898. Learn where in India the Khasi Hills are, too?

Talk with a few of the five UUAU members who visited the Khasi Hills last October. If you're already a sponsor, drop by for a bite and to renew your sponsorship. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at

[cathie@breidenbach.net](mailto:cathie@breidenbach.net).

## Lives of Farm Workers in Michigan and U.S. \* Sunday, February 5



Join Kim Daley and friends of the Ann Arbor Solidarity with Farmworkers Collective from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel as they present the research of EMU Sociology of Work class about how farm workers in Michigan and beyond deal with many issues, including mental illness, sexual harassment, wage violations, and more. Light lunch provided. Questions?

Contact Cathy Muha at [cathymuha@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathymuha@sbcglobal.net).

## UUAU Alpha House Host Week \* Monday - Sunday, February 6 - 12



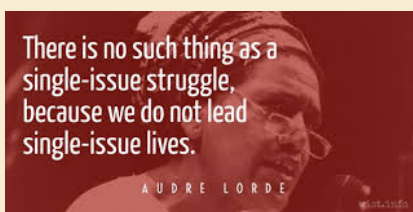
The next UUAU Alpha House Host Week will be from Monday through Sunday, February 6 to 12, 2017. Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Ninety volunteers are needed to provide meals, serve and clean up after dinner, play with the kids, stay overnight, and to be day hosts.

Sign up on Sundays during Social Hour or sign up online at the following link: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D4DAAAA2EA02-february](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D4DAAAA2EA02-february). Questions? Contact UUAU Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at [abarber@gmail.com](mailto:abarber@gmail.com).

## Community of Writers \* Sunday, February 12

Join the Community of Writers' monthly meeting from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the David Room. All are invited to read their original writings, discuss their writings, and participate in a group planning session. See the *Weekly Bulletin* for more details. Questions? Contact Mary Lund at [mlund@mi.rr.com](mailto:mlund@mi.rr.com).

## Interweave Potluck and Program \* Friday, February 17



All are welcome to attend a shared meal and program hosted by Interweave in the Fahs Chapel. The potluck begins at 6:00pm. We encourage all attendees to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Cider, decaf coffee, and tea will be provided.

The program for the evening will be from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Hear Cristy Cardinal's talk, Intersectionality -- What is it? Who came up with it? What does it mean? Cristy, a UUAU member and activist, will share the history of intersectional feminist theory, and will talk about the platform from the recent Women's Marches as an example of intersectional feminism at work. This will not be boring! We can promise you that. Bring your questions! For more information, contact Joan Burleigh at [joburleigh@aol.com](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com).

## Remarks on Middle East Peace - Sec. John Kerry \* Sunday, March 5



Join UUs for Justice in the Middle East in the Fahs Chapel from 1:00pm to 3:00pm to view remarks by outgoing Secretary of State John Kerry, followed by a discussion.

On December 23, 2016, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution condemning Israeli housing construction in East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank as a



"flagrant violation under international law" that was "dangerously imperiling the viability" of a future peace settlement establishing a Palestinian state. The vote was 14-0 with the United States abstaining. Supporters of Israel, including overwhelming majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, strongly criticized the Obama administration for not vetoing the resolution, while Palestinian rights advocates said it was "too little, too late."

A few days later, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke candidly about the dwindling prospects for peace in Israel-Palestine based on a two-state solution if Israeli settlement expansion continues. Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at [mjagner@yahoo.com](mailto:mjagner@yahoo.com).



## Announcements and News

### Food Buckets



#### Buying Power

Fight food insecurity and fake news with one purchase. In support of the Kellogg Company's decision to pull all advertising from "news" sites such as Breitbart, the UUAA Food Bucket program encourages you to show your support by purchasing one or more Kellogg products when making purchases for the UUAA Food Buckets. All Food Bucket donations go to the food pantries at UNIFIED HIV Health and Beyond (formerly HARC), a resource center for those living with or affected by HIV, and S.O.S. Community Services, a resource center for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. Donations are collected in the wooden case outside the Sunderland Library. Wish lists from each of our drop-off sites can be found posted above the collection area. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

### Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



In response to the prevailing sense of fear and rancor which has come to permeate our public life, the UUSC has offered a [Declaration of Conscience](#), which can be found on the website [uusc.org](http://uusc.org). It is a strong statement of Unitarian Universalists belief. I urge you to look it over and sign it as one small thing that we can do to continue with the activities/theme of Waitstill and Martha Sharp to defy hate.

UUSC is offering a series of three webinars dealing with immigration issues and refugees. The first, titled "Solidarity and Sanctuary," will have taken place by the time you have this newsletter, but there are two more, "Faithful Discernment: Is Your Congregation Called on to Offer Sanctuary" and "The Path Toward Sanctuary: a Practical Guide." There is legislation offered on the bill HR 3314, the Resettlement Accountability Act, and a related bill HR 5816, which would make admitting refugees illegal. The first has 86 sponsors, two added in the last six months. There has not been much movement on either of these, but it is hard to tell what the future holds.

UUSC continues its mandate to promote economic justice, support efforts to improve environmental justice, and protect rights at risk through grass roots collaborations in more than a dozen countries around the world. Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at [qnorthrup@gmail.com](mailto:qnorthrup@gmail.com).



### Restorative Justice

UUAA Restorative Justice received a request from Priscilla Cook, Mentor Coordinator

at the Federal Correctional Institution at Milan for help with an excellent program of mentoring inmates while they are still in prison to help for their re-entry. You will not be expected to continue with mentoring once the inmate is out because this is a federal prison and inmates are often from beyond Michigan. Priscilla has attended some of the Friends of Restorative Justice presentations and works closely with some of the faculty at University of Michigan.

Please read her blurb below and respond to Priscilla if you are interested. If you have questions, you may also contact Social Justice Council Co-Chair Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com). Training handbooks will be available at the Social Justice Table during Social Hour on Sundays, or Carolyn Madden can send an electronic version upon request.

From Mentor Coordinator Priscilla Cook

*The Federal Correctional Institution, Milan (FCI Milan) is a low-security male facility located in the town of Milan, MI. Our "Threshold" program is designed to help inmates prepare for re-entry into the community. One part of that program involves each inmate having a mentoring experience with a community member who can provide them with support and a role model. Mentoring involves regular meetings with the inmate. These meetings could be once-a-week or less frequent, although consistency is important to the relationship.*

*If you might be interested in being a mentor in our Threshold program, please contact me. We are planning on having a training session for mentors at FCI Milan in the early evening, February 28.*

*Sincerely,  
Priscilla*

Priscilla Cook,  
Mentor Coordinator, FCI Milan, P.O. Box 9999, Milan MI 48160  
PCook@BOP.GOV  
734-439-5527

## Memorial Reception Team Co-Host Needed

Have you ever heard of the Memorial Reception Team? This team helps to hold a memorial reception for a family member or friend at UUAA. Team members help set out food for the occasion, maintain a smooth flow during the reception, and clean up afterwards. Team leadership organizes team members and acts as the liaison with the family, caterers, and UUAA staff. Our previous team leader has taken on extra job duties, so we are looking for a volunteer to co-lead the group. Are you an organizer? Is there someone you like to work with? Contact Office Administrator Debby Casamatta at [deborah@uuuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuuaa.org).



## New Members

Tom and Marie Diane Bauld



Tom was born in Colorado, raised in Philadelphia by parents of limited religious commitment, and left the Episcopal church when his choir career ended. Tom received his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from University of Pennsylvania and went on to work at Detroit Sinai Hospital, U of M Hospital, and now is with the VA at the National Center for Patient Safety.

Diane was very involved with organizations that helped develop interesting activities for Boy Scouts. She was vice president of the Boy Scout Council and helped hundreds of youths have a wonderful scouting experience.



## Rev. Fran Dew

An active UU since 1964, Fran is happy to have UUAA as her congregation of aging. Her journey has included a long life as a registered nurse, uber volunteer, and UU minister. She lives in her maternal family's 19th century farmhouse where she gardens, walks, and reads through the long Michigan winters.



## Heather and Tim Kipp



Tim and Heather attended services at UUAA for several years and are excited to finally become members. They live in Ann Arbor and just welcomed their first child, Olive Evelyn, into the world on January 1. Tim works in Supply Chain at Domino's and Heather is a Marketing Communications Specialist at the University of Michigan. The Kipp family enjoys DIY home renovation projects, visiting new craft breweries, and traveling. Their adventures have recently taken them to South Africa, Ireland, and Mexico.



## Sara Seyfarth

Sara has lived in the Ann Arbor area for almost 30 years but first visited UUAA in the summer of 2015. She had been searching for an open and thoughtful space to practice spirituality for many years and was happy to find exactly that here. Sara is also delighted to announce the birth of her daughter, Charlotte, who was born on December 27. Sara is looking forward to her family being a part of the UUAA community.



## Office News

### Building Schedule and Publication Deadlines

#### Building Hours

**Sundays**| 9:00am-4:00pm

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

**1st & 3rd Fridays**| 5:00pm-9:00pm

**Other Fridays**| 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](mailto:office@uuaa.org)

### **Communicating at UUAA**

The deadline for submitting UUAA events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *Weekly Bulletin* is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to [bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org). Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

The deadline for submitting UUAA events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *March 2017 Newsletter* is Tuesday, February 21 at 9:00am. Send submissions to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org). Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website ([uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org)) to [webtech@uuaa.org](mailto:webtech@uuaa.org).

