

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

March Newsletter

March 2017 Newsletter - Vol 16, Issue 3

Congregational Links

UUAA Links:

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Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

March 2017 | Resilience

The Worship Planning Team -- March

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

Rev. Sean Dennison, Guest Preacher

theresa rohlck, UUAA Member

March 5, 2017 | Rev. Sean Dennison, Guest Preacher Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

To begin our month's exploration of "Resilience," we welcome the Rev. Sean Dennison to our pulpit. Sean has served congregations in California, Utah, and Illinois. He also considers his active social media presence a part of his ministry, including posting daily prayers on Twitter and Facebook since 2011.

Sean has served the Unitarian Universalist Association as a member of the Accountability Group for the Justice General Assembly 2012, chair of the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, and chair of the Starr King School for the Ministry Admissions Committee. Sean also helped to found TrUUsT, an organization for transgender ministers and religious professionals in the UUA.

March 12, 2017 | The Resilient Spirit Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

Resilience is a team effort. Resilience also requires some important soulful work. This service will explore some of the core components to fostering a resilient spirit.

March 19, 2017 | Worship as Resilience Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

Worship is more than just what happens on Sunday morning, it is the long-haul adventure of "shaping worth" out of what we experience in life. Worship is the place where we seek significant tools for our resilience. We also promote the resilience of worship itself in the ways that we understand what this communal time is about. Inspired by our recent conversations around worship this service will help us think about how this process helps us as individuals and as a community.

March 26, 2017 | Annual YRUU Worship Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

In an annual collaboration with the Worship Team, the YRUUs bring their creative voices to lead worship.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GTR", written over a light blue background.

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship & Music
glen.thomas@uuuaa.org



In the Interim
Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins

March moves us into another theme drawing from the larger wisdom of our worship team, and the sharing among colleagues of crucial resources needed to address the concerns for the future -- the sorts of concerns that a wide range of you have shared about reaching a particular urgency in your own life and in the lives of people that you care about. After exploring the importance, various pathways of, and sustaining underpinnings of Resistance, we turn our focus to Resilience. We know that this will not be a time of quick fixes and easy answers. We know that no matter how intentional and wise your choices are about navigating the coming months, that you will grow weary, feel overwhelmed, and sometimes perhaps just plain stuck. We will explore resources both within and around us that restore our strength and renew our higher resolve.



One important source of resilience, and one that we will explore together this month, is worship. In our recent opportunities to speak openly and listen deeply to each other about worship, so many of you in different ways indicated that when we gather for the services on Sunday morning, you are seeking renewal, clarity, and support for the important work of your lives. So we will explore later this month the ways that we best foster worship experiences that offer such possibilities for Resilience. I heard and received many, many comments, that you heard from each other the diversity of needs, expectations, and experiences that most powerfully speak to you in worship. There are some important ways that we can address the range of needs in worship together. Many of you expressed concerns about the length of the services, and over the past weeks the Worship Team has worked with care, intention, and perspective to be aware of service length. We are also exploring ideas about how to best use our time on Sundays. There was also much said about the power of words. The worship team cares deeply about the way word choice is so essential in our diverse community. I think of this area as one of the most crucial places where our resilience, as a community and individuals, is both demonstrated and strengthened in our communal time together on Sundays. There is much rich work to do here, and we are dedicated as religious professionals to exploring it with you. The depth, compassion, and candor of your sharing testifies to the power of worship in this congregation. There is certainly more to explore here than any one service or column can address, but we

will make progress. Together we will work to shape the pathway of its power thoughtfully and meaningfully to empower us to gain clarity, inspiration, and strength for coming days and weeks.

Blessings for our Good Work,

Doug

Rev. Doug Wadkins
Senior Interim Minister
doug@uuaa.org



Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich , Assistant Minister

By the time March rolls around here, it seems like the sky has been grey forever. I find it harder to remember that any other color exists, as though sunsets and sunrises are mythical phenomena that only happen in other parts of the world.

Then a clear day breaks through and the sky almost pulses with blueness. The sun feels sharp as it lands on unprepared retinas. And just as quickly, the clouds return and wrap the land in cotton batting once more.

In these days when the parade of political outrages seems endless, when it feels as though assaults on human dignity have increased exponentially, when the earth itself is threatened by callous greed, it's harder to remember that anything else is possible. But holding on to those blue-sky days - legislative and judicial victories, historical perspectives on past and current conditions, connections forged among unexpected allies, rampant creativity and humor - helps us retain our resilience when the greyness descends again.



How do you remind yourself of possibilities beyond your current reality?

Peace,
Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuaa.org



Board of Trustee News

President's Message

Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to March!



As we move into this time of spring, the Board of Trustees is hopeful that each and every MEMBER of this congregation will participate in suggesting trusted leaders to potentially serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. You should have received a letter from us outlining the process in which you can do just that. If you did not receive the letter, you can read about the process on the [Ministerial Transition Updates](#) page of our website. We strongly encourage you to use the electronic form, which will be active from Wednesday, March 1 through Friday, March 31. By using the electronic form, you will help streamline the process for the Board of Trustees. A board member will also be available every Sunday in March at the Involvement Table during Social Hour with a computer to help you and answer any questions. If you are not able to do either, we will accept mailed-in recommendations as long as we receive them by March 31.

Please join the Governance Task Force who will host the next Senior Minister/President Q & A on Sunday, March 5 after both services. Check the *Weekly Bulletin* for details and location.

We are not only in our own transition of ministerial leadership but also in transition with our nation's new leadership. Of course we are a religious organization that benefits from the laws under 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organizations. There are rules that we must follow to maintain this status. As we work together to fight against policies that we object to and work toward justice on the issues that have meaning to us, we must also keep in mind that there are rules we must follow to maintain this status. The following is from the IRS:

The Restriction of Political Campaign Intervention by Section 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organizations

*Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. **Violating this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.***

Certain activities or expenditures may not be prohibited depending on the facts and circumstances. For example, certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner.

On the other hand, voter education or registration activities with evidence of bias that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute prohibited participation or intervention.

Our congregation has a very long history of working toward justice, and we will never stop; that is something I am sure of. Let us all do our part to make a difference that matters in this world!

In Faith,
Beth

Beth Hospadaruk
2016-2017 Board President
president@uuaa.org



Activities and Events

UUAA Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, March 1

Join fellow seniors for dinner at 6:00pm at Gourmet Garden, 2255 W. Stadium. No reservations are required. Come and be a part of the group and enjoy a good Chinese meal. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



First Friday Fun Night * Friday, March 3

MARCH

FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, March 3rd | 6pm to 9pm

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

- a shared meal (\$5 suggested donation)
- contra/ country dancing with a caller and live music!
- game room with board games and cards
- movie room: Shrek
- a knitting & coloring table

From September through May, all are welcome for a night of fun at the UUA 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



20s/30s First Sunday Brunch * Sunday, March 5



Meet for brunch at 1:15pm at MAIZ Mexican Cantina, 36 East Cross St, Ypsilanti. All are welcome! Find this and other events on our Facebook group: <http://bit.ly/2lfKmm0> . Questions? Contact Karen Tuttle at Klizadesign@gmail.com.



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



Join UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) 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.



BIG Sing * Saturday - Sunday, March 11 - 12



Each year, UUAA hosts a weekend of singing. Over 150 singers from Michigan and the greater region meet for the first time as a chorus. We come together for just one rehearsal with a common task -- to create the most beautiful chorus we can from the sum of our voices. The next day, we invite the larger community to join us for a concert and singing festival. [Here is an introductory video to the BIG Sing.](#)

This year, it seems particularly important that we give voice to songs of radical love,
songs of resilient hope,
songs that chase after justice.

All are welcome.
No choral experience is necessary.
No need to prepare before the rehearsal.
We'll provide the scores and lunch on Saturday.
Please bring your voices and well wishes.

SCHEDULE

Mass Choir Rehearsal/Lunch: Saturday, March 11, 2017 - 10am - 2pm
Concert and Community Sing: Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 4 pm (choir call at 2:45pm)

LOCATION

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road - Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

CHOIR REPERTOIRE

sorida - rosephanye powell
let the river run - simon/arr. johnson
earth song - ticheli
can't you hear those freedom bells ringing? - spiritual/arr. mclin
set me as a seal - clausen
we rise again - dubinsky/arr. adams

REGISTER

tell us you're on the way by [registering online](#)
(before Saturday, March 5, 2017, please)

QUESTIONS

send an email to BIGsing@uuaa.org

I hope you'll consider join us for a weekend of musical community. Help us build a stronger voice.

Peace,
Glen Thomas



Our Humanist History: A Window Looking Forward * Sunday, March 12

Join us for a 1:00pm forum in the Jackson Chapel as Tim Richards and Terry Madden bring our Humanist history forward by examining *Our UUAU 150 Year Story: Revering the Past, While Trusting the Future*. *Our UUAU 150 Year Story* is available to download on our UUAU website at:

http://uuaa.org/images/documents/About/OurCongregation/History/UUAU_History_150thAnniversary.pdf.

Questions? Contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Interweave Potluck and Program * Friday, March 17

Co-sponsored with the UUAU Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry (AIM)



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. Volunteers are welcome to arrive at 5:30 pm to help with potluck set-up.

The program, *Inclusion: What Does It Mean?* will begin at 7:00pm. Join with members of Interweave and the Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry to explore these questions in small groups:

- What does it mean to be included in congregational life and in the community?
- How does it feel not to be included - when does this happen and why?
- What can we each do as individuals and as a congregation to remove social stigma?

Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com or Els Nieuwenhuijsen at elsni@comcast.



UUAU Alpha House Host Week * Monday - Sunday, April 17 - 23



The next UUAU Alpha House Host Week will be from Monday through Sunday, April 17 to 23. Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Close to 100 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:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4daaaa2ea02-april2>. Questions? Contact UUAU Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



Announcements and News

Alpha House Thank You



A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, and/or their time for our first Alpha House Host Week of 2017 from February 6 through 12. Without your contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all that it does for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. The following lists the volunteers for our February 2017 Host Week.

- Day hosts: Brandy Sinco, Lucy Graff, Lora Girata, Lori Reece, Barb Gales, Diane Fead
- Brunch buffet: Carol Cramer and Thomas Longworth, Lora Girata
- Provided dinner: Kate Burkhardt, Constance Bridge, Melanie Dever, Gwen Guthrie, Robin Fowler, Carolyn Roberts, Sharon St. Mary, Jamie Woodring, Connie McGuire, Roan Martin-Hayden, Lorelle Thomas, Mark Dickinson, Jo Anne Diehl, Sara Mathews, Michelle Diepenhorst, Susan David, Carolyn

Roberts, Cathie Breidenbach, Terri Palacio, Gina Boldman, Harris H, Sara Rudy, Delphine Benard, Kate Hutchens, Brandy Sinco, Pat Herbst, Elinore Sommerfeld, Jeff Della Rovere, Bridget Laundra and Greg Meier, Halla Motawi

- Served dinner and cleaned up: Janet Duncan, Gwen Guthrie, Cathy and Mike Muha, Catie Wytychak, Susan David, Tim Farmer, Roen Montalva, Brandy Sinco, Melissa Villanueva, Theresa Braunschneider and family
- Children's playtime: Lia Kahan, Gloria Jones, Dana Jackman, Amie Anderson, Jamie Krake, Suzanne and Sam Davidson, Amy, Conner, Ryan, and Jordan Grant, Edward and Carolyn Norton, Kirsten Clark, Rob Beane, Jon Boyd, Kirsten and Johannah Mogbo, Cassi Hartley and Miren, Fionn, and Emerson Hartley-Beane, Paula and Brian Matzke, Tim Farmer and Roen Montalva, Victoria Moessner, Rebecca Chamberlain and two teenagers, Paul Albanese and family, Joe, Jamie, Eli, and Ava Griffith, Lara Brown and Sophia and Mateo Wakeman, Ann Brennan and Joe and Katie Krushelnick, Carrie, Katie, and Amelia Hatcher-Kay
- Overnight hosts: Robert Treadway, Terry Butcher, Peter Cipparone, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, Lorna Gibson, Mary Sapienza, Steve Nason

If I have misspelled or missed any names, please accept my apologies! Thank you again to a wonderful group of volunteers.

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



Annual Auction: Mark Your Calendars for May 20



Sometimes absence does indeed make the heart grow fonder. After a two-year hiatus, the congregation's annual goods and services auction is back!

Under the leadership of Stephanie Surfus, the theme of this year's event will be the "Hawthorn Tree Supper Club." What is a Supper Club you ask? Supper clubs were popular dining establishments largely in the Midwest beginning in the 1930s and 1940s (some were former prohibition-era speakeasies), known for their simple but hearty menus and cocktails. They often featured musical entertainment. Our Supper Club will likewise include food, drinks, entertainment, a raffle, and, of course, a live and silent auction.

This year's auction will take place on Saturday, May 20 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at UUAA. How can I help, you may be asking? We need volunteers for tasks both big and small. There will be periodic meetings that should be on the congregation's calendar and in the *Weekly Bulletin*, and there will be an information table during Social Hour.

As an auction isn't much of an auction without something to bid on, we also are soliciting donations. Examples in the past of donated items include themed meals prepared and hosted by the donor, use of a vacation condo, tickets to Michigan football games, and even, the right to pick a sermon topic. What if I can't donate or volunteer? No problem - just buy a ticket or two (or three or four) when they go on sale, and plan to have fun.

For more information visit the website at www.uuaa.org/auction or email Pete Mooney at pmooney@sfplaw.com.

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following people who donated to UUAA with Memorial and Tribute gifts in the second half of 2016

In Memory of Joan Buchele
* James and Lynne Hoy

In Memory of Kathleen McGaw
* Royla Furniss and Roberta Allen
* Joan and Charley Burleigh

- * Eric and Carli Hildebrandt
- * Bett Weston
- * Shirley and F.F. Wing

In Memory of Don Pelz

- * Richard and Carolyn Barber
- * Ed and Barbara Lynn
- * Carolyn Roberts

In Memory of Janice Summers

- * Robert and Mary Treadway

Other Memorial Gifts

- * Richard and Carolyn Barber in memory of Jim Carter, Art Kalnaraups, Maxwell Reade, and Valerie Viviano

Mindful Eating Team (MET): Two Food Waste Events



Approximately 40 percent of food in the U.S. goes to waste. Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year - approximately 1.3 billion tons - gets lost or wasted. Shocking statistics! This month, the Mindful Eating Team is providing two opportunities to learn more and to take action to fight food waste in your home.

1) MET presents the documentary **Just Eat It on Sunday, March 19 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel**

North American households waste 15 - 20% of all the food they buy. This movie follows a couple who take a six-month challenge to survive only on discarded food. After the movie, we'll discuss strategies to waste less food. A light lunch will be provided using foods at risk of being discarded. This event is co-sponsored by: Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), Temple Beth Emeth (TBE), Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, and Mindful Eating at UUAA. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.

2) **Food Waste BINGO Challenge, Sunday, March 19 through Saturday, April 2**

Take a two-week challenge in the form of a BINGO game aimed at reducing your family's food waste. Game cards will be available in the Sunday, March 19 Order of Service and at the Mindful Eating Table in the Social Hall. Prizes awarded for the most "bingos" turned in by April 2. Fun for the whole family...and good for the planet, too. Questions? Contact Merrill Crockett at crockettmerrill@aol.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



Now more than ever the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is important. Its work falls into three categories: to promote economic justice, to protect rights at risk, and to oversee the maintenance of environmental justice. Major efforts in the last month have focused on the travel ban and the various rights infractions that it has brought about. The [UUSC website](#) has a concise, clear description of the events. Also, there is information regarding sanctuary efforts by communities as well as congregations regarding activities to engage in the sanctuary effort. UUSC continues to aid those in detention at our southern border as well as those in refugee facilities filled to overflowing as a result of armed conflict in the Middle East. The ICE comment line number is 202-282-8000 for any who want to speak out personally.

UUSC is also active in the Philippines where the surge of extra judicial killings (EJKs) continues under the "leadership" of President Duterte. Our partner organizations are working to build a coalition of organizations that will be brave enough to speak out against the EJKs. These partner groups will continue with their program of trauma resiliency techniques, which were initiated after the 2015 typhoon.

Here at home, the work of our Justice Building Innovator Cristy Cardinal continues. The first Examining Whiteness series of workshops was well attended and unanimously praised. Look for another session sometime in the spring. For further information about the work of UUSC, go to the web page and click on [Recent Updates](#). Please read and sign the Declaration of Conscience. It presents our concerns and our obligations clearly. Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



New Members

Judi Marks



Judi is a retired public school educator. Originally from Buffalo, NY, she and her husband, Jim, have lived in eight states so far. Judi has joined the UUAA Wednesday Morning Readers and the UUSC Coffee Sales Team and looks forward to being more involved when she moves to Ann Arbor full time in 2018.



Tom and Elinore Sommerfeld

Tom and Elinore, both U of M graduates, recently moved back to Ann Arbor. They had been active in two congregations for 15 years prior to joining UUAA. Tom served as First Treasurer of the MidAmerica Region. Elinore is retired from Social Security Administration, where she had 20+ years of management experience. She is a painter and ice skater. They are glad to be back in the area and look forward to a long relationship with UUAA.



Brent Williams



Brent has been a member of the Chalice Singers since 2008. He and his wife, Dotty, have lived in Saline since 1989, where they raised their two children, Kara and Jackson. Brent works as a physician at the University of Michigan, where he facilitates clinical care and physicians education related to vulnerable populations. His spiritual journey has included Presbyterianism, evangelical Christianity, agnosticism, eastern spirituality, and religious humanism.



Eden Winter

Eden was introduced to Unitarian Universalism in the 1970s at First UU of Detroit, where she served in the choir, Adult RE, Worship and Strategic Planning. At Chicago's Second UU, she sang, quilted, and searched for a minister. She has found another spiritual home at UUAA, though she sometimes feels overwhelmed by the size, after her other smaller congregations. She has loved being in the Chalice Singers for several years now and is gradually getting to know more people here. UUs are the best, no matter where. When she visits her daughter, she goes to the Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois.



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

Communicating at UUA

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

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

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

