

# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

## April Newsletter

April 2017 Newsletter - Vol 17, Issue 4

### Congregational Links

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### Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

#### April 2017 | Revolution

##### The Worship Planning Team -- April

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister  
for Spiritual Growth & Development

Rev. Doug Wadkins, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

theresa rohlck, UUAA Member

#### April 2, 2017 | Seeds of the Revolution Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

One way or another, revolution starts under the ground. Beneath our daily lives; beneath the turmoil of our country, our nations, and the planet; and beneath the earth itself, much is at work. In the smallest and most expansive ways, much is up in the air! Come explore how the seeds of change are taking root in every corner of our lives.

#### April 9, 2017 | Can You Hear the People Sing? Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

What are the common strands of revolution, whether it be personal, communal, or spiritual? When we think about the current state of our world, we struggle with imagining the way that current turmoil may call for huge changes. Drawing on the powerful lessons of history, what may we learn about revolution and its call for change?

#### April 16, 2017 | Jesus the Liberator: Revolution and Resurrection Services at 9:30am and 11:30am

Join us for an Easter Sunday that intermingles the spiritual and the political. This understanding of the place of faith in the daily lives of people is consistent with the time of Jesus. In this season, when we explore the mystery of an image where that which is dead is born again, how might we understand this

image in light of our current world and our current lives?

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**April 23, 2017 | For the Children of Our Children  
Services at 9:30am and 11:30am**

In this annual Earth Day worship service for all ages, we will look at climate change through the lens of intergenerational justice.

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**April 30, 2017 | Annual YRUU Worship Service  
Services at 9:30am and 11:30am**

A revolution in the way we understand gender identity is underway, and our youth are on the leading edge. Our YRUU (high school) group will explore what this revolution means for their lives and the possibilities it creates for us all.



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



**In the Interim  
Rev. Dr. Doug Wadkins**

**What Does It Mean to Be a Caring Community?**

Often when I talk to congregations about what they value most about their community, they will mention the way that they felt that the community was present to them in a time of great need. They speak of the way that the congregation and the minister were walking with them in their most difficult hour. Then, when I talk with congregations about their most hurtful times, they speak of when the community and the clergy failed them in a time of great difficulty. The thing is that these are often conversations in the exact same community and sometimes with the same people. For both clergy and congregants, pastoral care is truly such an important component to their shared life, is often one of the primary things that attracted them to religious community. Yet, in all circumstances, it is one of the most fragile, for it is very much an experience that rests on what happens in moments of great duress and with well-intentioned professionals working with their finite resources. Limitations and expectations can often clash hurtfully. I have seen it and experienced it over and over again.



When I interviewed with the Interim Search Team here at UUAA, they were clear that they wanted some focused work on pastoral care. Larger congregations present a significant challenge in how to effectively maintain sustainable ministries of care and support. I was excited by this challenge because I have worked in such a wide range of congregations in helping them discern how to best pursue the essential work of helping people feel supported and held during crucial times in their lives.

However, I am also aware that the issue of how we are a caring community becomes much more complex in the context of these times. The complications reach far beyond the realities of the local congregation. Long before our current administration in the United States, our nation worked diligently to pass the buck regarding the adequate emotional support for the full range of mental health realities to more localized resources, and in many cases to communities of faith specifically to "make up the difference" in the source of support for people in ever-deepening duress. The end result is that most congregations of every faith have been dealing for at least a decade with doing what they can to address the overwhelming need for medical, psychological, and practical daily support of the lives not only of people in their congregation but also of people in the larger community.

This has left us with some important conversations about what it means to be a caring community. It is understandable how we draw from old ideals of what it looks like to journey with people in difficult times, but faith communities of every stripe and size find themselves struggling with how to care for the people in their congregations who are receiving ever dwindling support for their basic emotional and spiritual needs in times of crisis. UUAA has done an admirable job of dealing with the financial realities of the past decade, but it has left the congregation significantly understaffed in light of the needs before us with dwindling programs of support and increasing stresses. The good news is that you've adapted in responding lovingly to the challenge of maintaining care and compassion. The key for the future is how to strengthen and sustain a community of care and support. In the past few months I have delved into the resources of the congregation. You have dedicated staff and congregants as a tremendous resource. In the coming months, we will focus on what systems, staff additions, and programming will help you to build upon this solid foundation with the end goal of offering deeper support to more people.

### **Do You Want to Offer Care and Support to Make a Difference?**

I invite you to consider being a part of a network of care and support within the congregation. On Saturday, May 6 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, I invite you to be part of a workshop exploring the core issues of providing care and support. While it will be designed to train people to be part of a lay pastoral team for the congregation, I invite you to participate whether you want to be a part of the team or not. The core skills and considerations will assist a wide range of people in knowing how to better provide a caring presence to people in your life who are in need of such caring support. We would love for you to join us. Let us know you're coming by [signing up here](#) or by emailing Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

Blessings for our Good Work,

Doug

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



### **Upon Reflection**

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich , Assistant Minister



Popular notions of revolution are steeped in loudness: raucous chants in the streets, screaming clashes between opponents, gunfire and exploding bombs, the cacophony of confusion.

Yet the prophet Tracy Chapman teaches that talking about a revolution sounds like a whisper. Indeed, some of the most simple statements seem to be the most radical.

Feed the hungry. Care for the sick. Keep the waters and air clean. Treat disabled people like they're full human beings. (Ditto for people of color, queer people, poor people, and so on.) In our own Unitarian history, the sentence "God is one" had life-or-death consequences.

On a personal level, the revolution might sound like "I'm brave," "I'm done," or "I need help." It may begin with "I was wrong." It may live in "I'm loved."

What revolutionary whispers are you sending out to the world these days?

Peace,  
Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich  
Assistant Minister  
[lindasusan@uuuaa.org](mailto:lindasusan@uuuaa.org)



## Board of Trustee News

### President's Message Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

#### Welcome to April!

I love April; it's my birthday month. Mother Nature is busy at work revealing so much life that has been hibernating and waiting for the consistent warmer weather. Here at UUAA, your Board of Trustees (BoT) did NOT hibernate; we have been hard at work, discussing, discerning, and planning for our future.

- The BoT has given its support to the UUAA Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) to sign a pledge to support the Sanctuary Movement. Look for more from IAC; they will be educating the congregation in the coming months on what being a Sanctuary Congregation is and how we might become one.
- We have finished our book read *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss and, as a board, have a greater understanding of a healthy board and a healthy relationship between lay leaders, ministers, and staff.
- Last November we approved a new Pledges and Gift Giving Policy. It is posted on our website under governance/operations policies.



- We are working with the Governance Task Force Team to revise board policies and will be recommending a bylaw change in order to create a standing Governance Committee that will guide and support future boards on policy and bylaw updates and help to educate new board members on these issues.
- The process of creating a slate of candidates for our Senior Minister Search Committee is on track. Look for bios from the final slate to be published in early May. You will be asked to vote for four of these nominees at our June 4 Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars now.

Being asked to consider being a member of the Senior Minister Search Committee is a big commitment. If a board member calls you, I hope you take time to consider what your service would mean to our congregation but, more importantly, what it would mean to you personally. The board has asked past members to share their stories because they are important stories to share. Lisa Lemble will share her experience of being a member of the search committee ten years ago during Sunday service on April 9. Bryan Debbink would like to share his story here:

*"I have witnessed both great ... and poor examples."*

*"I would bring a younger perspective to the committee."*

*"I would like to be a part of the process to call a minister who will bring us truly moving sermons and a feeling of purpose that our congregation deserves."*

*"I typically fill this niche."*

*"...my normal work would flow well into a search committee atmosphere..."*

*These were all statements pulled from my search committee application from nearly 10 years ago. "I, I, I, I, my." Oh my! While the statements are not out of place in a job application, I had no concept of what I, myself, might get out of the hundreds of hours of work in front of me. The reality: life-changing. Spiritually life-changing.*

*2007 was quite a year in my life. On a Saturday morning about a month before the original search committee announced that their two-year search ended without a candidate, my wife Michelle awoke at 7am to find me in the midst of a grand mal seizure -- the first and, thankfully, ONLY I've ever had. The ensuing 911 call, EMT visit, ambulance ride, calls to friends and family, hours in the ER... one horrifying blur for her. What was initially believed by first responders and skeptical ER docs to be a hidden drug problem, turned out to be a golf-ball sized tumor in my front right lobe. At this point, I'm barely aware of what's going on... only vague recollections remain for me; two days later surgery. One week later, back at home. One week after that, I'm so stir crazy I remotely go back to work. Yes, I was so in need of SOMETHING, SOMETHING to give my life normalcy and meaning again -- I went to work.*

*In the days and weeks that followed my surgery, many family members and distant friends came to visit. The support was tremendous. Treatment went on and a new normal arose. But living the experience of how close a very fit, very healthy (we thought!) 25-year old can come to the end of life irrevocably alters the way you see purpose in life. Experiences matter. Connections matter. Community matters.*

*So, this is about the search committee, right? Clearly, history shows that I made it work to devote myself to the UUAA search committee in addition to treatments and having my driver's license medically revoked. To work on something that mattered. To work for something bigger than me.*

*"I would bring a younger perspective... I would like to be a part of the process..." It was all about me and what I could give. Remember, this is a story about what I received.*

*The countless hours spent with Lisa, Don, Becky, Renee, Bob, and Fran slowly*



*transformed what you know as the search committee into another family for me. Connections that time and distance can't break. Within a year, we opened our circle four times to ministers from across our faith. Each bringing with them deep insight and hard questions to ask us. Each encounter establishing new connections and new perspectives on our faith tradition. Seeing the vastness of the UU spiritual ocean is, at once, humbling and inspiring.*

*When we called Rev. Gail, we rejoiced. Our job was technically done! So many hours translated into one joyous day at UUAA. However, it's fleeting. Gail's tenure has come to a close. Our search committee family dispersed. Sure, the fingerprints will remain for years and years here in Ann Arbor.*

*The truly lasting effect of that one year on me was simple: a rebirth for my soul. I needed to find a way to matter. And that way led to seeing the bigger picture. To making more and deeper connections at our congregation, and especially beyond. This congregation has made huge strides towards the wider world in the past ten years. I hope that this trajectory only accelerates under a new senior minister. Do it for our community. Do it for those beyond our walls and current reach. But most importantly, do it and expect even greater things in return.*

*Bryan Debbink*

Working together toward a better future,  
In Faith,

Beth

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



## News from the Leadership Development Team (LDT)



### **2017 Nominations for the Board of Trustees and Leadership Development Team**

In accordance with the UUAA Bylaws, the Leadership Development Team has selected and is announcing a slate of qualified nominees for elected positions to the Board of Trustees and to the Leadership Development Team. Voting will take place at the Congregational Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, June 4. These nominees have volunteered to give generously of their time, talent, and dedication to the work of UUAA. Below is a list of the 2017 nominee biographies. Nominations outside of the Leadership Development Team's slate of nominees must be received by the Leadership Development Team by no later than three weeks before the election. Any such nomination shall include the signatures of ten supporting Congregation members. Questions? Contact Tom Reischl at [treischl57@gmail.com](mailto:treischl57@gmail.com).

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES (two-year term)**

#### **President: Erik Stalhandske**

*My wife, Ann, and I have been UUs for 35 years, previously attending congregations in San Diego, CA; Burlington, VT; and since 1990 here at UUAA. I've been involved in a variety of activities at UUAA: Board member, SGD instructor, Leadership Development Team, Investment Advisory Team, Men's Retreat Planning Team, Associate Minister Support, men's group member, mentor, Chair and lead in developing our Planned Giving program. Currently I'm on the Interim Minister's Transition Team, member of the Reflective Conversations Team, and a Chalice Circle Facilitator. Outside of UUAA, I'm on*

*the board for two bike advocacy groups--Ann Arbor Bike Touring Society and the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative. If interested, I'm always glad to talk about our work for bike safety and bike paths! Professionally, I was a healthcare administrator, working for the federal government for over twenty years, mostly in Ann Arbor. I'm a proud graduate of University of Michigan's graduate programs in Public Policy and also Healthcare Administration. My wife is an educator with First Steps at the preschool program in Ann Arbor. I love outdoor activities and am one of the handful that hope for a snowy winter so that we can cross country ski and snowshoe. Warmer weather finds me biking on roads and trails, hiking, and kayaking. Now that we are empty nesters, Ann and I enjoy travels within and outside of Michigan. I'm humbled to have this opportunity to serve our congregation during this dynamic period of transition. Our three children, now grown, all went through the UU programs and were positively impacted by their experiences. My wife and I have been personally nurtured through our UUAA experiences and community. I have the time, energy, and desire to give back to this wonderful community as President on the Board of Trustees.*

**Treasurer: Allen Duncan**

Allen and Janet Duncan moved to Ann Arbor in 2001. For the first couple of years, they sporadically attended UUAA. However, as time went by, it became obvious that they needed to make the congregation a more integral part of their lives. They signed the UUAA membership book in 2005. For Janet, the move to Ann Arbor was a move "home" as she grew up in southeast Michigan and is an MSU graduate. Allen grew up in the south (Texas, Georgia, and South Carolina) and has Mechanical Engineering degrees from Texas A&M University. They live in east Ann Arbor with two beagle mixes, Scout and Izzy, and two orange cats, Tiny and Cosmo. Allen works as an engineer for the US Environmental Protection Agency; Jan as a Library Media Specialist for Ann Arbor Public Schools. For recreation, Allen and Jan enjoy backpacking and camping as well as taking in all of Ann Arbor's opportunities for music, the arts, and food.

**Trustee: Hayley Boyse**

Hayley Boyse is a current Trustee at UUAA and has been attending since 2011. *I grew up in southern New Mexico and have family connections to Ann Arbor, where I've been since 2010. In addition to currently being on the Board, I'm also a member of the Leadership Development Team, the Social Justice Council, and the 20s/30s social group, as well as being an usher once a month. Church Lady isn't just a name - it's a lifestyle! I also had the pleasure of serving the congregation in the Interim Minister Search Committee this past spring. Outside of church, I am a flutist with the Dexter Community Band, crafter, enthusiast of all things home improvement, and work at Thomson Reuters. I am humbled and grateful to be considered a leader for this congregation and look forward to the opportunity to serve our community for another two years on the Board of Trustees.*

**Trustee: Lissa Oliver**

Lissa and her husband Gregg Peterson have been members of UUAA since 2010. Before moving to Ann Arbor, they lived in Chicago and were members of the Second Unitarian Church. Their daughter Emily is a graduate of the SGD program and is a sophomore at Oberlin College. Lissa is a returning Board member, originally elected in June 2015. Prior to that, she served for three years as a member of the Children & Youth Committee and helped organize several Teacher Appreciation Brunches. She currently spends most third Sundays welcoming newcomers after the second service. Lissa works part-time at Argus Farm Stop--a small, independent grocery store that sells locally grown and locally produced food and non-food items. In her earlier professional life, Lissa was a freelance film and video editor--editing many documentary and educational programs as well as independent narrative programs. She has been a PTA president and long-time PTA/PTO member and still loves to dig in the dirt with students as a volunteer at the Tappan Middle School garden.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM (two-year term)

### Member of the Leadership Development Team: Mike Halerz

*You might know the rest of my family quite well. Allison is often behind the piano. Our son Cooper is...well, probably everywhere else. I, however, tend to hang out behind the scenes. Except on the rare occasions that I don't. I've attended UUAA for around 15 years and help with all manner of things video and audio related. You might see me on Sunday controlling the audio system from a tablet. Or I might be taking photos or video of a special event or service. I helped the choir record and release their very first CD. And one Sunday, I even showed up with a Hammond organ and we did a "thing." Professionally, I've run a media production company for 20 years doing many of those same things. Plus a bunch of other stuff -- I wear a lot of hats. Though, realistically, the hat is more likely a sport coat and possibly a bow tie. I've worked closely with people at organizations of all types and sizes to help them realize their goals (often marketing- or training-related, but not always) and create a wide variety of beautiful things. I graduated from the University of Michigan School of Music in an interdisciplinary program that combined traditional music and art with technology, engineering, film/video, theatre, and dance at a time where the menu typically required you to choose only one item. The left and right sides of my brain remain grateful to this day. Over the years, UUAA has become a cornerstone of my life, spiritually and socially. My phone thinks I work there. Some weeks I believe it. My own spiritual journey compels me to greater involvement with this beloved community, and I would be honored to do that with the LDT, especially because I'm told that they work under cover of dark, wearing purple velvet cloaks.*



## Activities and Events

**First Friday Fun Night \* Friday, April 7**



### FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, April 7 from 6:00pm- 9:00pm

All are welcome to UUAA  
April First Friday Fun Night

#### April's Features

- \* a shared meal: \$5 suggested donation
- \*game room with board games and cards
- \*movie: *How to Train Your Dragon*
- \*craft table: rainsticks
- \*Climate Action: *Before The Flood*

FIRSTFRIDAY@UUAA.ORG

First Friday Fun Nights: September through May.





## Climate Action Group's Kickoff to Earth Day 2017 \* Friday, April 7



"Climate change is the single greatest threat to a sustainable future but, at the same time, addressing the climate challenge presents a golden opportunity to promote prosperity, security and a brighter future for all."

Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, United Nations


UUAA's Climate Action Group presents the acclaimed National Geographic documentary *Before The Flood* in Jackson Chapel from 6:30pm to 8:30pm with a discussion to follow. Refreshments will be provided.

*Before The Flood* depicts how Earth is changing due to rising temperatures, and how individuals and society-at-large can help preserve our precious environment. Leonardo DiCaprio travels around the world to interview a number of world leaders and experts about climate change, including Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, Secretary of State John Kerry, Pope Francis, and Elon Musk, as well as top NASA researchers, forest conservationists, scientists, community leaders, and other environmental activists. The film, released in October 2016, was directed by Fisher Stevens.


Thank you to the National Geographic Education Foundation, Interfaith Power and Light, and the Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for making this screening possible. 

Questions? Contact Ruth Mohr at [rmohr@pasty.org](mailto:rmohr@pasty.org).


## Plant-Powered Family Potluck \* Saturday, April 8

Join us for a vegan potluck 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. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, share information, and eat delicious food! Please bring your own table service and serving tools. Questions? Contact Sheila Sanders at 734-645-0405 or [sheilasanders@comcast.net](mailto:sheilasanders@comcast.net). 

## Town Hall Meeting with Debbie Dingell \* Sunday, April 9

Indivisible at UUAA is hosting a Town Hall Meeting with 12th District US Congresswoman Debbie Dingell from 1:30pm to 2:30pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. Get your questions ready! For further information and to RSVP, [click here](#). Reserving a spot with an RSVP is highly recommended. Questions? Contact Eden Winter at [edenwinter1946@yahoo.com](mailto:edenwinter1946@yahoo.com). 

## Annual Men's Dinner - An Evening of Musical Protest \* Saturday, April 15

Join the Men's Fellowship for an evening of good food and music featuring youth musicians from Ann Arbor's Neutral Zone. We will be grilling out with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. There will be a cash bar featuring beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with music to follow. Come early if you'd like to help grill. Admission is \$20. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Neutral Zone. To sign up, look for us at our table during Sunday Social Hours. Questions? Contact Russ Blaesing at [blaesingr@gmail.com](mailto:blaesingr@gmail.com). 

## UUAA Alpha House Host Week \* Monday - Sunday, April 17 - 23



The next UUAA 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 UUAA Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at [abarber@gmail.com](mailto:abarber@gmail.com) .



## Introduction to OUUr Faith \* Saturday, April 22

A prerequisite for becoming a member, this class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for both newcomers and long-time members. Taught by Rev. Doug Wadkins and Rev. Cassandra Hartley with assistance from the Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss, topics include the history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, how this congregation is governed, how to get involved at UUAA, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and the sharing of participants' own spiritual journeys. We will be meeting in the Fahs Chapel from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Childcare is available if we receive requests from two or more families by April 7. Click here to [register](#) by Sunday, April 16. Registration forms are also available at the Involvement Table during Social Hour, or you can register by emailing Hannah Hotchkiss directly at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).



## Benefit Concert: Helping the Kids of Flint \* Sunday, April 23

### Flint Needs Help!

### The Effects of the Flint Water Crisis Still Exist!

Join us in the Sanctuary at 4:00pm for a special benefit concert to support the Flint Child Health & Development Fund. Donations made at this concert will directly support the future health of the children of Flint who have been exposed to lead in their water.



The evening will feature music of solidarity and hope by Gaia Women of the Great Lakes Basin (a choir that Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski belong to), singing the music of Carolyn McDade, and members of the folk band Harmony Bones, featuring Laz Slomovits, Eric Fithian, Tom Voiles, and Linda Teaman. There will also be updates on the Flint water crisis from representatives of the Flint Democracy Defense League and the Flint Child Health & Development Fund.

Suggested donation: \$20 or more, at the door.

Help make a difference! Bring family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of music to support a cause.

If you can't attend but want to donate, send a check made payable to Foundation for Flint with "Flint Child Health & Development Fund" on the memo line to the following address:

Foundation for Flint  
500 S. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48502-1856

Learn more about the Fund at [www.flintkids.org](http://www.flintkids.org).

Special thanks to these co-sponsors: The Music Program and the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, and Gaia Women of the Great Lakes Basin.

Questions? Contact Jean Chorazyczewski at [jeanca2@me.com](mailto:jeanca2@me.com).



## Community Resources for Older Adults \* Tuesday, April 25

What are the many community resources available for seniors in Washtenaw County? Find out about transportation, home care or assistance, support groups for health conditions, and lifelong learning and enrichment opportunities. Well-Being Education invites you to join our guest speaker, Assistant Director of the Turner Senior Wellness Program Maire DeLand from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Maire will be providing information about what is available, where to go, and who to contact. UUAA facilitators will be Emily Simon and Kate Warner. Questions? Contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com).



## Meet Your Farmer \* Sunday, April 30

Mindful Eating presents Meet Your Farmer from 10:45am to 11:30am in Fahs Chapel. Did you know it takes 40 to 50 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup? Meet Kirk and Michelle Hedding of H&H Sugarbush as they tell us about the maple syrup process. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at [cmuha@att.net](mailto:cmuha@att.net).



## Announcements and News

### Annual Auction: Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, 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? 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 will be posted 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](http://www.uuaa.org/auction) or email Pete Mooney at [pmooney@sfplaw.com](mailto:pmooney@sfplaw.com).



## Annual Report Submissions

### 2017 Annual Report

It is time to consider what to share in an annual report about your recognized congregational team's events and activities. The 2016-2017 Annual Report deadline will be Thursday, April 20 at 5:00pm.

Recognized congregant team leaders are encouraged to write an annual report. This year's annual report will be online only. Each group's report will appear as a link on the 2016-2017 annual report page.



Note: UUAA staff will not be able to provide editing, so please make sure you've proofed each group's text before sending it in.

Aim for a word count of 250-300 words. When appropriate, use bulleted lists to encourage others to read what you've 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 UUAA core values were met by the team.
- Highlights of activities from May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017.
- Focus on major themes or a few key accomplishments. Your report need not include every detail - just enough to give others the flavor of your group's ministry.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Describe future ideas, plans, and goals.
- Submissions beyond a word count of 250-300 words maximum will be returned for further editing.
- Submit each annual report as a Word file to [annualreport@uuaa.org](mailto:annualreport@uuaa.org).

Early submissions are very much appreciated.



## Congregation Planning for Sanctuary Vote

The Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) along with other UUAA social justice groups are working to inform our congregation about the New Sanctuary Movement and how it differs from sanctuary in the 1980s. Our Board of Trustees (BoT) approved the following Sanctuary Pledge written by the UUA at their February 27 meeting with the stipulation that before offering physical sanctuary to an individual or family in danger of deportation, the congregation would vote on the issue.

### UUA Sanctuary Pledge

*As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and*



*work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.*

The Immigration Action Coalition has planned a number of informational events and forums between now and the June 4 Annual Meeting. IAC invites the congregation to learn about what it would mean for UUAA to support the New Sanctuary Movement and to help shape the resolution that will be put to a vote June 4.

- April 2 - What is Sanctuary? Presentation and discussion following each service
- April 8 - Immigration Action Coalition monthly meeting, 10:00am -- 11:30am
- April 30 - Sanctuary Conversations - talk with members of a UU congregation who are currently hosting a sanctuary family
- May 20 - Immigration Action Coalition monthly meeting, 10am - 11:30am
- May 21 - Why Sanctuary? What will becoming a sanctuary congregation mean for UUAA?

Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at [cherylnatzmervvalentine@gmail.com](mailto:cherylnatzmervvalentine@gmail.com).



## "Corruption of Our Democracy" - Congregational Study/Action Issue

Are you interested in exploring this important topic? "Corruption of Our Democracy" was selected at the 2016 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) to be the 2016-2020 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). Information on this CSAI can be found at <https://www.uua.org/statements/current/corruption-of-our-democracy>. There will be workshops on the "Corruption of Our Democracy" at the 2017 GA, which is coming up in June. Please contact either co-chair of the Social Justice Council Connie McGuire at [cmcguire@umich.edu](mailto:cmcguire@umich.edu) or Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com) if you'd like to be involved in this discussion.



## News from the Green Building Committee @ UUAA



Using savings from the 24 solar panels added to the church roof in 2015 (now a total of 72 panels), ten volunteers came together on March 4 under the auspices of our Green Building Committee to replace 220 old T8 fluorescent lamps with a lesser number of new LED lamps.

A savings average of 90 kWh per year per lamp is estimated (i.e., saving 46 watts per fixture, each operating an average of five to six hours per day). At the current cost of electricity per kWh at close to 14 cents, the entire cost of the new LED lamp is recovered in less than one year. New savings from the new LEDs will be tabulated on the monthly DTE bills -- and savings used to complete the replacement of fluorescents this year and next.

Thanks to all who helped on March 4 and all who increase energy efficiency at their own homes and businesses by direct actions taken throughout the year. Watch for more details on energy initiatives and savings at UUAA in upcoming annual reports. Suggestions and initiatives involving energy and action are always welcome! Questions? Contact Dave Friedrichs at [dave@homelandsolar.com](mailto:dave@homelandsolar.com).



## Transylvania Partner Church Van Project

Our partners in Transylvania have a new project that needs our financial support. Here's what Rev. Istvan said about their idea:



*We have a common project and we want to buy a minibus for 8+1 person. We were planning earlier with the congregation members to buy it and in this way we could transport elder or sick people to our different programs, activities, festivities from the surrounding villages near Kézdivásárhel; we could transport packages collected for our members.*

We know how helpful this would be for them and have received permission to raise the additional money they need, about \$4,000. Thanks for any help that you can provide. Donate online by using [this link](#) and choosing "Partner Church Van" or make out a check to UUAA with "Partner Church Van" in the memo line. Questions? Contact Phyllis Valentine at [pav@umich.edu](mailto:pav@umich.edu).



## New Members

### Linda Seyfarth Ward

Linda is a mother of two wonderful daughters and just became a grandmother. She continues to work at a Behavioral Health Clinic that she founded in 1991.

Linda has a Master's degree in Social Work, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a Certified Advanced Addictions Counselor, and a Clinically Certified Forensic Counselor.



She has searched for a spiritual home for quite some time and is grateful to have found the UUAA community.



### Lara Cooper



Lara is a Virgo who likes unicorns and long walks on the beach. Turn-offs are mean people and bad grammar.

Oh, wait. Wrong bio.

Lara loves this town. She loves this state. Coming to UUAA was coming home; it was finding her people (figuratively AND literally). She works for AT&T, has dachshunds, is on a couple of boards, and is a huge genealogy nerd. Spiritual practices include singing show tunes in the car and making checklists. She was raised by an environmental scientist and a social worker -- these things leave their mark.

Also, Ravenclaw.



### Alex Henderson

Alex is a 29-year-old performing and physical arts enthusiast. She is an avid yogi and yoga teacher, aerialist, and dancer. She performs at and manages all types of productions across the country, including Michigan's own Electric Forest. When she's not traveling, she enjoys spending time with her boyfriend Evan and dog Akina, camping, trying new foods, and being outside. She came to UU to further grow her spirituality while incorporating the many aspects of her metaphysical life, which draw from her yoga practice and life experiences growing up in Ann Arbor.



### Dana Jackman

Dana Jackman and her daughter, Jane Lawrence, are long-time residents of Ann



Arbor. They live on the north side of town with their loud terrier, Lucy. They love the outdoors, movies, reading, long walks, and biking.



## 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 UUAU

The deadline for submitting UUAU 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 UUAU events, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *May 2017 Newsletter* is Friday, April 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).

