

forth. So it is with the human spirit. This service will explore the signs of new life blossoming out of the cold in our deeper selves and how to nurture the growing of this tentative, hopeful rising spirit!

April 15, 2018 | Open to Yes

Services at 9:30am & 11:30am

Our lives unfold moment by moment. How will we respond?

April 22, 2018 | Earth Day A Service for All Ages Services at 9:30am & 11:30am

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

April 29, 2018 | Candidating Week Begins Services at 9:30am & 11:30am

Join the excitement as our candidate for the next Senior Minister of UUAA leads these worship services, which will then flow into Candidating Week–a full week of congregational events designed to let UUAA members get to know our candidate. On Sunday, May 6, the candidate will lead both services again, and all members are invited afterwards to vote on calling the candidate as our thirteenth Senior Minister.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout Director of Worship & Music glenthomas@uuaa.org

In the Interim Rev. Doug Wadkins



Did Someone Say Candidating Week?!

Some phrases in the church world truly make even dedicated religious folk in other traditions look at a Unitarian Universalist congregant with a quizzical expression: Chalice Circles, Water or Flower Communion, The Seventh Principle! But even longtime UU's may scratch their heads at the term

"Candidating Week." Candidating Week brings together the congregation's, the search team's, and prospective clergy's long labor into a powerful penultimate act, during a week of intense wonder, joy, anxiety, and discovery together. Two Sunday services in a row and a plethora of gatherings will lead to a congregational meeting and a vote to call the minister to your service as Senior Minister. It is penultimate because the real culmination is the work of beginning the shared ministry together, heralding in a new era-but more on that work in the coming months. The Candidating Week is a whirlwind experience. It is an opportunity for the start of a life-changing relationship. It calls on the congregation, staff, and candidate alike to look for possibility, to keep an open mind, and engage the time with an open heart. It is an important week, but it is ONLY a week. The essence of the time is to be open to the possibilities suggested during the week.

One of the most common mistakes that people make is that they try to use it as a time

to test the minister or corner the candidate to express their crucial needs, often with an edge. It IS important to know what is essential to you about the community of UUAA as you approach candidating week. But that knowledge is for your awareness and your own clarity as you encounter that week–a time of centering and grounding. That knowledge helps you be clear about what is important and how you want to work to be a positive influence in this new era. Your thoughts will mingle with the larger streams of experiences for the candidate, and that will help the candidate discern what is right for them.

However, when the opportunity arises to speak to what is important, you probably should. In general, with congregant, staff, and clergy alike, when you are hoping to speak to issues of importance to you, and especially if you are hoping to seek support or influence the opinion of the other, I would suggest the following approach. This list comes from a lot of years of having people come to me about areas of passion and engaging the time very poorly or very well. When the time has gone well, these things have tended to happen:

- Work on presenting your idea as an interdependent priority, not a competing one.
- Understand that you are seeking to partner with the congregant, minister and/or staff-not push them away!
- Find a place of mutual interest as a bridge-building concept.
- Don't assume what they do or don't know. Ask about their own background in your area of passion.
- Be willing to have YOUR perspectives changed. The more important something is, the more essential it is that you are willing to continue to learn, grow, and change in relation to it.

Most of all, bring joy to the candidating week. It is a chance to begin an important relationship. It is a chance to celebrate what you do best as individuals and as a community. Joy is a great way to begin a new chapter together.

Sending you warmth and excitement for what is ahead.

Doug

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

Upon Reflection Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



It's about this time of year when I find the blue returning to the sky...confusing. My eyes are so unused to anything other than gray that they don't quite know what to make of the richness of another color. It's as though they've survived on thin gruel for several months and are suddenly presented with molten chocolate cake.

Our lives can be like that, too. We focus so much on surviving, noses to the grindstone, that we're not sure what to do when an opportunity for joy pops up. Is it real? Do I deserve technicolor experiences?

Shouldn't I keep my expectations low since the gray will inevitably return?

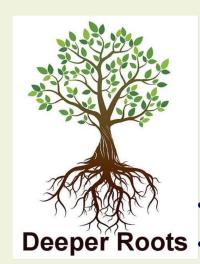
T.S. Eliot called April the cruellest month for breeding lilacs out of the dead land, but such a transformation makes April magic to me. However unexpected or confusing, the flower's bold scent and delicate beauty can bolster us and help us make it through the bleak times.

Where are you finding opportunities for joy?

Peace, Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich Assistant Minister <u>lindasusan@uuaa.org</u>

Deeper Roots



During the annual canvass last October, one of our chief goals was to fund a new Pastoral Care/Social Justice Coordinator to help those programs run more effectively. We didn't reach our goal then, but we have another opportunity to fill this critical need now.

We've launched a short-term campaign, Deeper Roots, to raise \$30,000 by April 12. This money will help us fund the new Coordinator position and allow UUAA to deepen its roots

- with each other through a broad and meaningful pastoral care program
- with the wider community through greater support for social action

We're aiming to have the person start June 1, 2018, giving our new Senior Minister an even stronger staff system to help their ministry at UUAA thrive.

You can support the Deeper Roots campaign <u>online</u>, by check, by credit card, or with a Deeper Roots pledge.

Questions? Please contact Ed Lynn, Interim Administrator, at <u>ed@uuaa.org</u> or 734-665-6158 x103. Thank you for your support!

Ministerial Search Team (MST) News



By the time this newsletter arrives to your mailboxes, we may have found a candidate for our Senior Minister position! We will have extended an offer on March 29 at noon and will be waiting to know if our offer has been accepted. We will announce the name of the candidate on Sunday, April 15.

Candidating week will be Saturday, April 28 through Sunday, May 6. The candidate will

come to Ann Arbor and spend the week getting to know the staff, the various groups in the congregation, and as many congregants as possible. Be on the lookout for the opportunities to meet and interact with the candidate. Opportunities include the following:

- Sunday Worship Services with the candidate preaching two Sundays, April 29 and May 6
- Social Justice Potluck on Wednesday, May 2 for all social justice leaders
- Friday Fun Night on May 4
- Open meetings you can sign up to attend

We will have a full calendar soon so you can find a time to met our candidate for Senior Minister.

On Sunday, May 6 all UUAA members will vote to call our next Senior Minister. Our Bylaws say that there needs to be an 85% positive vote to call a Senior Minister. However, the UUA Transitions Office recommends obtaining at least a 90% affirmative vote. Many candidates view less than this as a reason to reconsider. We invite all members to take part in UUAA's history by voting on Sunday, May 6. Only UUAA members can vote, but all are invited to attend the meeting.

We want to sincerely thank all of you for your messages of gratitude for our work and your strong support of this process. Still, at this stage, confidentiality continues to be of paramount importance to the process.

Please watch for additional updates on our web page www.uuaa.org/mst.

With much excitement,

Ministerial Search Team

For Your Calendar

Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group * Wednesday, April 4



The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UUAA Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets regularly the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the Brown Room. This is a drop-in group, open to both members of the congregation and the larger community. We encourage congregants who may know a person giving care to someone with memory loss, to let them know that they are welcome to join the support group.

A support group offers caregivers, family members, and friends of people with memory loss the opportunity to ask questions, share stories, give and receive comfort, and gain practical knowledge. A confidential, positive setting for sharing experiences is known to be an important factor in how well one copes with caregiver stress. Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com or Meredith Ley at meredithl888@gmail.com.

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, April 4



It's time for our monthly Senior Dinner at Hot Pot Chen, 2255 West Stadium, Ann Arbor. No reservations are required. Come at 6:00pm and join the group in the back room. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at <u>omaduke7@gmail.com</u> or 769-0467.

Friday Fun Night * Friday, April 6



UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT Friday, April 6 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Stories and Stormclouds

This Month's Features

- * Storytelling Slam with Bev Black
- * Greek Lasagne, Mac & Cheese, Fruit and Green Salad
- * Movie: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
- * Craft: Create-a-creature!
- * Game room with demos of Mysterium



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUAA.ORG

Friday Fun Night regularly serves both vegetarian and nonvegetarian options. If you need other dietary accommodations, please email us at fridayfunnight@uuaa.org a week in advance.

Adult Storytelling for an Audience of All Ages * Friday, April 6



Be an adult storyteller (age 14 and up) or join an audience of all ages in the Fahs Chapel from 7:00pm to 8:45pm. Listen to stories from the UU community on the theme "New Beginnings!" Storytellers, prepare a five-minute, true, personal story to deliver without notes. When you arrive, toss your name in the hat. The first 10 names drawn will be our storytellers. Be sure to take part in the Friday Fun Night dinner at 6:00pm before storytelling. Questions? Contact Beverly Black at <u>bevblack@umich.edu</u> or 734-665-4312.

Plant-Powered Family Potluck * Saturday, April 7



Please join us for our Plant-Powered Family Potluck in the Fahs Chapel from noon-2pm. 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 <u>sheilasanders@comcast.net</u>.

Annual Auction: The Red Carpet * Saturday, April 7



Roll Out the Red Carpet

"Play it again Sam!" Hearing "As Time Goes By" won't be difficult at the UUAA auction with three pianists tickling the ivories and the renowned Community High Jazz Band. You may start a "beautiful friendship" over Moveable Feastcatered food. Join us from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

There'll be drinks, a photo booth, and lots of dinners, cottage stays, and other items for bid in the live and silent auctions.

Stop by the Auction Table during Social Hour to buy a ticket.

Check out our page on the website at <u>www.uuaa.org/auction</u>, or email <u>auction@uuaa.org</u>.

Khasi Hills Open House * Sunday, April 15



Khasi Unitarian church elder Rupaia Lamar, who is visiting the US, will tell us about Unitarianism in the Khasi Hills of northeast India. Join us in Fahs Chapel at 12:45pm. Indian food will be served.

Quench your curiosity and palate. For over 15 years, UUAA members have sponsored students in the green, rolling Khasi Hills -100 students last year - at a village school (pictured top left).



Hear about our congregation's connection to Unitarians in the Khasi Hills that began in the late 1800s and about Khasi Unitarians today. Consider sponsoring a student like those pictured eating the school lunch that UUAA sponsors helped provide.

If you're already a sponsor, drop by for a bite and to learn from Khasi Unitarian Rupaia Lamar. Everyone is welcome.

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

Alpha House * Monday-Sunday, April 16-22



The next UUAA host week will be Monday-Sunday April 16-22, 2018. Alpha House is a homeless shelter on Jackson Road for families experiencing temporary homelessness in Washtenaw County. UUAA needs 90 volunteers to provide food, serve meals, play with the kids, stay overnight and be day hosts. If you can't volunteer, you can donate! Up to \$400 is needed to cover supplies. Sign up or donate money on Sundays during Social Hour beginning this Sunday, March 25. Questions? Contact

UUAA Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at <u>abarber@gmail.com</u>.

Women's Retreat * Friday-Sunday, April 20-22



Join UUAA women at Storer Camp in Jackson, Michigan for fun small groups, workshops, a campfire, and more. We hope you will join us to invigorate relationships among the awesome UUAA women. Registration forms are available at the Womyn's

Council Table during Social Hour and at <u>goo.gl/CC9eW6</u>. Questions? Contact Cindy O'Connor at <u>womensretreat@uuaa.org</u>.

Men's Fellowship Dinner & Discussion | #MeToo * Saturday, April 21

At this year's dinner, sponsored by the UUAA Men's Council, we will explore how men are responding to the #MeToo social movement, which has put a spotlight on widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment. We will examine our own biases, behaviors, and ways men can prevent and interrupt sexual misconduct. Registration and ticket sales are on sale in at the Men's Dinner Table during Social Hour. The cost will be \$25, which covers the dinner and a donation to Safe House Center (a local agency that supports and advocates for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence). Scholarships are available. Join us from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Social Hall for an evening of men's fellowship. Questions? Contact Tom Reischl at treischl57@gmail.com.

UU Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) Presents ...* Sunday, April 22

Join us in the Fahs Chapel from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for a video featuring Omar



Barghouti.

Palestinian human rights activist Omar Barghouti was awarded the 2017 Gandhi Peace Award by Promoting Enduring Peace for his work as founder and spokesperson for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement. The BDS Movement has also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Since 1948 hundreds of UN resolutions and numerous peace initiatives have

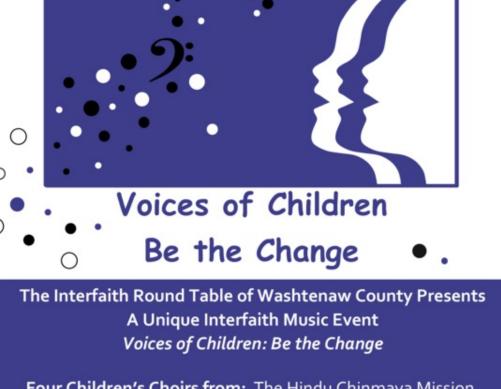
failed to convince Israel to end its colonial and discriminatory policies and oppression of the Palestinian people. So, in 2005, Palestinian civil society issued a statement calling on international organizations and people of conscience all over the world to boycott, implement divestment initiatives, and pressure governments to impose sanctions against Israel until it complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights.

BDS has gained the support of human rights activists and international organizations such as Desmond Tutu and Amnesty International. Hundreds of congregations and regional and national conventions of many denominations have adopted resolutions in support of BDS.

In response, the Israeli government has declared BDS to be a threat to its existence and anti-Semitic. The Israel lobby, led by the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), is pushing legislation to make boycotts of Israel illegal. Twenty-four states, including Michigan, have passed such laws, but they are being challenged by the ACLU for violating freedom of speech. Majorities of US Representatives and Senators have co-sponsored the federal Anti-Israel Boycott Act, including Michigan Senator Gary Peters.

So, what are the goals and strategies of the BDS Movement? How should UUs respond? Please join us for this important and informative video presentation, followed by discussion. Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at <u>mjagner@yahoo.com</u>.

Voices of Faith* Sunday, April 22



Four Children's Choirs from: The Hindu Chinmaya Mission, Temple Beth Emeth, St. Clare's Episcopal Church and The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

> Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018 (Earth Day) Time: 4 pm (doors open at 3:30) Location: Genesis, 2309 Packard Street (Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's Episcopal)

Given the climate in our country & in celebration of the sacredness of the planet, here is a beautiful way to show our support for diversity, gratitude & inclusion. There'll be an opportunity to donate to the IRT. For more information, call 734-424-1535 or email gbrides@umich.edu.





Humanist Voices In UU * Begins Wednesday, April 25

Do you want to know if you're a humanist? Have you wondered how humanism relates to Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to deepen your understanding of what being a humanist means? Then this class is for you.



This class will discuss chapters in the "Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism" book by Gibbons and Murry (editors), available in the UUAA Quest Bookstore during the First Service Social Hour. Chapters cover journeys to becoming a UU humanist, humanist history and core beliefs, and how humanism relates to diversity, social activism, religious education, and community.

The UUAA Humanists are offering "Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism" on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. The seven-class series will start on Wednesday, April 24, and is being conducted by humanist members of UUAA. Questions? Contact Hal Breidenbach at <u>hal@breidenbach.net</u>.

On the Horizon

General Assembly 2018 | Kansas City, MO * June 20-24



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. Click here to register or learn more.

UU of South West Michigan Family Camp



Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat July 12-15, 2018 Sturgis, Michigan

Hiking the trails, singing by the campfire, playing games—all childhood camp fun. But this camp and retreat is not just for kids—it's for people of all ages. Make connections, build friendships, and experience nature together as a family - with other families, youth, and adults - in an environment where diverse religious, spiritual, and theological perspectives are welcomed and celebrated. Enjoy programs for children drawing upon the natural environment, workshops for adults and youth on spiritual practices, multigenerational worship, and fun group activities such as canoeing, archery, s'mores around a campfire, and popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire. Choose from a variety of accommodations from tent camping to dormitory-style lodging or hotel-like rooms in the Retreat Center.

This camp is organized by Unitarian Universalist Family Camp of South West Michigan.

Registration is now open at www.chalicesparx.org.

Announcements and News

Welcome to the New UUAA Building Manager



We welcome Don Hackney as our new Building Manager. Don comes to us from Zingerman's, where he was Maintenance Manager at the Roadhouse for six years, and a baker for five years at the Bakehouse before that. Prior to Zingerman's, he worked for many years in the drywalling business, carpet installation, and other trades. Don is also an avid fisherman.

Please help us welcome Don to our community.

Annual Reports

Preparing for the 2018 Annual Report

It is time to consider what to share in an annual report about your recognized congregational team's events and activities. The 2017-2018 Annual Report deadline will be Sunday, April 15 at 5:00pm.

Recognized congregant team leaders are encouraged to write an annual report. This year's annual report will be online only. Links to each group's report will appear on the homepage of the 2017-2018 Annual Report. UUAA staff will not be able to provide editing, so please make sure you've proofed your document before sending it in.

Aim for a word count of 300 words. When appropriate, use bulleted lists to encourage others to read what you've shared. Basic elements to include are the following:

- 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, 2017 through April 30, 2018.
- 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 300 words maximum will be returned for further editing.
- Submit each annual report as a Word file to <u>annualreport@uuaa.org</u>.

Early submissions are very much appreciated.

Debby

Debby Casamatta Office Administrator <u>deborah@uuaa.org</u>

Volunteers Needed for UUSC Coffee Project



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project is an ongoing fundraiser for the UUSC Small Farmer Fund that fosters social, economic, and environmental justice. Through grassroots collaboration, the fund helps build sustainable livelihoods and advance human rights around the world.

On most Sundays at UUAA, the Coffee Project sells 100% Fair Trade products from Equal Exchange (EE), a democratic workerowned cooperative that partners with UUSC. For every pound of organic coffee, tea, chocolate, almonds, dried fruit, and olive oil our

church purchases from EE, 20 cents is donated to UUSC. UUSC profits from UU churches nationally who are a part of the Coffee Project.

This is also a fundraiser for the UUAA. In recent years, our congregation's purchases have profited the church with as much as \$3500 in one year's time.

We have served the congregation and developed regular customers. However at this time, we are announcing the sales will only occur after first service starting in April due to a lack of volunteers. If we can grow our list of volunteers, we can keep the sales open following both services. We need help after second service. Volunteers need to stay at the table for about an hour following second service, note sales, provide change, pack the products into our portable sales cabinet, and place our donation envelope into the office safe.

If you are interested in joining our team, contact llene Beninson at <u>ilene.beninson@gmail.com</u>.

Habitat for Humanity



Your Habitat for Humanity Committee is preparing for the start of another build season. The Good News House Group has identified two houses in Ypsilanti for remodeling.

We will have our table in the Social Hall during Social Hour starting in late April. There, we will post details on the houses, UUAA work days, and volunteer opportunities. Also, expect a post card in the mail mid-month with more information.

We have room on our committee for more volunteers. If you are interested, contact us at <u>habitat@uuaa.org</u> or call Mike Muha at 734-717-4627.

Immigration Action Coalition

Events and News from Immigration Action Coalition (IAC)

Latin American Dance Party/Fundraiser: Mark Friday, September 21 on your calendars and plan to join us for the next party, Salsa and Salsa, at UUAA.

Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary: Washtenaw County now has eleven sanctuary congregations. The newest members are Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, and St. Clare's Episcopal Church. The fund-raising committee needs members and leadership.

Sanctuary at UUAA: The Sanctuary Hospitality Committee consists of Marian Horowitz, Molli Morgan, Lucia Heinold, and Joanna Courteau. The Marley Room has been cleaned out, blinds installed, and a small refrigerator and microwave provided. We need a washer and dryer. There is space and hookups for gas and electric in the boiler room. We would welcome the donation of a washer-dryer set in very good working order. IAC is working on instructions and guidelines for overnight volunteers. Molli is the logistics liaison, communicating our needs to WCS.

Security and Sensitivity: We need to be very sensitive to the harm that could be done if we are not careful about what we say in public. Information about specific cases should not be discussed on social media or even on the telephone or with people outside our group.

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

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



This month, the Stewardship Circle will be meeting in Washington. This is an annual meeting at which Circle members gather to review and appreciate the work of UUSC around the world. The UUSC around the world. The meeting will highlight two programs this year, the first focused on environmental

justice and the second on human rights. One presenter at the meeting will be Wai Wai Nu from the Women Peace Network in Burma, a lawyer seeking to empower women through alliance building and education for solutions to institutionalized discrimination. A second presenter will be Kristina Peterson, a facilitator for the Lowland Center working with communities living with changing coastline and land loss, looking for solutions to climate-forced displacement. Also, Circle members will have the chance to go to Capitol Hill to speak with lawmakers regarding the Rohingya situation in Myanmar, the DACA stalemate, and gun legislation. Please check out the UUSC website for a look at the broader range of activities and opportunities to make your voice heard. Know that our UU arms are working to embrace the problems of the world.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at <u>qnorthrup@gmail.com</u>.

Office and Building News

Summer Room Reservations

The UUAA room reservation calendar system is divided into two sessions: The Summer Program Session and the Congregational Program Session.

- The Summer Session is the period from the end of the SGD class year to the beginning of the next one. This is also when UUAA holds a single Sunday service. The upcoming Summer Session runs Sunday, May 20, 2018 through Monday, September 9, 2018.
- The Congregational Program Session is the period when UUAA holds regular

SGD classes and two Sunday services. The 2018-2019 Congregational Program Session will run from Sunday, September 9, 2018 through approximately Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Note that reccurring Congregational Program Session room reservations will not extend through the summer. All recurring events will be scheduled only for the session during which the request falls. So, please resubmit any reccurring room reservation requests if your group plans to meet during the Summer Program Session.

Date	Session	Details
Now	Summer Session 2018	When submitting your summer room requests, please note our summer 2018 UUAA building hours:
		Sunday 9:00am - 4:00pm 2nd and 4th Monday 9:00am - 9:00pm Monday through Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm Thursday 9:00am - 9:00pm Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm
July 1	Program Session 2018-19	Reservations for groups of 50 or more people
August 1	Program Session 2018-19	All room reservation requests

Here is the schedule for reserving rooms:

Please submit your room requests by using our <u>room reservation form</u> found at <u>www.uuaa.org</u> on the lower right corner of the home page. This form will allow the Room Team to accommodate requests for accessibility needs, room setup, and special arrangements for large groups.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact the Room Reservation Team at <u>room@uuaa.org</u>.

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to <u>bulletin@uuaa.org</u> by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at <u>hannah@uuaa.org</u>.

April Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the *May Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to <u>newsletter@uuaa.org</u> by 9:00am on Saturday, April 21.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org

Building Hours

