



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

May Monthly Newsletter

May 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 5

Congregational Links

UUA.org | [Calendar of Events](#) | [Social Justice at UUA](#) | [Make a Pledge](#)

Other Links of Interest

UUA.org | MidAmericaUUA.org | [Side with Love](#) (formerly Standing on the Side of Love)

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

*May's worship theme explores what it means to be a people of **VULNERABILITY**.
All are welcome.*

May Worship Team

Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development
Rev. Doug Wadkins, Interim Senior Minister
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music
Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister
Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Candidate - Senior Minister
Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

May 6, 2018 | Candidating Week Ends

Worship at 9:30am and 11:30am

Senior Minister Candidate the Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti will lead both services.

All members in good standing are invited afterwards to vote on calling Rev. Manish as our thirteenth settled Senior Minister.

May 13, 2018 | Call Me Mother: A Collage on Vulnerability

Worship at 9:30am and 11:30am

There are many ways to read the brief phrase "call me mother," just as there are an infinite number of ways that we connect with vulnerability. On this Mother's Day, we explore the powerful set of ways that vulnerability and the archetype of the Mother

intersect.

May 20, 2018 | Flowers and Film: on Vulnerability, Mortality, and Human Kindness

Worship at 9:30am and 11:30am

This Sunday, we begin the service with a Flower Communion that connects us with our Unitarian Universalist heritage, a ritual of love created in response to the hatred and fear of Nazi tyranny. We invite you to bring a flower to share that speaks to you in some way and leave with a flower that another has brought. Together we will honor our unique giftedness that makes the full bouquet of the UUAA community beautiful and vibrant.

The second portion of the service moves to a reflection time about the vulnerability of mortality and the saving power of our connections. We will utilize a couple of clips from the film *Wit* as a visual meditation for our reflection. The clips are not chosen to be overly intense or disturbing, but if this a particularly vulnerable time in your life, sometimes film clips can elicit strong reactions, especially since the play and film deal with a woman in the final stages of cancer. We ask that you honor compassionate self-care in your decisions about navigating the second half of the service.

May 27, 2018 | with Huwaida Arraf
Worship at 10am

This week, we welcome Huwaida Arraf, a Palestinian-American lawyer and human rights advocate, to join in leading the morning services.

Huwaida Arraf received her Bachelor's degrees from the University of Michigan, and her Juris Doctorate from the American University Washington College of Law, where she focused her studies on international human rights and humanitarian law. Over the past two decades Huwaida has been involved in a number of legal and grassroots initiatives for Palestinian rights, including co-founding the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a Palestinian-led non-violent resistance movement that has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She currently practices civil rights law in Detroit.



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



In the Interim
Rev. Doug Wadkins

What It Means To Be Called!

You are in the midst of Candidating Week and nearing the



congregational meeting where you will vote on calling the Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti to be your Senior Minister. The word "calling" is an essential and meaningful word in that sentence and perhaps suggests more than meets the eye. The calling of a minister is an important moment in the life of the congregation and of the minister. In our tradition, it is an experience of creating the space for both congregants and

clergy to make thoughtful choices and honor their deeper sense of vocation in life. What is essential is that it is time that creates space for sacred discernment of calling as Frederick Buechner defines it: the intersection of the "world's deep hunger" and "your deep gladness." It is a time when both the minister and the congregation freely choose one another to fulfill the potential of that calling, individual and communal. The minister has done their homework about the congregation and in that week seeks to discover the possibilities that exist for the future with you. The congregation has entrusted the Search Team, who has done their diligent work, and the congregation is invited to discover what possibilities exist in their relationship with the ministerial candidate and each other for the coming years.

At the congregational meeting on May 6, the power of that choice and possibility comes to fruition when you vote. The minister also continues to exercise the sacred power of discerning their vocation and whether it will best be fulfilled in partnership with you. Both must say a meaningful yes for the call to a congregation to be complete. In our tradition, you are not the "boss" of the minister, but a partner in shared ministry, and your minister is not your authority, but a fellow seeker who leads by living and serving authentically and using the skills they possess for ministry.

For both minister and congregation, the best path to a powerful and life-changing "yes" is an open heart and mind. This week, may you imagine what potential exists, may you look for the promise of what you may do together, and may you honor your own deep joy and truth of the world's need. May this week help you each connect something meaningful in our thread of purpose and this congregation's deepest calling! May it be a wonderful and fulfilling week – I know it will be!

Warmly and Faithfully,

Doug

P.S. So many of you have asked what is next for me and how long I will be with you. After the candidating week, there is still much work to do. I will continue to serve as your senior minister until July. I have begun my own search for my next ministry while you are in candidating week. I will give you an update as soon as I can! Wish me well! :)

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



Upon Reflection
Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

As I write this, the members of UUA are just a couple of weeks away from voting on whether to call a new Senior Minister. I expect



that many of you are feeling like I am: excited, nervous, and hopeful all at once, with a generous dollop of eagerness to know the outcome.

I also find myself dreaming about where this congregation might go over the next five or ten years. How will we describe the beating heart of this place? What will emerge as the compelling vision that pulls us back here week after week?

Dreaming about the future always involves at least a bit of self-deception, because there are no guarantees in life. None of us can know whether we'll even be around in five or ten years. At the same time, when you're in a stable, healthy place and the stars seem to align, why not dream? Why not lay out your greatest hopes and sing them to the universe? Whether or not the dream comes to pass, daring to name what matters most deeply to you points you in a direction worthy of your energy.

What is the future you're orienting yourself towards?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuaa.org

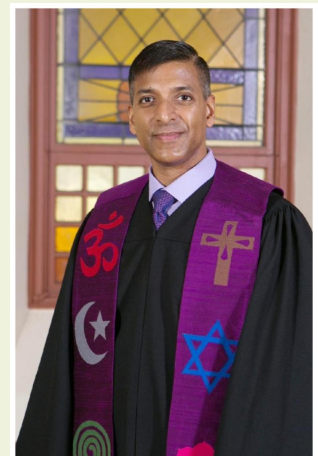


Ministerial Search Team (MST) News



By the time this newsletter arrives to your mailboxes, we will be in the midst of the Candidating Week, meeting our candidate for the Senior Minister position, Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti.

Rev. Manish is currently Senior Minister of the First Parish in Lincoln, Massachusetts. He has a MDiv from Harvard University and a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. He is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Prior to joining the ministry, Rev. Manish was a member of the US Foreign Service under the Clinton administration. Rev. Manish speaks various languages, including Finnish, Hindi, Russian, and Spanish, among others.



Rev. Manish is a warm and engaging preacher whose ministry touches both heart and head; a lifelong learner, scholar, and author; and a loving husband and a parent of young children. He is committed to outspoken community involvement and is a deeply thoughtful, engaging person who draws inspiration from Unitarian Universalism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Humanism, Christianity, and Lakota spirituality.

Rev. Manish has passion for and a commitment to social justice. He has been an outspoken supporter on many issues from the environment to gender identity-based

diversity. The book, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersection of Race, Class, and the Environment*, which he co-edited with Jennifer Nordstrom, was just published by Skinner House in March. It explores how spiritual practices, congregational organizing, and progressive theology can inform an intersectional approach to faith-based justice work in the 21st century.

As he visits with us, Rev. Manish will be joined by his family, which includes his spouse Jeff, a mixed media and fabric artist, his seven year old son Jacen, who loves airplanes and cars, and his four year old daughter Mina, who is an avid fan of sea creatures, especially sharks.

We invite all of you to get to meet Rev. Manish and his family during Candidating Week, April 28 to May 6 at the following events:

- Sunday, April 29, 9:30am and 11:30am services
- Two meet-the-candidate sessions:
 - Monday, April 30, 4:30pm - 5:30pm (Sanctuary)
 - Saturday, May 5, 2:00pm - 4:00pm (Fahs Chapel)
- Sunday, May 6, 9:30am and 11:30am services

Be sure to attend the special congregational meeting on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00pm. Members in good standing will vote on whether to call Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti as the 13th Senior Minister of the UUAA.

We want to sincerely thank all of you for your enthusiastic messages of gratitude and your steadfast support for our work. Please watch for additional updates on our web page www.uuaa.org/mst.

With much excitement,
Ministerial Search Team

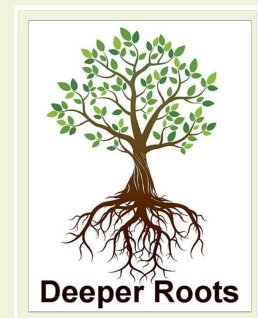


Deeper Roots

I would like to thank all for their generous support of the Deeper Roots campaign to fund a new Pastoral Care/ Social Justice Coordinator staff position. We received 106 donations or pledges totaling \$34,600, surpassing our goal of \$30,000. In the same period, we had a very successful auction, which, in addition to being a fun evening, has netted us \$23,000 so far. (A few payments remain outstanding.) Together these provide another testimony to the commitment of our members to this congregation.

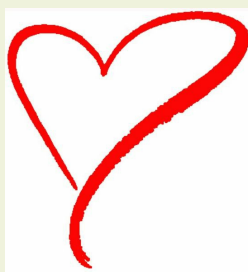
Thank you.

Ed Lynn
Interim Administrator



For Your Calendar

Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group * Wednesday, May 2



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 or Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, May 2



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 omaduke7@gmail.com or 769-0467.



Friday Fun Night * Friday, May 4



UUA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, May 4
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Run, Jump, and Spring!

This Month's Features

- * Lawn games and obstacle course
- * Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Salads (Green, Broccoli, Fruit)
- * Craft: Flowers, Butterflies, and Snakes
- * Movie: *Coco*
- * UUA Climate Action Team
- Movie: *This Changes Everything*
- * Game Room



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUA.ORG

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



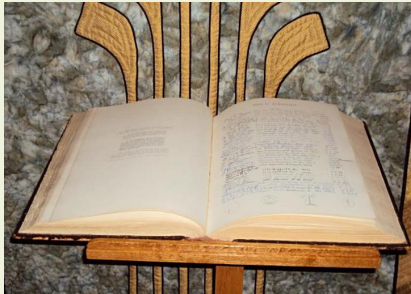
Climate Action Movie and Discussion * Friday, May 4

Join UUA Climate Action from 7:00pm - 9:00pm in the Jackson Chapel for a viewing and discussion of *This Changes Everything*.

"Filmed over 211 shoot days in nine countries and five continents over four years, *This Changes Everything* is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change."
"What if confronting the climate crisis is the best chance we'll ever get to build a better world?"



Introduction to Our Faith * Thursdays, May 10 and 24 and June 14



Join others from 6:30pm to 8:30pm over three Thursday evenings and learn more about our faith and this congregation. Taught by Rev. Doug Wadkins and Rev. Cassandra Hartley, topics include a bit about the history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, how to get involved, exploring your calling, the sharing of spiritual journeys, and the meaning and responsibilities of membership. This class is a prerequisite for signing the membership book.

[Register with this link](#) by Thursday, May 3. A minimum of 8 participants is needed to run the class; there is a maximum of 20. Registration forms are also available at the Involvement Table during Social Hour, in the Newcomer Welcome Room, and in the front entrance literature rack. Submit paper registration forms to the front office mailbox of Hannah Hotchkiss. You can also register by emailing Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss directly at hannah@uuaa.org.



UU Living Legacy Pilgrimage Presentation * Thursday, May 17



UU Living Legacy defines 50 years of activism – from Selma 1968 to 2018. The [UU Living Legacy Pilgrimage](#), a four to seven-day tour of the key civil rights sites in the South, has hosted over 500 "pilgrims" over the past decade. Join us from 6:45pm to 8:45pm for a presentation by three members of UUAA, Fran Lyman, Cathy Muha, and Barb Cherem, as they share their pilgrimage experiences.

Their pilgrimage with 34 others and six leaders (two of whom were part of the Movement 50 to 53 years ago), takes a somber view of the students, children, and primarily black women who led the 14-year desegregation struggle for what today is again under assault. Democracy is not a spectator sport, and UUs have a long tradition of social justice-seeking. It continues today, ranging from voting rights to equal public schooling to safe public settings for all. Come hear about the insights gained from this powerful tour and the repercussions that they see in to today's related activism.

Questions? Contact Barb Cherem at barbaracherem@yahoo.com.



the BIG sing * Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20



the BIG sing, UUAA's annual community singing festival, is coming up! This year, we'll explore Mozart's Requiem (1791-1792) and the spirituals of black America.

We'll seek common ground between these seemingly disparate contemporaries. And we'll honor these monuments of musical history with our best singing.

Be part of the choir!

Choir Rehearsal - Saturday, May 19 | 10:00am - 3:00pm

Email bigsing@uuaa.org for more information about joining the choir.

Be part of the audience!

Concert with the Michigan Sinfonietta (orchestra) - Sunday, May 20 | 4:00pm



Mindful Eating Farm Project Kickoff * Saturday, May 26

We're kicking off season seven of the Food Gatherers Farm Project as usual on Memorial Day Weekend. Join us from 9:00am to 3:00pm. This is the traditional planting day for our garden's host, Farmer Bill Schmid, and we need your help! Consider this a call for all volunteers to join us in working for a couple hours or for the whole day. This is always a fun event, and we welcome newcomers along with long-time volunteers. For more information, stop by our table during Social Hour after Sunday services or contact Colleen Crawley at ccrawley59@gmail.com.

In other news, we are thrilled to report that our community service Farm Project was awarded the "Gatherer of Plenty" award by Food Gatherers on Tuesday, April 24. We were recognized for raising thousands of pounds of fresh produce to help fight hunger in Washtenaw County. Members of the Mindful Eating leadership along with some of our most loyal and active volunteers were on hand to celebrate with Farmer Bill.



On the Horizon

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



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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.



News and Announcements

Alpha House Thanks You



A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, and/or their time to the April Host week at Alpha House, a shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Without your contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all it does for families in Washtenaw County. Our congregation contributed \$130 for this host week. Our appreciation goes to the following volunteers:

Day Hosts: Lucy Graff, Barb Gales, Terry Butcher, Priscilla Spencer, Brandy Sinco, Diane Fead

Food Donations: Betsy Reitbauer, Sally Preston, Marci Cameron, Sandy Eyl, Terry Palacios, JoAnne Diehl, Christine LePottier, Karen Hale, Amy Grant, Michael Grant, Wendy Watson, Constance Bridge, Wendy Dorman, Karl Sikkenga, Barron Evans, Kate Burkhardt, Tim Richards, Robin Fowler, Sara Mathews, Thomas Longworth, Chelsea

Valdes-Pierce, Carol Cramer, Bridgett Laundra, Gina Boldman, Elinore Sommerfeld, Ilene Beninson, Brandy Sinco, Claudette Show, Charissa Urbano

Servers and Cleanup Crew: Erik Stalhandske, Sandy Eyl, Terri Wilkerson, Jim Lee, Anita Sherman Moran, Terry Kress, Sam Lewis, Jay Lubow, Wendy Dorman, Charissa Urbano, Rebecca Chamberlain, Aaron Zivsak

Children's Activities Crew: Carey Swanson +2, Edward and Patrick Norton, Ann Brennan, Lara Brown, Cheryl and Vey Valentine, Betsy Price, Catherine Archibald, Kathy and Mike Muha, Jered Cassetta and family, Jim and Terri Palacios and family

Overnight Hosts: Jim Schaefer, Terry Butcher, Ilene Beninson, Steve Nason, Erik Stalhandske, John Preston, Carrie Hatcher-Kay

We are also grateful to all who contributed funds for food & supplies.

If we have misspelled or missed any names, please accept our apologies. Thank you everyone!

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



Climate Action

Climate Action Steering Committee: Members of the committee met with the Worship Team in March. We contributed to the Earth Day service planning. The committee will be represented in meetings with the ministerial candidate under the Social Justice umbrella.

The climate action Steering Committee meets on the first and third Sundays of each month. We meet between services about 10 minutes after the conclusion of the first service in the Kemnitz Room downstairs in the SGD wing. We adjourn five minutes before the second service. Our meetings are open and interested congregants are welcome.

Committee members host a table in the Social Hall during Social Hour once a month with global warming and climate change related materials displayed and available. Relevant petitions are also available for signing.

Good Quick Reads: The April Issue of "Natural Awakenings," available free in many stores and at HealthyLivingMichigan.com, has two especially relevant articles: "Healthy Climate, Healthy People" and an article by Paul Hawken which shares a plan to reverse global warming.

Longer Reads: *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken. Science-based, 70 global researchers modeled 100 various substantive solutions. The top 10 solutions range from wind turbines, reducing food waste, plant-rich diet, and solar farms.

Our Congregation: You can help reduce our congregation's use of fossil fuels. The Green Sanctuary Committee, under the leadership of Dave Friedrichs, is rejuvenating our commitment to reducing our use of fossil fuels. By buying a tile for the Energy Plaza as you enter the church or by just contributing you can help buy more solar panels for the roof of our church. Brochures are available in the pamphlet display case when you enter the building on the left and on the Climate Action Table in the Social Hall.

Questions? Contact John Seeley at jaseeley@aol.com.



Immigration Action Coalition (IAC)

Expanding Our Commitment to Sanctuary

How can we be bold and courageous? Where should we focus our energies to protect the most vulnerable members of our community? What can we do to change a broken system? How can we expand our commitment to sanctuary and fight the criminalization of black, brown, queer, and immigrant peoples?

The Immigration Action Coalition together with Challenging Racism invite you to become part of a small discussion group exploring these questions and more. "Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves: Anti-Racist Practice for Sanctuary, Accompaniment, and Resistance" is a four-part course for groups to explore, reflect, and act for social change. It will meet once a month for four months starting in May with core sessions offered online on May 1, June 5, and July 10 from 8:00pm to 9:30pm. The course is a joint production of the Unitarian Universalist Association, UUSC's Love Resists, and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). It promises practical skill development in the areas of ICE/Court Accompaniment, Congregational Sanctuary, and Immigration Detention/Prison Visitation.

Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy and Witness Director, says, "There is so much happening – both the violence of our world and how we are resisting with love...our work is to strengthen our local connections, knit them strong, humbly listen to what is needed, and figure out how to say yes."

Please plan to join us to discuss this important work. If interested, please send a note with your contact information to Cheryl Valentine at cherylnatzmervalentine@gmail.com or Kathy McLean at jdkamclean@comcast.net. Participants will establish a mutually convenient time to meet.



Poor People's Campaign

Challenging Racism: The UUAA Connection to the Michigan Poor People's Campaign



Direct actions will happen in Lansing on each Monday from May 14 to June 18. The hope is to unite tens of thousands of people nationally in collective action to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation, and the nation's distorted morality.

Though all are invited to join in the protests, only those who have gone through one of the three-hour non-violence trainings will be permitted to participate in the Direct Action of that day. So please register for one of those trainings if you think you might want to participate in them! If you have not already done so, complete the online PPC Pledge [here](#). Register for state actions [here](#).

Each week the Forty-Day Campaign is going to highlight different concerns: The weekly

days of direct action will take place on Mondays from 10:00am to 4:00pm with themes as follows:

- May 14 - Women / Youth / Disabled / Children / Right to Education
- May 21 - Connecting Systemic Racism / Economic Justice with Voting Rights and Just Immigration
- May 28 - Veterans, War Economy, Militarism
- June 4 - Right to Health - Ecology, Justice in Health, Water, Extreme Extraction (Fracking), Climate Change, Health Care
- June 11 - "Everybody's Got a Right to Live" - Living Wages, Guaranteed Income, Housing, Social Services
- June 18 - "New / Unsettling Force" - Challenging Nation's Moral Narrative - Fusion Movement Rising Up

Each day's events will include:

- Gathering / Registration: 10:00am
- Pre-action Training Session 2: 11:00am - noon

Questions? Contact Mary Ann Hergenrother at mahergen@gmail.com.



Sharing the Collection



Your Contributions Make a Difference!

The Sharing the Collection Committee is happy to share the good news: In our April collection, we raised \$2,819 for the Michigan UU Social Justice Network (www.uujustice.org). So far in 2018, we have raised almost \$10,000 to benefit non-profits in Washtenaw County who are serving the needy and the disadvantaged. Help us do more; mark your calendar for these upcoming collections:

- May 6, to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (www.h4h.org)
- June 3, to benefit Summer Camp Scholarships (www.campscholarships.org)

Questions? Contact Bob Dinan at bdinan83@gmail.com.



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 worker-owned 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 Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



What kind of service is our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) providing and to whom? I spent three days in Washington last week finding out, and I am amazed and profoundly moved by the stories I heard about

the work of this wonderful organization.

Working in 32 countries, UUSC is our own nonsectarian human rights organization, which is on the ground supporting our 78 partner organizations financially and logistically to challenge injustice and advance human rights.

One of the partner presenters at the Washington gathering was Wai Wai Nu of the Burmese Women Peace Network, who actually spoke to us via Skype from a ship at sea, having had difficulty leaving Burma by air to attend our meeting. Incarcerated with her entire family for seven years as a Rohingya "dissident" and pro-democracy advocate, she founded the Women Peace Network on her release to build strength among minority women and to speak out for their rights.

UUSC partners are also working in refugee "transit countries" to combat gender-based violence, give legal assistance, and provide psychosocial rehabilitation. Here at home, UUSC works with asylum seekers through the Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) to provide legal services and Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), another partner that provides free phone calls to detainees to contact family or obtain legal services.

These are just a few of the ways in which our denomination embraces the world. You can be part of the effort. You can do something! Please join UUSC today. Your \$40 puts you on record as a partner to our partners, working for human rights and challenging injustice around the world. UUSC has earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, your assurance that your gift is well used.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Welcome New Members

Lora Girata



Lora comes to UUAA after a long, winding physical journey and spiritual transformation. Raised Catholic in Tennessee, schooled in Chicago and New York City, and having experienced a myriad of cultures in the US and abroad, she was delighted to land in Ann Arbor and come across a liberal faith tradition and community creating a legacy of service, peace, and love – a space where she is able to integrate her diverse experiences and beliefs while grounding in our shared principles. With the support of this congregation, she co-teaches our Coming of Age program and serves as our UUAA representative on the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice Board.



Sam Lewis



Sam is from Seattle, Washington, but moved here in 2009 to go to school at the University of Michigan and has called Ann Arbor home ever since. He is very excited to deepen his spiritual roots in this wonderful community where he can be true to all of his identities – Jewish and Irish Catholic, queer, and environmentally conscious. He's a project manager by trade with experience in both fundraising and commercial banking. He lives in the Water Hill area and can often be seen walking through the neighborhood with his boyfriend, Jay, and dog, Meeko.



Hava Levitt-Phillips



Hava is so glad to have found a congregational home for her interfaith family. Hava is Jewish, her husband, Sydney Levitt-Phillips, grew up in the Congregational tradition, and they both meditate in the Shambhala tradition. Their boy, Felix, identifies as both Jewish and Christian, and they are all so happy to have found a community with room for all of them. Hava is in the English/Writing Department at Washtenaw Community College. Sid is a club soccer coach and Teacher's Assistant in the Ann Arbor schools, and Felix is into everything in first grade.

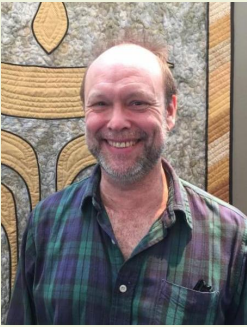


Nicki Scholtz



Nicki came to Michigan for grad school in 2005 and is currently a geospatial data librarian at the University of Michigan. Nicki enjoys playing board games, writing, cooking, science fiction, singing and playing the piano, and fiber and book arts. She is particularly interested in immigrant justice and renewable energy. Nicki lives in Ann Arbor with her family.

Karl Sikkenga



A native of Ann Arbor, Karl has been a teacher and administrator at schools all over the United States and in Kenya. He has three blonde daughters. They are not named Marcia, Jan, and Cindy, but rather, in fact, Kaeli, Evie, and Roxanne. Karl has sung with the Chalice Singers for four years. He works at New School High in Wayne County and records music with the band Archipelago.

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 Program 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 Saturday, September 15, 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 16, 2018 through approximately Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Note that recurring 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 recurring room reservation requests if your group plans to meet during the Summer Program Session.

Here is the schedule for reserving rooms:

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	Accepting reservation requests for groups of 50 or more people
August 1	Program Session 2018-19	Accepting all room reservation requests

Please submit your room requests by using our [room reservation form](#) found at www.uuaa.org 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 room@uuaa.org.



Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin

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

June Newsletter

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

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Building Hours

UUAA Building Hours Through May 20

Sunday | 9:00am-4:00pm
Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-9:00pm
1st & 3rd Friday | 5:00pm-9:00pm
2nd & 4th Friday | Closed
Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm

Office: Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-5:00pm

Summer Hours Begin Monday, May 21.



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | office@uuaa.org | 734-665-6158 | www.uuaa.org

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