



# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

## September Newsletter

September 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 9

### Congregational Links

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

### Other Links of Interest

[UUA.org](http://UUA.org) | [MidAmericaUUA.org](http://MidAmericaUUA.org) | [Side with Love](#)

## Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

### September 2018 | Vision

#### September's Worship Planning Team

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

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

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

#### September 2, 2018

**Worship: 10:00am**

**A House for Our Dreams: Meditations on Vision**

"Letting go of what has been  
Open and hopeful for what may come  
Renewed, restored, ready  
To live Life fully anew  
May we move forward with intention  
[and a vision of beginning again in love.]"

- Lois Van Leer, "On the Brink of a New Year (Rosh Hashanah inspired)"

#### September 9, 2018

**Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am (BEGIN TWO SERVICES)**

**Flowing into Community: A Water Communion Ingathering for All Ages**

On this first Sunday of our new "church year," let us gather to sing, reflect, and recommit ourselves to our shared spiritual journey. Please feel free to bring a small

container of water from your home or summer travels, or draw on the water that we will have on hand, as we join in our annual Water Communion service.

Come, as we celebrate the regathering of our congregation and begin together our new era of ministry with Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti!

**September 16, 2018**

**Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am**

**Vision: The Beacon That Guides Us**

What guides any of us individually and as a community? How can we tap into that sense of vision -- what we care about and are committed to? This Sunday we begin exploring how our values, both implicitly and explicitly, guide us in shaping the lives we build.

**September 23, 2018**

**Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am**

**Returning, Regrounding - Never Giving Up on That Which We Hold Dear**

Even as we seek to follow the values that guide us, we all at times fall short. Join us in this service honoring the themes of Yom Kippur, as we reflect on forgiveness and its ability to allow us to regroup, regroup, and deepen our commitment to the values we hold dear.

**September 30, 2018**

**Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am**

**Walking in Covenant: Bringing Vision Alive Together**

In community we honor the shared aspects of our journey through the concept of "covenant." Join us this Sunday as we reflect on the joy of being in community and the ways in which we learn and grow together, drawing on the strength of our covenants to guide us.



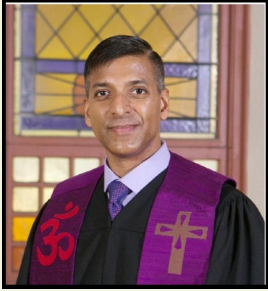
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout  
Director of Worship & Music  
[glenthomas@uuaa.org](mailto:glenthomas@uuaa.org)



## Reflections for the Journey

### **Beginnings Take Time...**

What a joy it is for me and my family to be here with you at UUAA. Even as I settle in, and begin looking forward to the start of our new church year, I am aware of how every turn, every nook and cranny, every personal encounter is totally new



to me. There is a freshness and excitement in that - possibility abounds! Hope abounds!

That which is new can be both captivating and alluring, and yet so much can remain unknown. As I write this, Jeff and I have not yet gotten around to locating the local DMV, we now have a home with a lawn but no lawn mower, and there are stacks and stacks of book boxes in my office, carefully hidden out of sight, waiting to be unpacked. And, that's just a handful of the many practical things that need to be navigated for us, as a family.

Add on to all of that, the interpersonal and relational pieces that are also gradually unfolding. Some in our community may be hoping that I'll be just like Rev. Doug, or Rev. Gail, or Rev. Ken in some ways; others hoping that I won't be like them in certain other ways.

There are so many hopes, and so many expectations. Oh, how I wish we could encounter one another without pre-existing reference points! Each of you getting to know me, purely as me, and me getting to know each of you as if I have not known other congregants or congregations. (If this was a blog or text message, I might be tempted to next write: LOL!) We each carry history into the process of getting acquainted.

History, hope, expectations - these are beautiful facets of our shared human experience, and yet they can also be stumbling blocks. It takes time to get to know one another, and see and understand why we each value what we value. We are just now embarking on what the community and I intend will be a long and meaningful period of ministry together, one that could last years or even decades. As we do that, let us be mindful that the foundations that support our ability to realize that dream are built slowly. That process involves getting to know one another really well and, just as importantly, loving each other even as we discover the inevitable shortcomings, imperfections, and human frailties that we know will be there.

After all, don't the very best of our human relationships embody that quality? Isn't this precisely what we love about our most cherished long-term relationships - that both sides have gotten to know each other so well, so deeply, that all our human foibles are there to be seen, each by the other, and we choose to move forward in creating, building, and being something together anyway?

Here's to September - and to the beginning of our adventure together! May it continue to unfold in ways that support our gradually getting to know, see, and understand one another.

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti  
Senior Minister



## Upon Reflection

Two and a half years ago, Rev. Gail announced her retirement as Senior Minister. For me, at least, it was difficult to envision UUAA without her powerful and loving presence.

Then we had the good fortune of Rev. Doug joining us for two years. During this intentional interim period, he helped the



congregation begin to ask some essential questions: Who are we as a religious community? Who do we want to become?

Now, with the arrival of Rev. Manish as the new settled Senior Minister, we have the chance to go deeper in envisioning the future of UUAA.

I'm excited to be part of the congregation's next chapter. We enter the new program year with a palpable sense of possibility. As the Chalice Sparks sang last year, "the rest is still unwritten."

What words do you hope to find as we turn the page?

Peace,  
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich  
Assistant Minister



## For Your Calendar

### Chalice Circle Signups \* Sundays in September



#### **Chalice Circles -- An Opportunity to Connect through Small Group Ministry**

Chalice Circle participants had this to say about their experience:

"It was a relaxing respite for reflection and community, with a nice opportunity to discuss vital and relevant topics."

"I got to know a small group of wonderful people on a deeper level and got to share myself in a safe space. It was great for a shy introvert."

"I had just joined the church, and it allowed me to meet cool and interesting people. I really look forward to it every other week."

"Insights from my circles life experiences were inspiring."

The Chalice Circle program is kicking off its 12th year at UUAA. Each Circle includes eight to twelve members, including two facilitators. Circles meet twice a month, for 14 sessions, from mid-October through May. Circle members consider readings and questions in an Advance Reflection provided before each session, and then meet to share their experiences and thoughts, listening deeply to one another. Each circle also chooses and completes a small service project during the year. Circles typically bond and grow close; friendships often develop or deepen.

#### **The following sessions will be held from mid-October through mid-May**

1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon	1:30-3:30	starting 10/21
1st and 3rd Monday evening	6:45-8:45	starting 10/15
1st and 3rd Tuesday evening	6:45-8:45	starting 10/16
1st and 3rd Wednesday evening	6:45-8:45	starting 10/18

In addition, we are offering a 20s/30s Chalice Circle this year.

1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon	1:30-3:30	starting 10/21
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All sessions will be held at UUAA.

Please check your calendars to choose the circle that suits you best. Child care is not available for Chalice Circles this year.

We are inviting UAAA members and friends to register for this year's Chalice Circles either by email or in the Social Hall after each Sunday service during Social Hour starting September 9. Registration will continue while openings remain, through September. To register by email, please review the instructions at [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org) and select "Chalice Circles" under the Worship drop down menu. Send your email request to [chalicecircles@uuaa.org](mailto:chalicecircles@uuaa.org).



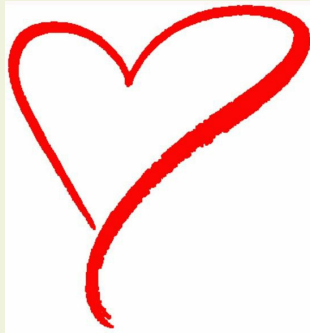
## Senior Dinner Out \* Wednesday, September 5



Our Senior Dinner Out will be at 6:00pm at Hot Pot Chen (2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor). Come and enjoy good conversation and good food with fellow UAAA seniors. No reservation is required. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



## The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group \* Wednesday, September 5



The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UAAA 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. It 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](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com), Sandy Kunkle at [sandykunkle@gmail.com](mailto:sandykunkle@gmail.com), or Meredith Ley at [meredith1888@gmail.com](mailto:meredith1888@gmail.com).



## Friday Fun Night \* Friday, September 7



# UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, September 7

6:00pm - 9:00pm

## BACK TO SCHOOL

### This Month's Features

- \* Outdoor games such as volleyball and others
- \* Make-your-own sandwiches, green and fruit salad
- \* Craft: Decorate folders, pencil cases & keychains
- \* Documentary: *I Am*. Discussion with Rev. Manish to follow
- \* Kids Movie: *Captain Underpants*
- \* Game room

*Everyone is welcome to attend, no need for a reservation. Suggested donation is \$5/person or \$20/family.*



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUAA.ORG

*Friday Fun Night regularly serves both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. If you need other dietary accommodations, please email us at [fridayfunnigh@uuaa.org](mailto:fridayfunnigh@uuaa.org) a week in advance.*

### Meet Our New Senior Minister at Friday Fun Night \* Friday, Septmeber 7

Rev. Manish and his family look forward to meeting you at the September Friday Fun Night. After an informal dinner starting at 6:00pm, Rev. Manish will host a viewing of "I Am" and a discussion to follow. If you aren't able to make the dinner before, you are welcome to join us for the movie, which will start at 7:00pm.

### 20s & 30s (+/-) Kickoff Lunch \* Sunday, September 9

Join 20s and 30s for our Fall Kickoff Lunch at 1:15pm in the Fahs Chapel! Enjoy lunch provided by UUAA while we get to know each other and elect our committee

chairs for the coming year! Even if you've never been to one of our events, come let us know what you want us to plan for the Fall! Questions? Contact Kaite Young-Kendall at [kaite.young.kendall@gmail.com](mailto:kaite.young.kendall@gmail.com).

To find out more about events with UUAA 20s/30s (+/-), join our [Facebook group](#) or [e-mail listserve!](#)

The official name of our group is the "Ann Arbor Unitarian Universalist Twenties & Thirties Plus or Minus". The plus-or-minus ( +/- ) means aged 20-39, more or less. The group includes people \*with\* or \*without\* partners, spouses, and/or children.

New for the 2018-2019 program year, we have four committees: Social, Volunteering, Welcoming and Communications. Find a detailed description of the committees we envision [here](#).



## All-Congregation Welcome Potluck \* Saturday, September 15



**Celebrate With Us  
The Start of a New Ministry  
at UUAA!  
Welcome Senior Minister  
Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti  
at a  
Potluck Picnic  
Saturday, September 15  
11:30am-2:00pm**

- Potluck Lunch (Bring a dish to share to serve 12 or more.) UUAA will provide drinks and cake.
- Join in the fun and games throughout the day!

There will be seating under tents on the lawn and in the Social Hall, Jackson Chapel, and Fahs Chapel.

If you would like to help with planning activities or with serving or setup, please email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuua.org](mailto:hannah@uuua.org).



One of the hallmarks of dementia, along with memory loss, is the difficulty expressing ideas or understanding them. This can make communicating with someone who is living with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia challenging. Effective Communication Strategies, an educational program to address this challenge, will be presented by Ashley Elliston, MSW and clinical coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association, Great Lakes Chapter.

Communication is more than just talking and listening -- it is also about sending and receiving messages through attitude, tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language. Join us to explore how communication takes place when someone has dementia, learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

If you wish to learn more about how to communicate with friends or family members who may have embarked on this journey, you are invited to join us at 2:00pm in the Fahs Chapel.

Advanced registration is required. Please call the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 to register. Programs with fewer than 10 registrants are subject to cancellation.



Friends of Restorative Justice and Washtenaw County Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) want you to know about two important upcoming events. We invite you to take concrete steps toward combating injustice in the criminal justice system by attending these events and supporting them financially as you are able. Attend the lecture, film, and/or discussions, become a sponsor, spread the word, and bring friends.

**Thursday, September 20, 7:00pm-9:00pm**

**Washtenaw Learning Resource Center, Michigan Room (4135 Washtenaw Ave.)**

Join us for this free lecture by State Representative David LaGrand, "Criminal Justice in Michigan: Directions for Change," on the inequities of the current cash bail system in our state and what we can do about it. All are invited to learn about another concrete way we can work together to combat systemic racism and inequality. Additional information is available at the UUAA Social Justice table during Social Hour or on the [Friends of Restorative Justice website](#).



## Benefit for Friends of Restorative Justice and Washtenaw County Dispute Resolution Center

Thursday, October 25, 5:30pm

### Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Auditorium

Join us for a viewing of *Healing Justice*, a moving documentary about restorative justice and its impact on the lives of people caught in the criminal justice system. A distinguished panel will follow. Tickets cost \$25. Sponsorships begin at \$100 and include a VIP reception at 5:30pm with returned citizens, experts on restorative justice, and others. More information is available on the [DRC website](#) and at the UUA Social Justice table during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact Margaret Pekarek at [mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com](mailto:mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com).



## Salsa and Salsa Dance Party \* Friday, September 21



Dance for fun and dance for justice. Everyone is welcome to this family-friendly event. Salsa and Salsa is UUA's second annual Latin Dance Party. This year's event is a benefit for [Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights \(WICIR\)](#). WICIR is a non-profit organization that helps immigrant families in our community stay together and advocates for justice for those in danger of deportation.

Don't miss this feel-good dance party in the Social Hall from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Enjoy Latin dancing, food, and fellowship. No experience and no partners are needed. Tickets are \$20 for one, \$30 for two, and \$40 for three people. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets are available at the door and at

the Immigration Action Coalition table during Social Hour on September Sundays. Make checks to UUA with Salsa in the memo line. Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at [cheryl.natzmervalentine@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.natzmervalentine@gmail.com).



## UUA Men's Retreat \* Friday-Sunday, September 28-30



**Our annual retreat at the Judson Collins Center is on the horizon. Will you dare to join us?**

Hearty belly laughs; moments of deep personal insight; joy and a sense of connectedness in joining with new friends in making music and playing games; happiness, empathy, validation, relief -- while sharing stories in a small "lodge" group.

I experienced all of these in my first Men's Retreat. That I might experience and feel so much in a single weekend -- a weekend that I entered into with trepidation, cynicism, and a small amount of anxiety -- was a happy surprise. No longer. My introverted self has grown addicted to this annual tradition. I've only missed once since that first time in 2009. A few of my brothers have not missed a single one in 18 years.

Each year we have a theme that helps shape our activities and conversations, but

always in the spirit of fulfilling our most important goals, which are to have fun, to make meaningful connections with other men, and to grow our community.

This year we will explore something very basic to our existence as a group. What does it mean to be someone who identifies as a man? What does it mean for you? How has that changed over time? Is it different for UU men? Does our awareness of the harm we have done to women change our understanding or responsibilities? How about our understanding of gender as a continuum rather than a binary? What personal stories and perspectives would you like to bring to the conversation? Together, we can create a "Field Guide to Being a UU Man in 2018."

For more information, email [mensretreat@uuaa.org](mailto:mensretreat@uuaa.org) or visit our table during Social Hour.

Gregg Peterson



## On the Horizon

Neither Here Nor There... \* Sunday, October 14

### **Neither Here Nor There, But Somehow Still Present: Soulfully Living the Cross-Cultural Life: A Presentation by César Valdez**

Join us in the Fahs Chapel at 1:30pm for this powerful Challenging Racism event.

As we undergo the transformational storms of a rapidly changing world and the emergence of a global community, psychological and spiritual teacher Atum O'Kane identifies the need for bridge people -- those who live soulfully with one foot in one world and one foot in another.

César Valdez grew up in an area of the U.S. primarily made up of a people who maintain many of the cultural traditions of their Mexican ancestry, and who also very much identify as "all-American." This talk reminds us that the most resilient individuals and collectives are those who can offer a coherent narrative of their life stories, yet the Mexican-American community, for many reasons, has remained in the shadows of the greater American narrative. César makes a contribution toward expanding that narrative with a beautiful description of Mexican-American life in the U.S. Additionally, he reminds us of the history of racism that played a part in the formation of this invisibility. He describes his experience of leaving his hometown and encountering those who couldn't seem to fathom that he, too, was as American as they were and the strategy of withdrawing one's life force as a way of navigating through and protecting oneself from an unaccommodating world.

While this kind of bi-cultural life may present many challenges and conflicts, one of its hidden gifts is the ability to hold seemingly dissonant experiences at once and without the option of taking sides. As such, César identifies four lessons taken from the unique experience of inhabiting this unavowed space. These lessons aim to describe qualities needed for building bridges across vast divides. With consideration to the increasing polarization of our world, we will explore lessons learned from living in a space that is neither here nor there, yet somehow still powerfully present.

Questions? Contact Kathy McLean at [jdkamclean@comcast.net](mailto:jdkamclean@comcast.net).

## 2018 Civil Rights Mississippi Pilgrimage

UAAA congregants are planning a four-day pilgrimage to key Civil Rights Movement sites in Mississippi, October 28 through October 31, 2018. This affordable experience will include the site where three Civil Rights workers disappeared, Medgar Evers' home, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, the Mississippi Delta where Fannie Lou Hamer lived and died, and the location where young Emmett Till was killed. Registration will open soon. Join our [mailing list](#) to be the first to hear. Last Spring three members, Cathy Muha, Fran Lyman, and Barb Cherem, went on the 10th anniversary of this annual civil rights trip and gave a presentation upon their return. They would love to answer any questions you may have about the trip. Questions? Contact Barb Cherem at [barbaracherem@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaracherem@yahoo.com).

## News and Announcements

### Quiana Perkins | New Social Justice & Pastoral Care Coordinator



#### A Warm Welcome to Quiana Perkins

Welcome our new Social Justice and Pastoral Care Coordinator, Quiana Perkins. You can meet Quiana on Sundays at the Pastoral Care/Involvement Table in the Social Hall after services. If you are in need of pastoral care, we invite you to reach out to Quiana on Sundays during Social Hour or by emailing [quiana@uuaa.org](mailto:quiana@uuaa.org).

## Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM)

### New Leadership

Barb Hall and Dee Dishon will succeed Phil Tuchinsky as co-facilitators of AIM as of September 1. They undertake this work as the AIM reaches its fifth anniversary, founded in 2013 at the initiative of Els Nieuwenhuijsen. Barb has a background in special education and has been chair of the UAAA Arts and Aesthetics Committee, responsible for redecorating public spaces so they reflect the spirit of the congregation and purpose of each space. Dee has been a member of the choir, Alpha House Coordinating Committee, Auction Planning Team, and the AIM Committee.

Thanks go to Phil Tuchinsky for putting together the AIM Certificate application report and under whose leadership the following projects were accomplished: two benches with armrests were installed outside the main entrance, several chairs with armrests were installed in the sanctuary, accessible parking spaces for congregants with health issues were designated, and handrails to the chancel were installed. Phil Tuchinsky has worked for several years as co-coordinator, co-facilitator, and as leader of the UAAA AIM with dedication and strong commitment. We are grateful for his many contributions.

Dee and Barb welcome new and veteran AIM members to the first AIM meeting of the new year on Sunday, September 9, 10:00am -11:15am. There are lots of exciting plans in the works, so we invite all hands on deck!

Questions? Contact Dee Dishon at [deedishon@gmail.com](mailto:deedishon@gmail.com).



## Alpha House Thank You



A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, and/or their time to the June 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 these families in Washtenaw County. Our congregation contributed \$130 for this host week. Our appreciation goes to the following volunteers:

**Day Hosts:** Barb Gales, Brandy Sinco, Dee Dishon, Lucy Graff, Diane Fead

**Donations of food:** Eileen Wright, Lorelle Thomas, Sandy Simon, Constance Bridge, Gwen Guthrie, Claudette Snow, Sandy Eyl, Kate Burkhardt, Tom Gibb-Randall, Connie McGuire, Sara Mathews, Sally Preston, Susan West, JoAnne Diehl, Sharon St. Mary, Marci Cameron, Carol Cramer, Gina Boldman, Brandy Sinco, Thomas Longworth, Kim Wolf, Kristin Evon, Laura Johnstone, Hal Breidenbach, Pat Herbst, Barron Evans, Lisa Lemble, Elinore Sommerfeld

**Meal serving and cleanup:** Gwen & Tom Guthrie, Sandy Simon, Jane Theriault, Cathy & Mike Muha, Jeanne Powell, Susan West, Julie Tanguay, Angela Menegay & children, Kristin Evon, Lora Girata, Lori Reece

**Children's activity time:** Gibb-Randall family, Brenna Johnson, Constance Bridge, Cynthia Dunitz, Diana Paez, Amy Grant, Jennifer Ellsworth, Jane Theriault, Barbara LaRose, Susan Cain, Lisa & Sam Cohn, Hartley-Beane family, Victoria Moessner, Jim & Rebecca Sundberg, Angela Menegay & children, Kirsten Mogbo & child, Carey Swanson, Nancy Harter, Lara Brown, Ann Brennan

**Overnight hosts:** Steve Nason, Jim Lee, Sandy Eyl, Ilene Beninson, Terry Butcher, Fran Lyman

We are also grateful to all who contributed funds for food and 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](mailto:abarber@gmail.com).



## Climate Action & Green Building Committees Solar Panel Project

You're invited to become a part of the landscape of renewable energy at UUAA by adding to the number of solar panels on the church roof and having a tile



with your inscription added to the Energy Plaza.

This renewed plan to add panels is being offered by the Climate Action and Green Building committees with the ultimate goal to achieve 100% renewable energy for UUAA.

From the literature rack in the entryway, pick up a new Sustainable UUAA brochure for more info and a form to fill out. Specify the wording for any tile(s) you'd like (see example of tile inscriptions on our

website). Installment payments are accepted for one or more solar panels and energy plaza tiles. Climate Action and Green Building committees ask that solar panel donations be kept separate from annual Stewardship support for the congregation. Thank you!

Why donate to fund more solar panels at UUAA?

- Offset use of electricity (DTE is heavier on fossil fuels use than most.)
  - Roof can accommodate 100kW of solar and has only 15kW at present (20% of power use)
- Enhance opportunities for education by action
- Achieve savings (and tax-deduction)

Co-Chair of Green Building Committee Dave Friedrichs  
Co-Chair Climate Action Committee Tom Bauldt

Questions? Contact Dave Friedrichs at [dave@homelandsolar.com](mailto:dave@homelandsolar.com).



## Did You Know...



### Did You Know ...

**Did you know** that our new Senior Minister, Rev. Manish, is a co-author of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Commission on Appraisal report entitled "Engaging our Theological Diversity," which our UUAA Humanist Group has been reading? Free e-copies of this book are available [here](#).

**Did you know** that our Assistant Minister, Rev. Lindasusan, recently joined the editorial board for Skinner House Books, an imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association?

**Did you know** that Quiana Perkins, our new Social Justice and Pastoral Care Coordinator, was recently published in a collaborative blog representing both Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and Side with Love? Check it out [here](#)!

This new monthly feature "Did You Know..." is an opportunity to share how UUAA groups, staff, and ministers are connecting with the wider UU community and the wider world. If your group has news to share about work with the wider community, send a submission to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org) by the 21st of each month. Please put "Did You Know..." in the subject line. Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).



## UJAA Habitat for Humanity (UJAA H4H)



A huge thank you to the many UJAA folks who donated money or did hands-on work to help renovate two 2018 Habitat for Humanity homes in Ypsilanti.

Thank you, donors! We exceeded our \$8000 pledge toward the cost of the renovations.

Thank you, site workers and lunch makers! More than 60 UJAA

volunteers did hands-on work this year, some digging trenches and painting garages, some providing home-baked cookies or cutting up fruit. All contributions were greatly appreciated.

This was our congregation's 19th year working with the "Good News Group" of 17 area congregations who join together to raise about \$50,000 and provide the volunteers for two home renovations. Thirty-one families and over 60 children live in safe, energy efficient Good News homes now.

This year we do not know yet who the families are who will purchase the homes. We will post information about our families and provide dates for the home dedications as soon as possible. Information and photos are always available at [uuaa.org/h4h](http://uuaa.org/h4h).

Thank you! We look forward to working together again in 2019!

UJAA H4H Team: Mike Muha (chair), Sandy Simon, Fran Lyman, Gwen Guthrie, and Lucy Graff



## Summer Spiritual Growth & Development (SGD)



We changed up our SGD Summer Program, and it's going quite well. Attendance is up and more consistent. We have more volunteers sharing the load, and all seem to enjoy it. We've even had more than we asked for, which is amazing! We began with the Circle of Trees curriculum so our young ones could spend more time outside connecting with our land and better connect with the web of life. We kept lessons short, did a human chalice spin on the usual chalice lighting, and broke joys and sorrows into small groups to make it more personal. We offered choices of art and crafts or games for the remainder of the morning and had volunteers assigned to these stations. A giant coloring page was a hit, and so were animal and tree spirit masks. They also acted out tree poses, and intently participated in a guided meditation.

The subject for the second half of our term, "Reviews and Previews," was the brainchild of Christine Pellar-Kosbar. It features lessons from a different grade level each Sunday, and continued with the multi-station activities format. The K-1 lesson focused on welcoming others and what it feels like to be or have a guest. They

made a very friendly clubhouse using chairs, tables, and sheets.

The children in the summer session are mostly grades K- 5 (more on the younger side), so it was special and cool to meet in the 6th grade (big kids) classroom to talk about other religions and examine and color religious symbols. The OWL (8th grade) lesson focused on gender roles and identity with a dress-up opportunity. We finished up with a YRUU preview: Adulting 101, which gave them a chance to play "Never Have I Ever," ask questions about being a grown-up, and learn a practical skill (sewing on a button).

Our Reviews and Previews program has been such a success that we are likely going to offer this curriculum again next summer. This will give us a chance to share more insights from many different grades and show off our "greatest hits." Thanks to the many volunteers who made this all possible, and gratitude for our children who show up - even in the summer!

In peace,  
Debra Jean Golden, SGD Assistant  
[debra@uuaa.org](mailto:debra@uuaa.org)



## Sunday Welcome Team Opportunities for 2018-2019



We have openings for 2018-2019 Sunday Welcome Teams. Try out ushering, greeting, staffing the Involvement Table, or assisting with Social Hour and see if it is a good fit for you. Typically, Sunday Welcome Team members sign up to help one service a month.

If you are interested in learning more about Sunday Welcome Team opportunities, fill out a form at the Involvement Table during Social Hour or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).



## Transylvania Partner Church



Donna Clark, Bob Dinan, Carolyn and Patrick Norton, Gerry and Anita Sherman Moran, and Phyllis Valentine traveled to Transylvania in August to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Tolerance with our Partners in Kézdivásárhely.

They toured Bucharest, Sinaia, and Brasov and then were dropped off in Kézdi. Their host families were waiting for them, and they began a whirlwind time of getting to know each other. They and their hosts joined together for events in Kézdi, Szentivanlaborfalva, and Szekelyudvarhely, and for some fabulous restaurant meals, a cooking lesson, and a confirmation service on Sunday in Szentivanlaborfalva. They especially enjoyed Rev. Istvan and his band's musical sermon in the Kézdi church. The university student we've been supporting, Attila Lestyan, has graduated and dropped by to thank us. Phyllis met the newest student, Nora Gabor, when she dropped by Rev. Istvan's home.

After their home stays, they spent a day in Kolozsvár, the seat of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church and home to church archives that include letters by Francis David.

They went on to visit Torda, Marosvásárhely, and Segesvár, birthplace of Vlad the Impaler (aka Dracula). On their last full day the group visited the fortified church in Székelyderzs, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and then met Rev. Istvan and Csilla for lunch in Sepsiszentgyörgy.

Friends were made, history was learned, good food was consumed, and the scenery was beautiful. The hay stacks were golden and the roads, shared with horse-drawn carts of all sizes, twisted and turned through spectacular hills. They will all remember this time together.



## UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)



In July, Anne Garcia and Mark Jagner presented a letter signed by 75 members of UUAA to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell asking her to co-sponsor the [Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act \(HR 4391\)](#). The legislation would require the Secretary of State to certify that American funds do not support Israel's military detention, interrogation, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children. Sponsored by [Rep. Betty McCollum \(D-MN\)](#), the bill currently has 29 co-sponsors. Congresswoman Dingell said she intends to co-sponsor the bill.

Israel is the only country in the world that prosecutes children in military courts. Every year around 700 Palestinian children as young as 12 years old are taken from their beds at night by Israeli soldiers. During transfer to an interrogation center in an army vehicle, they are often bound, blindfolded, and abused physically and verbally.

The [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) requires that all children who come into contact with a justice system are to be treated with dignity and respect, and detention is only to be used as a last resort. All juvenile justice proceedings must be based on the best interests of the child.

[Human Rights Watch](#) documented that children are subject to chokeholds, beatings, and coercive interrogations and denied access to lawyers or parents. The 2013 UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) report [Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations](#) found that the ill-treatment of children by the Israeli military detention system "appears to be widespread, systematic, and institutionalized throughout the process from the moment of arrest until the child's prosecution and eventual conviction and sentencing." American taxpayer dollars must never support the Israeli military's detention or abuse of Palestinian children. For more information visit [No Way to Treat a Child](#).

Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at [mjagner@yahoo.com](mailto:mjagner@yahoo.com).



## UUSC Coffee Project



Support small farm cooperatives globally while helping to fundraise for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation. Visit our table following the service to choose from fair trade chocolates, coffee, teas, nuts, dried fruits, and Palestinian olive oils. Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at [ilene.beninson@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.beninson@gmail.com).

## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



"Persons who violate the law of our nation are subject to prosecution. I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13 to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order. Orderly and

lawful processes are good in themselves and protect the weak and lawful." Jeff Sessions

So says our Attorney General in order to support the policies of the administration regarding immigration, asylum seeking, matters of family separation, and border enforcement in general. Order appears to be his major concern. Compassion and justice seem to be in short supply.

UUSC is doing everything it can to counter the government's policies, with its Central American Migrant Justice strategy. UUSC continues to lobby key legislators to speak out against current practices and to frame rationales for appropriate practices. You can help this effort. Please go to the UUSC website and sign letters regarding the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act. UUSC continues to support UUSC partners protecting the right to safety of all along the migrant trail. Your donations allow this good work to go forward. If not now then donate at the time of the annual fundraiser, Guest at Your Table, coming up in the Fall.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at [qnorthrup@gmail.com](mailto:qnorthrup@gmail.com).

## Membership



### Becoming a Member

#### Stepping Stones



Experience being part of the congregation by attending Sunday services and seeking out groups of interest.



Learn about the UU faith and history by attending an Introduction to Our Faith class. (For more information about registering for upcoming sessions, check the Sunday Bulletin or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).)



Upon completing Introduction to Our Faith and learning about the rights and responsibilities of membership, arrange with the Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss to sign the membership book and submit paperwork.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).



## Office and Building News

### 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](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org) by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

#### ***October Newsletter***

Submissions for the *October Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org) by 9:00am, Friday, September 21.

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).



### Building Hours

#### **Holiday Building Hours in Observance of Labor Day (Friday, August 31 to Monday, September 3)**

**Friday, August 31** | Closed  
**Saturday, September 1** | Closed  
**Sunday, September 2** | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Monday, September 3** | Closed

#### **Summer Building Hours Through Saturday, September 15**

**Sunday** | 9:00am to 4:00pm  
**2nd and 4th Monday** | 9:00am to 9:00pm  
**Monday through Wednesday** | 9:00am to 5:00pm  
**Thursday** | 9:00am to 9:00pm  
**Friday** | Closed  
**Saturday** | 9:00am to 12:00pm (Exception: 9/15 for All-Congregation Picnic)

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

## Fall Building Hours Beginning Sunday, September 16

**Sunday** | 8:30am to 4:00pm

**Monday to Thursday** | 9:00am to 9:00pm

**1st & 3rd Friday** | 5:00pm to 9:00pm

**Other Fridays** | Closed

**Saturday** | 9:00am to 4:00pm

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



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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | [office@uuuaa.org](mailto:office@uuuaa.org) | 734-665-6158 | [www.uuaa.org](http://www.uuaa.org)

See what's happening on our social sites:

