



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

UUAA January 2019 Newsletter

January 2019 Newsletter - Vol. 15, Issue 1

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

January 2019 | Possibility UUAA's Worship Planning Team

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

January 6, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

A Blank New Page

A sense of possibility fills the beginning of each new year. By exploring this month's theme together, we can imagine ourselves into 2019. This Sunday will also include our annual Ritual of Remembrance, which honors members of the congregation who have died in the last year.

January 13, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

The Power and Possibility of Story

How can story, our own and those of others, help heal, transform, and provide inspiration for our lives? Joining us in the pulpit this Sunday is special guest Ms. Satori Shakoor, a Detroit based artist, storyteller, and social entrepreneur, who is also one of the hosts of the local Ann Arbor Moth. It promises to be an inspiring Sunday that you won't want to miss!

January 20, 2019
Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am
Mission: Impossibility

When events or circumstances feel insurmountable, how might we spiritually work with and move through feelings of impossibility?

January 27, 2019
Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am
Yes, And...

The world of improv is always full of possibility. What can we learn from this art form to enrich our experience as a spiritual community?



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



Reflections from Rev. Cassandra Hartley



Around this time last year, I began to get the question I had learned to dread: What are you doing for New Year's Eve? I dreaded this question because I dread New Year's celebrations in general. I don't like big parties, and yet I always feel pressured to go to them because that's what you're supposed to do on New

Year's Eve.

The next day I get up and make resolutions because that's what you're supposed to do on New Year's Day. I always start out thinking it will be a great exercise, but then I end up with a list of "shoulds" that I quickly fall short on and feel guilty about.

Thankfully, last year something changed. I suddenly remembered a colleague saying that he spent his Christmas in silent meditation. Thinking about that comment made me realize that maybe I could set down what I was supposed to do for New Year's Eve and instead create a spiritual retreat of my own.

So that's exactly what I did. I began at noon on New Year's Eve and spent the next 24 hours trying many of the spiritual practices, readings, and exercises I had always wanted to try but never found time for. There was also plenty of time for sleeping and eating my favorite foods.

I tried everything from Tai chi, to writing exercises, to meditation. At some point while I was doing a qigong video on YouTube that was instructing me to shake my whole body to energize my qi, I looked down at my dog's facial expression and realized she was convinced that I had completely lost my mind. But her reactions

aside, it was the best New Year's celebration I have ever had!

This year, as I prepare to do a retreat at home again, I've been thinking about what made this experiment so successful. I realized that I had shifted from starting the new year with a sense of pressure and obligation, to starting the new year with a sense of possibility. Instead of focusing on what other people told me was supposed to be fun, I spent time thinking about what was really fun for me. Instead of giving myself a long to-do list for the coming year, I experimented with spiritual practices -- allowing myself to enjoy what worked well and let go of what didn't resonate. There was a sense of openness and playfulness to my retreat that I need so much in my life, but quickly forget when I get caught up in the day-to-day grind.

Of course, I recognize that I am a spirituality nerd, so my retreat idea is definitely not for everyone. But I do invite you to think about what beginning the new year with a sense of possibility would look like for you? What "shoulds" are you ready to let go of? What new things are you ready to try?

Throughout the month of January, we will be exploring the theme of "possibility" together in worship. May this shared journey help you find the places of openness and playfulness in your own life. Not only in the new year, but in all the months to come.

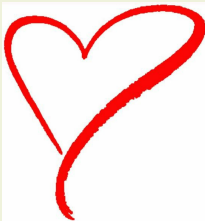
Blessed be,

Rev. Cassandra Hartley



For Your Calendar

Memory Loss Caregiver Support * Wednesday, January 2



The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group offers participants a safe place to share and receive support. If you are a caregiver who would like some support, please join us in the David Room from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. Bring a friend or someone you may know who is also caring for someone with memory loss. All are welcome. Questions? Call Meredith Ley at 734-717-0213.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, January 2

This is the first monthly Senior Dinner for the year! We will meet at 6:00 pm at Hot Pot Chen at 2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. Drop-ins are welcome since no reservations are necessary. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Friday Fun Night * Friday, January 4



UUAU FRIDAY FUN NIGHT A NEW YEAR IN COMMUNITY

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

Cozy Winter Night

Featuring:

- * Breakfast for Dinner (quiche, pancakes, green & fruit salads)
- * Fleece Hat Making
- * Kids' Movie: *Frozen*
- * Adult Program: Rev. Manish will host a Sci-Fi Movie & Discussion
- * Game Room
- * Lego Corner
- * Childcare for Infants & Toddlers



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUAU.ORG

Friday Fun Nights: September through May

Interweave Planning * Saturday, January 5



Please join us as we continue to discuss Interweave for the 2019 season! We will be meeting from 12:00pm-1:30pm. All are welcome to attend. Bring your thoughts, ideas, and energy! Questions? Contact Quiana Perkins at quiana@uuuaa.org

We are a spiritual home to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) people. Our purpose is transformation within ourselves, the Congregation, and the greater community.



Justice in the Middle East: BDS Movement * Sunday, January 6



Join us in Fahs Chapel from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for a video presentation about the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS) for Palestinian rights.

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

After more than 70 years of ethnic cleansing, dispossession, and military occupation, Palestinians are still denied basic human rights guaranteed to all people, without exception. Despite hundreds of resolutions, the UN has failed to take any action to hold Israel accountable.

In 2005, inspired by the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, Palestinian civil society called on international organizations and people of conscience all over the world to participate in boycotts and divestment strategies, and for governments to impose sanctions against Israel until it complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights.

Hundreds of congregations and regional and national conventions of many denominations have adopted resolutions supporting BDS. UUs for Justice in the Middle East is proposing that our congregation adopt a resolution endorsing BDS in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. What are the goals and strategies of the BDS Movement? How should we respond? Please join us for this informative video presentation, followed by discussion. Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com.



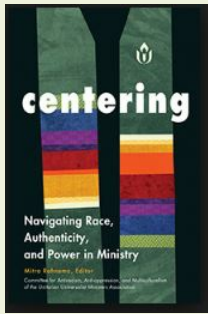
Congregational Meeting * Sunday, January 13



Pursuant to our Bylaws, a congregational meeting will be held after second service on January 13, 2019. New on the agenda this year: participatory small group discussions. All congregants and UUA friends are welcome and encouraged to engage in conversation about the future path of our congregation. Business matters will include an update from the Board, the 2019 Budget and UUA's Safety Plan.



Challenging Racism Book Discussion | *Centering* * Sunday, January



Challenging Racism warmly invites you to discuss the last half of *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry* from 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel.

UU religious professionals of color are usually marginalized in the white congregations they serve, and this book "centers" their experience.

It is an essential book for all of us at UUAA to ponder. It is a tender invitation to majority UUs to stand in the shoes of non-majority religious leaders (NMRL), particularly those with whom we worship and work. The editor urges white UUs to take in NMRLs' words and allow their stories "to touch your heart and soul" (p. xvi). Copies are available for borrowing in the UUAA office.

All are welcome.

Questions? Contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu.



BLUU Online Worship * Sunday, January 20

UUAA Is Hosting a Black Lives of Unitarian Universalist (BLUU) Online Worship Watch Event!



**Doors Open at 3:45pm
Service Starts at 4:00pm**

**Post Worship Discussion
Light Refreshments Served**

BLUU's online worship service is Black sacred space in its entirety -- by and for Black people, with the words and voices of Black folks across the diaspora. We invite Black UUs and Black UU-adjacent folks to attend. For our siblings in faith who do not identify as Black, please DO share this invitation with Black folks in your life and community. While this Black sacred space is not for you, you may know Black people for whom this space would be healing.

We look forward to being in beloved community with you.

Questions? Contact Quiana Perkins at quiana@uuuaa.org.



University of Michigan MLK Symposium * Monday, January 21

Gather with the UUAA Challenging Racism Group at the University of Michigan Hill Auditorium for the MLK Symposium Keynote Lecture, which will feature author Tim Wise and Julia Putnam, principal of the Grace Lee Boggs School in Detroit. The event symposium starts at 10:00am. We invite you to join us for lunch in the basement of Panera's across the street after the lecture. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



The Better Men Dialog * Saturday, January 26



What does it mean to be a "man" in today's world? What does the world need from those that identify as men? Join us for a panel discussion among community / thought leaders in an open community dialogue exploring these complex and thought-provoking questions. All genders are welcome, we

just ask that you bring open minds, open hearts, and a constructive approach. Meet us in the Social Hall from 1:00pm-3:30pm.

This event is sponsored by UUAU Men's Fellowship, the Intentional Living Collective, and Evenstar's Chalice. Reserve a spot today at bettermendialogue.eventbrite.com Questions? Contact Bob Hospadaruk at hospadaruk@gmail.com.



News and Announcements

2019 Annual Stewardship Drive



Almost There! Last Call for 2019 Pledges

We're just \$50,000 short of our \$1 million goal for 2019! If you haven't had a chance to make your pledge yet, please do so today and help us cross the finish line strong. Pledge online , print a pledge form,or pick up a form on Sundays.



2019 Annual Goods & Services Auction

"Hey, let's put on a show!" And if by "show" you mean the congregation's annual goods and services auction, then we are all on the same page.

Last year was our most successful auction ever, so we're putting it on again this year, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on April 13 right here at UUAU. There will be music from within and outside the congregation, catered food, a cash bar, lots of items to

bid on and a live auction.

Every month between now and April the auction committee will be meeting between services, looking for input, and perhaps a helping hand. Times and dates will be in the bulletin. Please join us.

In the meantime, if you have suggestions, joke ideas for our bulletin notices, or simply want to find out more, email auction@uuuaa.org.



Delegation to the U.S.-Mexican Border | 2019 Trips

Join us as we travel to the American Southwest to learn about important spiritual and civic issues related to our nation's southern border. Senior Minister Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti will personally lead two delegations during 2019 to Arizona, where we will meet with local grass-roots organizers and travel for a day to Mexico. The two travel opportunities will be in May and November of 2019, with a series of once-a-month seminars leading up to the first trip. We will be collaborating with the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice and an organization called Borderlinks, which specializes in experiential education related to border justice issues. For more information on Borderlinks, please feel free to visit <http://borderlinks.nationbuilder.com/history>.

Delegation Dates:

Saturday, May 11, 2019 through Thursday, May 16, 2019 (6 days, 5 nights)

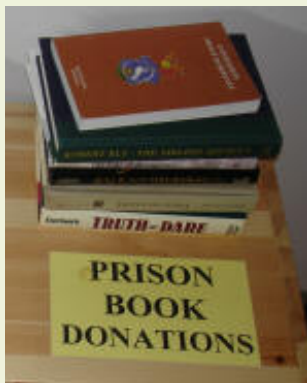
OR

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 through Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 (6 days, 5 nights)

To learn more, use this [link](#).



Prison Books in Transition



Mindful of the UU "Law of Service," Prison Book volunteers will have delivered more than 160,000 books to inmates in the Michigan Correction system by the end of its 11th year of service. But the principal volunteers for this important service project are getting old! We need new leaders and volunteers.

Congregants and others donate books, but volunteers collect most of the books from local libraries and organizations. They sort, pack, store, and deliver the books to prisons. These tasks involve some knowledge about books and physical labor. We need more physically able volunteers to collect, lift, load, transport, store, and deliver boxes of books as well as people to sort and pack books. Some of this work happens during the week, some on the weekends.

Coordination is a big and constant task. The team's leader, currently a single person, communicates with prison officials about delivery dates and needs. The number of facilities has dropped to eight due to Correction policies. The leader also contacts the donor organizations about collection dates. And finally the leader organizes the volunteers to carry out collecting, sorting, and delivering books. Almost all of this work is done via email. This job could be coordinated by two or

three people.

We have been told that the books we deliver are the only books in the prison libraries. We believe in this project. But we need new volunteers to do the communication, coordination, and physical labor for this program along with people able to work occasionally. Email us to learn more about the program or stop us in the Social Hall to ask for more information.

Jim Gallas: jagallas@comcast.net

Bob Heinold: HeinoldBob@aol.com or Rhetor31@comcast.net

Phyllis Valentine: pav@umich.edu



Introducing Partner Church Transylvania Host & Scholarship Recipient



Host

Donna Clark writes: "I stayed with Katalin, employed in an elite primary school where she teaches kindergarten through 5th grades, following each class through six years of learning. The building where she teaches is 400 years old, but the school has been there only 200 years! She is a widow and an empty-nester. Her two grown children, Attila and Ilka, the first to receive UUAA scholarships, now work in Budapest. Katalin raised her children in a one-bedroom walk-up apartment near the fellowship hall in Kezdi. She is an excellent cook and, luckily for me, speaks very good English. Although Catholic, she finds the informality and friendliness of the Unitarian congregation a good fit. She has hosted Unitarian Universalist Partner Church travelers twice before."



Scholarship Recipient

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Gábor Nóra. I am from Szentivánlaborfalva, but I am studying in Kolozsvár. Nowadays, learning is my main occupation because I am a student of two faculties at the same university. Being a student of the Babes-Bolyai University is great and hard at the same time. The two faculties are: Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Applied Psychology: Special Education, and Faculty of History and Philosophy: Archiving. A key thing to mention is that this is my final year and I am required to prepare for two final examinations. At the History Faculty, I do not yet have a theme, but most likely I will choose a theme related to the Unitarian religion. I do have a final theme for Special Education: Behavioral and Emotional Disorders. Finally, I have to mention that my schedule is very busy the whole week going to classes and studying, but I like Kolozsvár a lot. The city is marvelous, with a lot of attractions and places to visit. Sometimes I find some time also for relaxation.



Sharing the Collection

Your Contributions Make a Difference!

The Sharing the Collection Committee is happy to share the good news: On November 18, we raised \$2,605 for



Re-member (www.re-member.org). And on December 2, we raised \$1,574 for Community Action Network (www.canwashtenaw.org).

For the year, we have raised almost \$29,000 to benefit non-profit organizations in Washtenaw County who are serving the needy and the disadvantaged. Help us do more: mark your calendar for these upcoming collections:

- January 6, to benefit Friends in Deed.
- On February 3, to benefit National Alliance on Mental Illness in Washtenaw County (NAMIWC).

We will soon be publishing our complete 2019 calendar on our webpage at bit.ly/sharingthecollection.

Do you know a community-service organization in Washtenaw that would like to apply to be one of our recipients in 2020? Have them fill out the form located on our webpage.

Are you not able to attend services on the Sunday of Sharing the Collection? You can mail a check to the church, noting "Sharing the Collection" in the memo line.

We'd like to thank "retiring" committee members Barb Cherem and John Preston, for two years of great service. And we'd like to welcome new committee members Casey Jackson and Glenn Kime, who will be joining Janet Duncan, Fran Lyman, and myself in facilitating visits by recipient organizations on Sharing the Collection Sundays.

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



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



Are you a member of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)? For just \$40, you can embrace the world.

Buying fair trade coffee and treats on Sundays is one small way we can add to the resources that allow UUSC to do its work, specifically delivering funds to small farmer projects. These projects are supported, in collaboration with UUSC, by Equal Exchange, a worker-owned coop offering only fair-trade items.

But UUSC does more than that. This organization is active in over 70 countries, working with partner organizations on the ground to address the problems known to them because these organizations are on site. With money and technical backup supplied in part by our \$40 annual membership fee, many people and communities are getting the help they need to build their communities and fulfill their human right to be heard and supported in their struggles. Please consider joining by using this [link](#).

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



Welcome to Our Newest Members

Sarah Bush



Sarah is an Ann Arbor resident and has been a UU for over 30 years. She raised two UU children who are now adults. In the past, she has taught UU religious education and led a senior high group to the UN in New York City.

Sarah spends her time as a part time business management consultant and as a part time busy grandmother. She is involved in her grand children's school and loves to quilt when she has time. The friendships she has made at UUAA and the wonderful Sunday services have cemented her decision to join the congregation.



George Cook



George was born in Cleveland, OH and lived in Northern/Central Ohio and Washington, DC before moving to Ann Arbor in 2015. A graduate of Kenyon College ('99), he works in government public affairs for Toyota. He is father to Noah and Naomi Cook.



Ashley Elliston & Dan Cowher



Ashley

Ashley was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan and moved to Ann Arbor in 2013 to attend U of M. She recently completed her Master's in Social Work with a focus on geriatrics. She absolutely loves going for walks and reading. She is happy to talk books anytime! Ashley currently lives in Ypsilanti with her fiance and they are both so happy they found this congregation.

Daniel

Daniel is originally from Northville, Michigan and graduated from Michigan's business school with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's in Accounting. He currently works for Deloitte as an auditor, serving clients across Metro Detroit. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and Meals on Wheels.



Arika Lycan

Arika is thankful for the meaning and connection she has found at UUAA. She and her husband and kids live in Ypsilanti. Coming from a mixed religious background, UUAA is a great spiritual home to carry on beloved traditions and explore new ones.



Charlene Mangi



Three years ago, Charlene landed in Michigan after having grown up near Washington DC, and spending her 20s in California. She has enjoyed getting to know Ann Arbor and the community here, but last year made a resolution to explore and develop something she felt was missing in her life -- her spiritual side. She is so glad she found UUAA. Charlene has enjoyed the welcoming fellowship and inspiring services and looks forward to getting more involved in groups and social justice causes over the years. In the wider community, she is a school psychologist in a local school district and enjoys yoga, reading, and spending time with her husband and daughter.

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.)



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.

Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin Deadline Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

February Newsletter Deadline Monday, January 21 at 9:00am

All submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

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



Reserving a Room at UUA

Submit your room requests by using our room reservation form link ([Request a Room](#)) found on the lower right corner of the home page at www.uuaa.org. Completing this form will allow the Room Team to accommodate requests for accessibility needs, room setup, audio/visual equipment, and special arrangements for large groups.

The UUA room reservation calendar system is divided into two sessions:

- The **Congregational Program Session** | through Sunday, May 19, 2019
- The **Summer Program Session** | begins Monday, May 20, 2019.

Recurring events will be scheduled only within each session. If a recurring event flows into the next program session, a new room reservation request will need to be submitted.

If you are expecting 50 or more attendees, please submit a room request form and allow extra time for your request to be processed, as it will need to be approved by the UUA staff prior to being placed on the calendar. Questions? Email room@uuaa.org.




Building Hours

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

In observance of New Year's, UUA will be closed Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, UUA will be closed Monday, January 21.



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

See what's happening on our social sites:

