



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

UUAA March 2019 Newsletter

March 2019 Newsletter - Vol. 15, Issue 3

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

March 2019 | Journey

UUAA's Worship Planning Team

Allison Halerz, Pianist-In-Residence

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

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

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

March 3, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Troubadour

Most Sundays, celebrated percussionist, social activist, music minister Matt Mayer leads worship with a different congregation in the United States. This weekend, Matt stops at our Ann Arbor congregation to lead services, followed by an open workshop on "Drumming and Spirituality."

Workshop: 1:00pm - 2:30pm (Sanctuary)

Drumming and Spirituality

A hands-on rhythm workshop, tour of world instruments, and discussion. Together, we explore how and where rhythm-making and UU values intersect. Drums provided; feel free to bring your own.

NOTE: This workshop is open to all, but especially designed for adults and youth

ages 12 and above. No registration necessary. Free of charge.

Matt Meyer has been blessed to have performed with Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Pete Seeger, Emma's Revolution, Peter Mayer, Jim Scott, Nick Page, The Halalisa Singers, Samba Tremeterra, and Bloco de Afrobrasil. He has a degree in hand drumming from Berklee College of Music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Matt has a long background of activism and organizing for social and economic justice, and is a founding organizer of the Lucy Stone and Margaret Moseley Cooperatives, the Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives, and the Boston Cooperative Investment Club.

March 10, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Collage (a collaboration of the Worship Team and YRUU)

A kaleidoscopic meditation on the journeys of life and living -- crafted and presented by our worship team and representatives of our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists group. Note: the annual worship service led exclusively by YRUU is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2019.

March 17, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

The Journey of Nurturing Others

In many ways, we are called to help nurture and guide others, as parents, as mentors, as friends. What does the journey of nurturing others look and feel like? How can we step into it in a grounded way?

March 24, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Shamanic Journeys

Shamanism is the oldest human spiritual practice and has been found in cultures all over the world. Join us as we explore this way of knowing and experiencing the world.

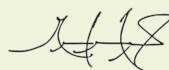
Note: SGD classes will not be held this Sunday; a Children's Chapel service will be offered in place of the customary class schedule.

March 31, 2019

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

The Journey of Community

How do our individual journeys connect and intertwine? What might this mean as we prepare, in the month ahead, to celebrate and honor the new shared journey of ministry we travel together?



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



Pastoral Care at UUAA



Just a quick update on Pastoral Care! February has flown by! The new Pastoral Care network is gaining momentum. The Pastoral Care Team is five members strong: Donna Clark, Sandy Breck, Judi Marks, Priscilla Spencer and Karl Sikkenga. I have also spent time with Large Group Ministry liaisons working to integrate Pastoral Care into their already dynamic programming. March will include more group formation and training. In the midst of all of this foundation building, we are still answering calls for care as they are brought to our attention. Please don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to being in community with you.

If you currently are in need of pastoral care, you can reach the Care Team in the following ways:

1. Call UUAA at 734-665-6158 and ask for Pastoral Care. During office hours, you will be directed to Quiana Perkins, Pastoral Care Coordinator. After office hours, call the same number and follow the prompts to reach Quiana in the evening or leave a message.

2. Send an email to pastoralcare@uuaa.org

(We will attempt to respond to your call or email within 24 hours.)


3. You can speak directly to Quiana or a member of the Care Team on Sunday during the Social Hour after each service. We can be found at the Pastoral Care/Involvement Table at the east end of the Social Hall.

I look forward to being in community with you.

Quiana

Quiana Perkins
Social Justice and Pastoral Care Ministries Coordinator
First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
734-665-6158 ext 113

Office hours: Sunday 9:00-2:00; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 12:00-9:00, and Thursday 9:00-4:30.



Sunday Services "Snapshot" Survey Results

Sunday Services "Snapshot" Survey Results By Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

On January 13, 2019, a "snapshot" survey was conducted during both of our Sunday morning services soliciting feedback from that morning's attendees on UUAA's Sunday services. Attendees were given the opportunity to offer open-ended written feedback and were encouraged to name their most significant point(s) of appreciation and/or their most significant point(s) of suggestion regarding our Sunday services.

The level of participation in this survey far exceeded anything we imagined. Over

the course of that Sunday morning, 362 adults participated in the snapshot survey. As a reference point, UUAA currently has 632 adult members. As such, the data obtained represents a significant sample of our UUAA community. We'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the insights that emerge from this survey.

Out of 362 open-ended responses received on 1/13/2019,

- In excess of 99% of the survey respondents (99.7%) expressed appreciation of and praise for some aspect of our Sunday services, with the music and spoken reflections most often mentioned as particularly meaningful.
- 69% of the survey respondents specifically expressed appreciation for the music and singing opportunities in our Sunday services.
- 57% of the survey respondents expressed praise for specific Sunday service leaders (specific members of the professional staff) and/or the worship team as a whole.
- 33% of the survey respondents indicated that they are pleased with the services and have no suggestions for changing or improving our services.
- 20% of the survey respondents indicated deep appreciation for story telling/sharing in our services and/or asked for more of this.
- 19% of the survey respondents offered feedback related to music - requesting less of it, less repetition, and/or fewer verses from the hymns/songs that are sung.
- 12% of survey respondents would like lengthier or meatier sermons, and less of other parts of the service.
- 10% of the survey respondents offered feedback suggesting that our Sunday services be limited to 60 minutes in length.
- 5% of the survey respondents indicated that specific liturgical words ("worship" or "spiritual," for example) were troublesome for them, and/or that they were concerned about humanistic or rationalistic perspectives being underrepresented in the services.

The overwhelming focus of the survey responses was appreciation and praise, which staff member Hannah Hotchkiss has helped capture in the following word cloud, representing 361 responses out of 362 surveys:



Please note: While we tried, it's not quite possible to capture the suggestions offered in this survey in a comparable apples-to-apples word cloud. A third of the total respondents (121 responses) indicated that they did not have any suggestions for things that they wanted changed or improved. The number of data points represented in two word clouds (one for praise and one for suggestions) would therefore either be different, or the phrase "No Suggestions" would be the overwhelming, bolded central phrase at the center of a word cloud that is supposed to be about suggestions. For transparency's sake, we wanted to let you know that the staff team wrestled with this conundrum.

For those who have the time and/or interest, the original raw data (minus the identifying information of respondents) is available for anyone who is interested and can be [accessed here](#).

On behalf of your entire staff team, THANK YOU for participating in this survey and for helping create such a beautiful, affirming picture of who we are together, as a community. We look forward to continuing to examine and reflect on this data closely, and incorporating ongoing refinements that balance the needs of our community, as a whole.

With much appreciation and gratitude, Rev. Manish



For Your Calendar

Friday Fun Night * Friday, March 1



UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, March 1
6:00pm to 9:00pm

Let's Dance

Featuring:

- * Potato Jackets & Salads
- * Conta/Country Dancing with live music & caller
- * Tiny Dancer Craft Activity
- * Children's Movie: *Happy Feet*
- * Carnival/Arcade Games



FRIDAYFUNNIGHT@UUAA.ORG

Friday Fun Nights: September through May

Interweave Potluck * Saturday, March 2

Please join us LGBTQIA people, their families, and allies for a potluck from noon to 1:30pm in the Brown Room. If you have questions, please contact Ronda Hemingway at hemingwayronda@gmail.com.

Drumming and Spirituality * Sunday, March 3

Drumming and Spirituality with Percussionist Matt Meyer

1:00pm-2:30pm

in the

Sanctuary

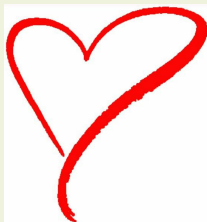
Open to All!



A chance for people of all skill levels to participate in hands on rhythm-making. We'll tour instruments from around the world and experience the connection of community music-making through different activities, stories, and discussions. We'll also look at how rhythm and music intersect with Unitarian Universalist values. Bring your own drum if you have one; for those who don't, drums will be provided.

Matt Meyer has been blessed to have performed with Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Pete Seeger, Emma's Revolution, Peter Mayer, Jim Scott, Nick Page, The Halalisa Singers, Samba Tremeterra, and Bloco de Afrobrazil. He has a degree in hand drumming from Berklee College of Music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Matt has a long background of activism and organizing for social and economic justice, and is a founding organizer of the Lucy Stone and Margaret Moseley Cooperatives, the Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives, and the Boston Cooperative Investment Club.

Memory Loss Caregiver Support * Wednesday, March 6



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 David 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, Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com, or Meredith Ley at meredith1888@gmail.com.

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, March 6



UUAAs seniors, join us for a night out. We will meet at 6:00 pm at Hot Pot Chen at 2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. You may just drop in since no reservations are required -- just fun and good conversation to solve the world's problems. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



the BIG sing * Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10



the BIG sing, UUAAs annual pop-up choir and community singing festival, is coming up!

Each year, we build a choir with any voice that shows up to sing. Join Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and more than a hundred voices on a common mission: build one whole concert in one rehearsal!

This year's theme: Singing the Journey - songs of travel; songs of motion; songs that take us where we want to go; songs we follow, wherever they lead.

All are welcome. No choral experience is necessary. No need to prepare before the rehearsal.

We'll provide the scores and lunch on Saturday.
Childcare available for choir singers, with pre-registration.

JOIN THE CHOIR

Choir Rehearsal - Saturday, March 9 | 10:00am - 3:00pm,

Choir Call - Sunday, March 10 | 2:30pm

To learn how to REGISTER for the choir, email BIGsing@uuaa.org

SING FROM THE AUDIENCE

Concert and Community Sing: Sunday, March 10, 2019 - 4 pm (choir call at 2:30 pm), right here at UUAAs.



Healing Justice * Sundays, March 17 & 31 and April 14

Challenging Racism Presents *Healing Justice*

Have you wanted to know more about the school to prison pipeline and how to disrupt it? Join us for a three-part film viewing followed by discussions of the new World Trust film *Healing Justice*.

Save these dates:

Part 1: The Impact of Trauma, Sunday, March 17



1:00pm-3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel

Part 2: Redefining Justice, Sunday, March 31,
1:00pm-3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel

Part 3: The Power of Healing, Sunday, April 14,
1:00pm-3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel

**Please note the date change due to an event Sunday,
March 3 that many will want to attend.**

Sign up at the Social Justice Table during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact Kathy McLean, jdkamclean@comcast.net,
Kathy Friedrichs, kamf@umich.edu, or Margaret Pekarek,
mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com.



BLUU Online Worship * Sunday, March 17

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



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

Discussion & Light Refreshments to follow the Worship Service

This Worship Service is explicitly Black.

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 UU and Black UU-adjacent folks to attend. Please respect this event as a Black safe space.

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



News and Announcements

Introducing Mothers & Others

Connect with other UU parents & caregivers of young children for play dates, support, nights out & childcare for UU events.

Join us for playdates in the UUAA nursery on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month 10:15-11:15. Join our email list and search for "UUAA Mothers and

Others" on Facebook. Contact us or sign up at the Women's Community Table in the social hall.

Regular participation encouraged but not required. Contact Arika Lycan at 614-507-1161 or arika.grace@gmail.com or Charlene Mangi at 703-624-6643 or charlene.mangi@gmail.com.



2019 Annual Goods & Services Auction



How does one establish bona fides as a true Michigander? Speaking the language is one way. No need to place an order with the Rosetta Stone folks - our Michigan-themed auction has you covered. Here's an intro pronunciation guide to get you started:

1. Sebewaing ("SEEB-wing")
2. L'Anse ("Lons")
3. Soda ("Pop")

Want a more immersive Michigan experience? Come to this year's Mitten-themed auction, which will be on Saturday, April 13 right here at UUAA from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

What to expect? There'll be lots of cottages, dinners, services, and other items to bid on. There will be food catered by the Moveable Feast, drinks to purchase, and entertainment throughout the church. Bob and Beth Hospadaruk will once again be the MCs for the live auction.

What do we need? That's easy, we need you! If you have a skill to share, a dinner to host, a cottage to offer for bid, or a treasured item to donate, let us know. Donations are being accepted as we speak. Just email auction@uuaa.org for more information or Pete Mooney at pmooney@sfplaw.com.

Also, for more information about online ticket purchasing, donations, and more,

check out the Auction website -- uuaa.org/auction

We are currently in the Social Hall every Sunday through April 7 after both services. Tickets are \$35 and include the buffet and a drink ticket. See you there.



Annual Report

2019 Annual Report

It is time to consider what to share in an annual report about your recognized congregational team's events and activities. The 2018-2019 Annual Report deadline will be Monday, April 15 at 5:00pm.

Recognized congregant team leaders are encouraged to write an annual report. This year's annual report will be online only. Each group's report will appear as a link on the 2018-2019 annual report page.

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

Please aim for a word count of 300 words. When appropriate, use bullet lists to encourage others to read what you've shared. Basic elements to include are:

- The recognized team's name.
- The author of the team's report.
- A brief description of the team or ministry.
- A description of how UUAA core values were met by the team.
- Highlights of activities from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019.
- Focus on major themes or a few key accomplishments. Your report need not include every detail - just enough to give others the flavor of your group's ministry.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Describe future ideas, plans, and goals.
- Submissions beyond a word count of 300 words maximum will be returned for further editing.
- Submit each annual report as a Word file to annualreport@uuaa.org.

Early submissions are very much appreciated.

Debby Casamatta
Office Administrator



Alpha House News



Thank You, Alpha House Volunteers and Donors!

A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, and/or their time to the February 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 our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. Our next host week is April 15-21, and we will be in the Social Hall starting Sunday, March 24.

Our appreciation goes to the following volunteers: Amie Anderson, Catherine Archibald, Angela Barber, Ilene Beninson, Sandy Breck, Cathie Breidenbach, Ann Brennan, Lara Brown, Terry Butcher, Becky Chapin, Sharon Chapin-O'Leary, Alex Chapin-O'Leary, Carol Cramer, Suzanne Davidson, John Hanly Davidson, Melanie Dever, Frances Dew, Elaine Dexter, Jo Anne Diehl, KT Doud, Barron Evans, Sandy Eyl, Tim Farmer, Diane Fead, Lillian Fineman, John Frank, Barb Gales, Lora Girata, Tom Gottsman, Amy Grant, Gwen Guthrie, Tom Guthrie, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, Pat Herbst, Carli Hildebrandt, JJ Johnson, Rick Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Karen Jones, Adam Jurevicius, Kathleen Jurevicius, Monica Kmetz Cochran, Lisa Kohn, Terry Kress, Katie Kyndely, Jeannine LaPrad, Barbara LaRose, Jim Lee, Mary Locey, Arika Lycan, Adam Martin, Sara Mathews, Connie McGuire, Angela Menegay, Roen Montalva, Juan Montealegre, Cathy Muha, Mike Muha, Steve Nason, Carolyn Norton, Edward Norton, Andi O'Neil, Daniel O'Neil, Margaret Pekarek, Betsy Price, Susan Randall, Mike Schroer, Michelle Scott, Tim Scott, Kathy Shay, Brandy Sinco, Elinore Sommerfeld, Andrea Spencer, Sue Stalker, Julie Tanguay, Jane Theriault, Spencer Thomas, Lorelle Thomas, Elle Tivine, Chelsea Valdes-Pierce, and Kaite Young-Kendall.

Special thanks to the 7th grade class and their adult leaders and parents for hosting a cookie decorating and valentine card-making event for parents and children at Alpha House!



Finally, thanks to Ignite, the UAAA 20s and 30s group, for promoting our maintenance project: We painted three rooms, completing our work from November when the UAAA Social Justice Council donated paint and painting supplies for this special request Alpha House made. The staff say that it looks much better now!

Questions? Contact UAAA Alpha House Coordinators at alphahouse@uuaa.org!



Humanist Study Groups

Are you a Humanist?

Do you believe that we must decide for ourselves what is the meaning of our lives? Do you believe that humans, rather than a supreme being, define morality and ethics? Do you believe that God is created in humans' image? If you answer yes to any of these questions, or if you are unsure of the answers, then consider joining our group who are searching for answers to these questions.



Humanism has a long history in our congregation, and a lively group of humanists has been meeting for about 20 years, with the current group of about 20 members gathering on the first and third Thursday afternoons to

discuss topics relating to humanist philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, and science -- the list is long and varied.

The Evening Humanists discuss the same issues, with some of the same participants, but at a time when those who have commitments during the day can attend. The topics will be just as varied and lively.

Currently a major issue for our discussion is making our congregation Freethinker Friendly, to make us a welcoming community for people with all spiritual beliefs, including beliefs that do not include a god or higher power.

Anyone is welcome at either or both of these meetings.

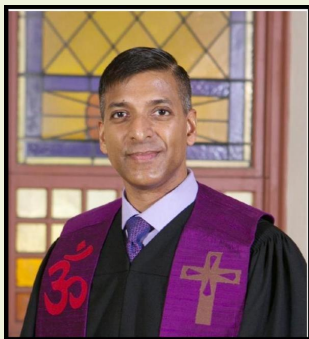
Wednesday, March 6 and 21 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Thursday, March 7 and 20 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

For more information about the Thursday afternoon group, contact Bruce Gibb at blgibb@aol.com.

For more information about the Wednesday evening group, contact Hal Breidenbach at hal@breidenbach.net.



Installing Our New Senior Minister



Plans for the installation of Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti on April 7 are well under way! It'll be an exciting ceremony with guests arriving from out of town to help us celebrate this important occasion.

The installation will be at 4:00pm on Sunday, April 7, followed by a reception at 5:30pm in the Social Hall. Child care will be provided.

Tret Fure will give a concert at 7:00pm on Saturday, April 6.

Tret is a contemporary singer-songwriter and has worked in the genre known as women's music.

Installing a new senior minister is an important moment in the life of a congregation. It's the culmination of the process that began when we formed our ministerial search team in June 2017. The search team's work was analogous to dating. Candidating week in April 2018 was like more serious dating, at the end of which the congregation voted to call Rev. Manish, and he decided to accept our call. That was like becoming engaged. At the installation Rev. Manish and the congregation formalize our new relationship by making promises to each other. This is like taking vows and making commitments to each other at a wedding ceremony.

If you have questions, please contact installation@uuuaa.org.



Partner Church Transylvania Hosts

The 2018 Hosts of Patrick Norton



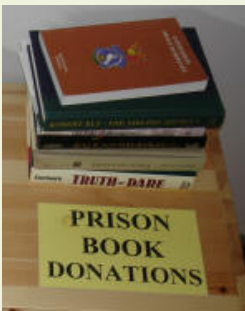
Mom and I stayed with Lóránd and Erika Berde and their two children. Nóra was 5 last summer, and Ábel only 18 months. Erika works at a local clothing factory, but was just finishing her second year of maternity leave. (Mom was jealous!) Lóránd races horses and won the big race last summer. They live a few minutes outside of Kézdivásárhely, in the suburbs.

Lóránd is a member of the Kézdivásárhely church, but Erika is Catholic. Abel will be raised Unitarian, but Nora will be raised Catholic like her mother. They look at church differently there! On Sunday, we went to our partner church for a confirmation service for three teenagers. It was nothing like our CoA credo service. The kids take turns reciting their very long Unitarian catechism.

Sometimes it was a little odd being the only teenager on the trip, but I really enjoyed it. Everyone was really nice to me, especially the local teens. On our last night with our partner church, they taught us all to make "chimney cakes." I keep hoping my mom will try it at home!



Prison Books Program Update



After many years chairing the Prison Books Program, Jim Gallas is stepping down from active participation. He remains a trusted resource and guide as the program transitions to new leadership. Since 2007, over 150,000 books have been provided to prisons both near and far. For some prisons, those books are their only reading material. Jim's leadership and active participation in coordinating requests from prisons, finding sources for books at local libraries, and managing the volunteers needed to collect, sort, and deliver the books has

been critical to the success of the program. Please thank Jim when you see him for his dedication to the program.

We have recruited and are training new volunteers...and welcome more. There are opportunities to help with communication, collecting books, inventory management, and delivering books to prisons or the prison warehouse. There are tasks that can be done at home, at UUAA, in the surrounding area, and further afield. Some take only an hour or so while others take a morning; some require a car, some not. Let us know via prisonbooks@uuaa.org if you'd like to participate. No need to guarantee that you'll always be available ... the more people on our list, the more flexible the schedule.

Questions? Contact Phyllis Valentine or Bob Heinold at prisonbooks@uuaa.org.



Scrip Program

For those of you who have wondered what the Scrip Program is, but didn't want to take the time to ask

Scrip is "something that is not currency but that can be used in the same way as money," such as a gift or debit card. By using scrip, congregants earn free money for the church while buying what they would buy anyway. Over 700 retailers participate in the program, offering rebates from 2 to 16%. We were budgeted to earn \$7000 last year and earned \$7,186 from scrip sales. If more congregants participated, we could easily raise this number to \$50,000. All it takes is "intention."

- Arbor Farms is sending us about \$190 each month, just for saying "I support First UU" as you check out (no scrip needed).
- More families are placing online orders with Great Lakes Scrip. This earns them rebates that can be itemized on their income taxes.
- Meijer and Whole Foods scrip (3% rebate) continue to be very popular, as well as People's Food Co-op (5%) and Speedway (4%).
- Busch's program links My Way cards to the church when registered regularly online.
- Income from Kroger's remains steady but low, as their profit margin hovers lower and lower, and requires online enrollment to link your Kroger Plus card to the congregation.
- We are starting to see nice quarterly checks from our participation in the Amazon Smile program. Do you remember to order through Smile? And if you use Amazon scrip to pay for the order, it really adds up!

I am so grateful for the reliable regulars who help at the Scrip Table - Barb Dinan, Jo Dodge, Sara Gibb, Cindy Hegg Krueger, Sara Mathews, and Becky Swank, especially Jo, who helps out multiple times each month, and Becky, who publicizes Scrip Table news and helps Jo fill in for me when I am out of town.

You can help, too. Figure out where you regularly spend your money (groceries, gas, pharmacy, restaurants, and household goods), then come talk to us - especially if you have a major purchase in mind! Questions? Stop by the Scrip Table or contact Carolyn Barber at cmbarber@umich.edu.



Sponsor-a-Family for the Holidays

Thank you to all who participated in Sponsor-a-Family for the Holidays. Our congregation joined with Community Action Network (CAN), which assists under-resourced families. The children in the families that CAN works with often find the holiday season difficult because they feel isolated at school. Every child sponsored by UUAA in the CAN program was able to feel the magic of the holiday season thanks to your generosity. Sixty-five children received gifts from 50 UUAA sponsors! Let's see if we can double our efforts in 2019!



Support Sanctuary in Washtenaw County

Immigration Action Asks You to Support Sanctuary in Washtenaw County

UUAA is one of 13 congregations in Washtenaw County who, in recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every person, has pledged to offer hope and support to those undocumented and in danger of deportation. Each of the 13 members of Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary (WCS) has agreed to stand in solidarity and to provide both financial and volunteer support for any of the other

congregations who become a sanctuary host. Three congregations, including UUAA, have declared themselves willing to become a sanctuary host.

The Ann Arbor Friends Meeting is the first of our WCS member congregations to welcome a sanctuary guest. The Friends are currently giving safe refuge to Mohamed, a native of Guinea in West Africa who has been in the US for 15 years and worked many of those years for the University of Michigan. Mohamed has been threatened with deportation by ICE. He has a life-threatening illness that makes returning to Guinea, a small, developing nation with limited medical technology, almost certainly a death sentence.

You can support the work of Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary in protecting some of the most vulnerable people in our community and help UUAA fulfill its obligation to this interfaith action by making a donation. Make a check payable to UUAA and put "sanctuary" in the memo line.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at cheryl.natzmervalentine@gmail.com or 313-618-0025.



Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East



What is the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement?

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice, and equality. In 2005, inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, Palestinian civil society called for people of conscience all over the world to participate in boycotts and divestment and for governments to impose sanctions until Israel complies with international law.

Founded by 170 Palestinian unions, political parties, refugee networks, women's organizations, professional associations, and human rights organizations, BDS has become a global grassroots movement supported by unions, academic associations, churches, NGOs, and progressive Jewish groups.

What are the goals?

1) End occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantle the Wall

The West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, and Golan Heights are considered occupied territories. In the West Bank, Israel steals land for Jewish-only settlements and forces Palestinians into ghettos surrounded by checkpoints, watchtowers, and an illegal apartheid Wall. Israel's siege and military assaults have made Gaza the world's largest open-air prison and are widely condemned as war crimes.

2) Full equal rights for Palestinian citizens of Israel

Palestinian citizens of Israel are subjected to more than 50 discriminatory laws that impact every aspect of their lives. The government continues to forcibly displace Palestinians in Israel from their land.

3) The right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194

Since its establishment in 1948 through the ethnic cleansing of more than half of the indigenous people of Palestine, Israel has set out to control as much land and uproot as many Palestinians as it can. Today, 7 million Palestinian refugees are denied their right to return to their homes simply because they are not Jewish. For more information go to bdsmovement.net.

Questions? Contact Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com.



Womyn's Retreat | Committee & Workshop Proposals

Seeking Womyn's Retreat Committee Members

The 2019 Womyn's Retreat will be October 4-6 at Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI (45 minutes north of Ann Arbor). Creative community-building women ages 15 and up are needed to help build a wonderful weekend. Our goal is to have the retreat planned and registration open by mid-May. Meetings will be 10:00am-11:15am on 2/17, 3/17, 4/28, and 5/19. Questions? Email Roen Montalva at roenmontalva@gmail.com with "Women's Retreat Committee" in the subject line.

Womyn's Retreat Seeking Workshop Proposals

Would you like to teach a class at the 2019 Womyn's Retreat? Workshops can be on any topic of interest and should be 60-90 minutes. Proposals will be selected by a committee to provide variety and depth to our weekend. Submit proposals by March 15 using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/c8uwsqCZOBWHjpMg1A> or email roenmontalva@gmail.com with "Womyn's Retreat" in the subject line.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



Giving Water to the Thirsty is Now Officially a Crime!

Four of the nine No More Deaths volunteers arrested have been found guilty. The charges? Abandonment of property in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. They are charged with harboring and conspiracy felony. The punishment, not less than six months in jail and a \$500 fine. These volunteers, part of the ministry of the UU church of Tucson, have been leaving gallon water jugs, canned beans, blankets, and sometimes setting up aid stations for those who need medical assistance.

These activities are an attempt to limit or stop the deaths of migrants trying to enter the US. Humane Borders, an organization in Tucson, documents 3244 deaths in the last 18 years. The Customs and Border Protection (Border Patrol) and US Fish and Wildlife Service are the two organizations that patrol this part of Arizona. They persist in criminalizing the activities of humanitarian aid. There is documented evidence that they slash water bottles, destroy canned goods, and follow a policy of chase and scatter, sending migrants deeper into harsh territory, forced to abandon their meager supplies, facing almost certain death.

Please visit the UUSC website and sign the public statement in support of "No

More Deaths." Also, there are many articles that describe activities taken by UUSC and its partner organizations. Questions? Email Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



On the Horizon

General Assembly 2019 * Wednesday - Sunday, June 19 - 23



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly will convene June 19-23, 2019 in Spokane, Washington.

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. 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. **The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington.** Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle, and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga

Spokane

The Spokane region is the gateway for adventure and exploration in the Intermountain Northwest. Located driving distance from Glacier National Park and Yellowstone, Spokane is nestled in natural beauty.

Spokane is located on interstate I-90, 110 miles from the Canadian border and 18 miles from Idaho. It is the largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis.

Spokane International Airport (GEG) is serviced by Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, and United Airlines. Nonstop service is offered to 17 destinations, including Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, and LAX.

Spokane is accessible by rail via Amtrak's Empire Builder route (Chicago - St. Paul/Minneapolis - Spokane - Portland/Seattle). It is also reachable by Greyhound Bus.

Excellent Programming

GA will offer more than 100 programming selections over the course of five days. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature

Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, sharing inspiring models and stories, and concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home." More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).



Did You Know...?

Friday Fun Night has served over 700 congregants and friends dinner in last five months. Thank a Friday Fun Night volunteer when you see one!



Welcome to Our Newest Member

Cory Williamson-Cardneau



Cory is a northern California native who lived in Berkeley and Oakland, CA as well as Chicago before settling in Ann Arbor in 2012. She is raising two kids with her partner Ryan. She also works in the tech industry leading a software documentation team. In her free time, she swims, reads science fiction, and knits.



Joy Knoblauch



Joy has been a UU since 2010 when she joined the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton in New Jersey. She enjoys the critical side of the faith while increasingly being drawn to less cerebral aspects such as meditation and simply being human together. Knoblauch is delighted to bring her children into the UU worldview and always hopes for more bell choir.



Brandon & Catherine Johnson



After several years searching for the "right" spiritual home for their family, Brandon and Catherine are grateful to have found the UUAA community. From their first visits, they have been welcomed by the congregation and inspired by the UU message and principles. Brandon and Catherine are especially excited about their children's participation in the Spiritual Growth and Development program. They feel fortunate to have found a place whose values mirror what they want to be able to share with their girls.

Brandon, Catherine, and their daughters (Eleanor-4 and Edith-2) have lived in Dexter since 2016. Brandon is a Senior Manager with Toyota; he's been with the company for 16 years. Catherine's professional background is in Human Resources and Organizational Development. She's now a stay-at-home parent.

Catherine is an avid reader, and Brandon is the cook in the family. These days, Eleanor is especially interested in space and the universe. Edith's current areas of focus include joyful singing, and building large block towers...sometimes concurrently. The family looks forward to growing with and contributing to the UUAA community.



Mike Schroer



Mike and Mary Schroer moved to Ann Arbor in 1972. He practiced law in Ann Arbor until his retirement in 2013. Their three daughters attended Huron and Pioneer high schools. Two of the three live in Chelsea. The third lives in Melbourne Beach, Florida.

Mary, who died of a rare cancer in October 2017, was active in local and state Democratic politics for many years. In the mid-nineties, she served six years as a State Representative for Washtenaw County's 52nd District.

Mike presently lives in Chelsea where he gardens and looks after his faithful dog, Nigel. He is grateful for the welcoming spirit of the congregation.



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. The next signing is scheduled for Sunday, March 24.

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.

April Newsletter Deadline Thursday: March 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. Please allow two weeks for requests to be processed.

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



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

See what's happening on our social sites:

