



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

UUAA October 2019 Newsletter

October 2019 Newsletter - Vol. 15, Issue 10

Congregational Links

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

[RECENT SUNDAY SERVICE ARCHIVE & POSTINGS](#): To listen/re-listen to a recent Sunday service, please feel free to access our audio archive.

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship



October 2019 | a month for **Belonging**

October themes were crafted by the UUAA Worship Team, with creative input from the people of our community through the monthly order of service insert available each month. Special thanks to Joan, Mark, Al, Edie, Marion, Priscilla, John, Susan, Pat, Vincent, Vilma, Colleen, Mary, Els, Rebecca, Joan, Ken, Larry, and Bruce. Your voices make a difference in our community's spiritual growth.

It goes on one at a time, it starts when you care to act, it starts when you do it again and they said no, it starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more.

Marge Piercy's "The Low Road"

October 6 | 9:30am & 11:30am

To What Do We Belong?

To what do we dedicate ourselves?

When we seek comfort and contentment, where do we go?

October 13 | 9:30am & 11:30am

Augenblick

What does belonging look like? When does it happen? How would you know? What does it matter?

Honoring the gift of belonging, the longing to be, and the journey between.

October 20 | 9:30am & 11:30am

Mutual Obligations

What does a sense of belonging need to survive?

What can we expect from our kindred?

What will we owe ourselves?

OCTOBER 27 | 9:30am & 11:30am

You Betta Make It Werq, Classic Man. That's all.

Halloween Sunday (see below)

Even refusing to care about the clothes you wear shows up in the clothes you wear. How else do the ideas to which we belong whisper or shout from our daily donning? What does it mean that where I stand lays on my back. Who are you wearing?

Halloween Sunday: We invite adults and kids alike to join us in "young kid-friendly" Halloween costumes for our morning worship and spiritual growth and development programs! For our purposes, "young kid-friendly" means nothing that might frighten a 2, 3, or 4 year old, please! No gory or overly scary costumes, and no accessories that mimic or can be used as weapons, please.



Peace,

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music,
for our community's Worship and Music Team members:

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

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

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister for Operations

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

theresa rohck, M.Div.



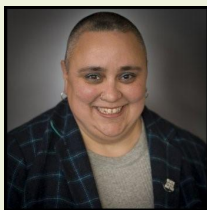
Upon Reflection

In my last newsletter article, I mentioned that we're working our way through creating and revising a backlog of operational policies "bird by bird" (to borrow a phrase from writer Anne Lamott). I'm happy to announce that a few more fledglings have recently launched from the nest:

- [Animals on Premises](#) - Expands on the previous version of the policy to include guidelines for service animals and comfort/emotional support animals.
- [Cost of Living Adjustments for UUAA Staff](#) - States UUAA's commitment to providing staff members with annual cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to their salaries, as well as the process for determining the percentage increase.
- [Using UUAA's Resources](#) - Addresses when the congregation's resources (building space, email lists, etc.) may be used for events and activities. It also includes questions to help people discern if a particular event/activity is the work of UUAA at this time.

Gratitude to everyone who took the time to offer their feedback on earlier drafts, including members of the Shared Ministries Team, Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry, Forums Advancement Ministry, Social Justice Council, and Board of Trustees.

You can find all of UUAA's operational policies on our website:
www.uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/how-we-govern/operations-policies



Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan
Assistant Minister for Operations



SGD News



It is with mixed feelings that we announce the departure of Debra Jean Golden from her position as the Spiritual Growth & Development Assistant, effective October 13. We are sad to lose Debra Jean as a beloved staff member and an integral part of our Spiritual Growth & Development program, but we are so glad she will continue on as one of our childcare providers. This departure will allow her to spend more time pursuing her art and teaching career, as well as enjoy being a congregant again.

Debra Jean came on staff in 2011, and ever since then she's gifted our program with her characteristic energy, creativity, and ability to connect with people of all ages. We would like to celebrate her and show our appreciation. If you would like to contribute a card and/or financial gift in appreciation of Debra Jean's many years of service to UUAA, we will have card making materials and envelopes available at Social Hours on October 6 and October 13. And be sure to join us for



Vision 20/50



Vision 20/50 Overview

What is UUAA Vision 20/50?

Our world faces many challenges, and therefore many opportunities. By answering the questions of who we are and what we are called to do, UUAA will be a more powerful force in the lives of our congregation, our community, and our world.

The UUAA Vision 20/50 initiative is designed to engage every congregant in deciding how best to direct our resources to make a difference in our world over the next generation.

The commitment from the Board of Trustees is to make the process transparent, to listen to as many congregants as possible, and to involve the congregation in deciding how to use what we learn.

The phases of the project are described here. Updates will be routinely reported to congregants, and accessible 24/7 at www.uuaa.org/vision.

Vision 20/50 Process

- Phase I: Define the project
- Phase II: Gather wisdom (in process.)
- Phase III: Evaluate what we've learned, discern and draft a set of goals
- Phase IV: Congregant feedback (this phase will go back and forth between Phases III & IV)
- Phase V: Create an action plan, including allocation of resources
- Phase IV: Adopt the plan

(We will continue to cycle back to Phase I as needed, continuously evaluating progress and considering change.)

Haven't We Done This Before?

Our past visioning and planning efforts have served us well, from the congregational decision to build our current building, through discerning our [Core Values](#), learning from our past during our 150th celebration, and more recently from Board-led strategic planning.

We now find ourselves on the threshold of an exciting future. We have a beautiful, energy efficient and accessible building on 46 acres. We have a creative and talented staff, a core of dedicated lay leaders, and over 600 adult members with abundant energy and passion. And we have an inspiring new Senior Minister.

Starting from this solid foundation, we seek to draw on the wisdom of our entire congregation in order to clarify our path, provide a focus to our efforts, and build community for the next generations.

What Has Been Done Already?



In January, we were introduced to Elandria Williams, our guide/consultant through the visioning process, who is a trained moderator on staff at the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Also in January, we got a first glimpse into the project with a "conversation starter," when during the Congregational Meeting congregants contributed words and imagery about their vision for UUAA.

In March the Board of Trustees recruited congregants from the many UUAA groups and committees to participate in a "Design Charrette" (a meeting in which stakeholders in a project collaborate).

Your Participation Is Needed Now!

How do you make sure your voice is heard in this process? Small group discussions open to every person in the congregation (centered around eight questions) will begin soon. Please sign up to take part in the Social Hall after services or wait for a sign up link on the [website](#).

Questions? Email Vision 20/50 co-chairs Rick Witten and Laura Bollettino at vision@uuua.org, visit the Vision 20/50 Table in the Social Hall, or go to uuua.org/vision.



For Your Calendar

Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, October 2



The UUAA Senior Dinner Out will be at 6:00pm at Hot Pot Chen (2255 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor). No reservations are required. Just come and enjoy good food and conversations. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Friday Fun Night * Friday, October 4



UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, October 4

6:00pm - 9:00pm

\$5 suggested donation or \$20 per family

Sparks, Songs, and S'mores

This Month's Features

- * Pasta bar with green and fruit salad & cheesecake bars
- * Campfire with sing-along and s'mores
- * Kids' movie: *Christopher Robin*
- * Craft: Eco-friendly dinner bags
- * Movie: *Us* (adults only), conversation with Rev. Manish following
- * Tom's game room
- * Infant and toddler childcare available



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

Movie & Discussion with Rev. Manish | *Us* * Friday, October 4

Join Rev. Manish for the Friday Fun Night adult program at 7:00pm (after dinner at 6:00pm), a viewing and discussion of *Us*, Jordan Peele's latest film. "...(*Us*) is more complicated, more outrageous, and, in a lot of ways, more daringly funny and topical than its predecessor [*Get Out*]." *The Atlantic*

Annual Crop Walk * Sunday, October 6



The 45th Annual Ann Arbor CROP Walk takes place at St. Clare Episcopal Church (2309 Packard St., Ann Arbor), with registration starting at 1:00pm and a kick-off program at 2:00pm. The speakers will be Debbie Dingell and Yousef Rabhi. There will be a light meal served following the Walk. 25% of funds raised go to local groups and 75% to Church World Service (CWS) to fight hunger issues here and internationally, with focus on refugees and disasters.

More information is available at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi/> and facebook.com/annarborcrophungerwalk. Sign up to register or come the day of the walk.

While UUAA will not be actively sponsoring this event, we urge you to continue UUAA congregant participation in support of fighting hunger.

Carolyn Madden
Social Justice Council



Black Lives of UU (BLUU) * Wednesday, October 9



Black Lives of UU (BLUU) at UUAA had a great start with September worship. In October, we are excited to be adding a business meeting. The first meeting is set for Wednesday, October 9, 7:00pm-8:30pm. The time will be dedicated to connection and conversation.

October Worship Watch Party will take place Sunday, October 20, 4:00pm.

Please note that BLUU worship is closed, black-only space. All those who identify as black are invited to attend.

Questions? Email Quiana Perkins at Quiana@uuaa.org.



Social Justice Open House * Sunday, October 13



On Sunday, October 13, the UUAA Social Justice community will be hosting the Social Hours in Social Hall after each service (10:45am and 12:45pm). UUAA has over 20 Social Justice Groups; this Social Justice open house will be a chance to meet folks and learn more about their work. We are excited to be sharing the work of this congregation! Questions? Contact Quiana Perkins at Quiana@uuaa.org.



Visit Tilian Farm Development Center * Sunday, October 13



A Mindful Eating Field Trip -- All Are Welcome

Tilian is an incubator farm in Ann Arbor managed by the Michigan Food and Farming System. Tilian provides an opportunity for beginning farmers to learn farming with minimum risk and with guidance from experienced farmers, and provides education on marketing, farming practices, and farming systems in Michigan. Tilian farmers are small diverse operations that are working on environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Hannah Rose Weber, a Tilian farmer and owner of the Land Loom, will show us around and explain her farm and the Tilian Model.

Car pool from UUAA at 1:30pm, meeting in the front entry way. We should arrive at Tilian Farm (4400 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor) around 2:00pm.

Questions? Email Ruth at ruthvail43@gmail.com.



Mothers and Others * Saturdays, October 12 & 26

Mothers and Others | A Group for Caregivers of Young Children



Join our group for caregivers of young children for fellowship, support, and friendship! Mothers, fathers, grandparents, foster parents, and others are all welcome to join our bimonthly playgroups in the UUAA nursery on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10:15am. For details, join our email list by contacting Charlene Mangi at

Charlene_Mangi@gmail.com.



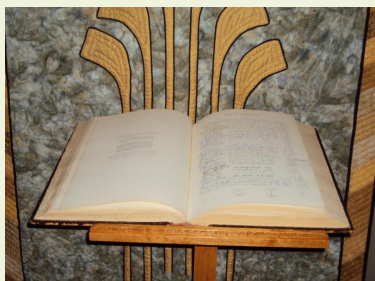
10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's * Wednesday, October 16

alzheimer's  association®

The Alzheimers Association and the UAAA Memory Loss Caregivers Support Group will be co-sponsoring the workshop *10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Other Dementias* at 3:00pm. This will be a one-hour program held in the Fahs Chapel at UAAA. Alzheimer's and other dementias cause changes in memory, thinking, and behavior that interfere with daily life. Join us to learn about 10 common warning signs and what to watch for in yourself and others. Join us for this valuable and informative workshop. Invite your friends or family whom you feel might benefit from this information. Please register by calling 800-272-3900.



Introduction to OUUr Faith * Saturday, October 19



Join Rev. Cassandra Hartley and Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss for an engaging workshop on Saturday, October 19, 10:00am-2:30pm. Explore the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism. What does it mean to be a covenant religion? How has UU been at the forefront of social change? What are the rights and responsibilities of membership? How can you connect here? Share your

spiritual journey with fellow congregants.

Whether you are ready to sign the membership book or are just starting to explore Unitarian Universalism, you are welcome to take part. [Register online](#) or fill out an Introduction to OUUr Faith registration form found on the Involvement Table during Social Hour. The registration deadline is Sunday, October 13. If you need childcare, please register by Sunday, October 6.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Spiritual & Social Connection Sunday * Sunday, October 20



Have you ever wanted to learn more about the spiritual and social groups of UAAA (Bridge Group, Meditation Group, Friday Fun, Humanist Group, to name a few)? Sunday, October 20, groups will be available during each Social Hour in the Social Hall (10:45am and 12:45pm) to share their work and the ways they cultivate and grow a community. We look forward to being a beloved community. Questions? Email Quiana@uuaa.org.



Worship Theme Discussion * Sunday, October 20



October's worship theme is belonging. To whom do you belong? Where do you belong? How do you know you belong? How do we help others feel as though they belong? Join Maryn Lewallen and cristy cardinal for activities and discussion about belonging on Sunday, October 20 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/UAAA-Belonging. Questions? Email cristy at cristycardinal@gmail.com.



Wednesday Morning Readers * Wednesday, October 23

All are welcome to a discussion of the book *Educated* by Tara Westover. Questions? Contact Liz Hartley at lizzyt48176@gmail.com.



Halloween Party * Friday, October 25, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

UUAA Celebrates Halloween in a Big Way!

Join us for a pizza dinner followed by games, crafts, a costume parade, trick-or-treating and the famous YRUU haunted house.

Provide a Trunk-or-Treat Vehicle

To provide the ultimate trick-or-treat experience to our children, we are asking congregants to sign up to take part in Trunk-or-Treat. We will have 20 parking spots available in the lower SGD parking lot where you can park, decorate the trunk of your car, and hand out candy. Past Trunk-or-Treats have included a convertible filled with U of M skeleton tailgaters, an animal shelter, and a trunk-size spider web with a toddler-size spider. [Sign up online](#) by Monday, October 14 to provide a trunk-or-treat vehicle.



People of Color (POC) Gatherings * Sunday, October 27

POC Gatherings for the Fall

UUAA People of Color (POC) group gathers once a month for support, community building, and future planning. The dates have been set for the next three



months:

- Sunday, October 27, 3:30pm (note the special time)
- Sunday, November 24, TBA
- Sunday, December 15, TBA.

All those who identify as people of color are invited to attend.

Questions? Email Quiana at quiana@uuuaa.org.



News and Announcements

Alpha House



Join the Alpha House Committee!

Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. UUAA is one of the founding congregations of the organization running this shelter: Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). We host four times per year preparing meals and volunteering our time, plus organizing seasonal activities and special maintenance projects. We need about 90 volunteers and \$400 for groceries and to support the mission of IHN during each host week.

The UUAA Alpha House Committee is a small, cheerful group who perform tasks like recruiting other volunteers during Social Hours in November, January, March, and May. We also have opportunities for online data entry and grocery shopping. With few meetings and experienced committee members to support you, this is a great way to plug in to a small group with a social justice mission you care about!

Contact committee chair Sandy Eyl at sandy.eyl@gmail.com or 313-213-5559 to join the committee or for more information.



Immigration Action Coalition

Since January 2019, Michigan has had an influx of asylum seekers arriving to the US for the first time. They are brought to detention in Michigan from the border. In March 2019, we helped one young asylum seeker come out of detention, and offered her refuge in our sanctuary space. In June 2019, a new group, Support Asylum Seekers (SAS), was formed. SAS is an "arm" of Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary (WCS) of which we are a part. SAS seeks to do just as the name implies, support asylum seekers.

In honor of our commitment to serve the impacted community in relevant ways, UUAA Immigration Action Coalition (UUAA IAC) has evolved to be a part of SAS. We are very pleased to report that we have again been instrumental in the release of another asylum seeker from detention on September 19, 2019!

K is a young woman from El Salvador, who narrowly escaped the country with her life. K had been in detention since entering the US in April 2019. She was brought to Michigan in June. K was granted a \$10,000.00 bond.

Thanks to all of your contributions the UUAA IAC was able to pledge \$5000 to match the \$5000 raised at an SAS fundraiser. Congregants wrote letters of support and showed up to her hearings. Helping K get out of detention means she stands a chance to fight her asylum case. It also means she is free from the deplorable jail conditions that were making her sick. We are poised to help more people, and your support makes this possible. Also, in August 2019 UUAA sent money to support an asylum seeker in Boston. Irma is a Honduran feminist and human rights leader who fled in March 2019. Rev. Manish pledged \$500 from his discretionary fund, and the UUAA IAC pledged \$500 from the money collected from your donations.

For more information contact Mollison at mollison71@gmail.com.



Humanist Groups



Are You a Humanist?

Do you believe that we must decide for ourselves what the meaning of our lives is? 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 this group that is 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. The current group of about 20 members gathers to discuss topics relating to humanist philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, science, and more.

There are two Humanist discussion groups. The Thursday Humanists Group and Monday Humanists Group discuss the same issues, with some of the same participants, and sometimes with the same discussion leaders. Both groups provide varied, lively discussion opportunities.

All are welcome at either or both of these meetings at UUAA:

Thursdays, October 3 and 17 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Mondays, October 14 and 28 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Currently 83 people have chosen to subscribe to our mail list, receiving interesting articles and commentary as well as notices about up-coming meetings. Contact Hal to subscribe to our list.

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

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



Palestine/Israel Listening Circles

The planning team for Israel/Palestine Listening Circles is a group of UUAA members who believe in the power of listening to each other.

We are aware that members of our congregation signed a petition to have a congregational meeting to discuss a resolution related to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and that this has created tension in our Beloved Community. We believe our strength as a congregation comes from listening to and learning from each other, especially when we may not agree.

With this understanding in mind, we have planned facilitated Listening Circles to encourage each of you to share your stories, beliefs, hopes, and fears, and to listen to those of other congregants, in a safe space.

Listening Circles are scheduled for the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 30, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Sunday, November 3, 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Tuesday, November 5, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Please sign up for a Listening Circle [here](#) or watch the *Weekly Bulletin* for signup dates during Social Hour in the Social Hall.

"Because we are not in church to be with people who want to sing the same music, or rally for the same cause, or attend the same retreats. We are in church to learn to love better....We disagree, we annoy, we flake out on one another. And we worship, we support, we hold, and we affirm one another.... This is really one choice: between imperfect community and no community. Again and again, we are called to choose to commit ourselves to building a more just, more diverse, and yet ever messy and imperfect beloved community." ~Laila Ibrahim, Director of Children and Family Ministries at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, California

Please direct questions to any member of our planning group:

Kathy Friedrichs	Carolyn Madden
Karen Hale	Margaret Pekarek
Dixie Hibner	Ginny Preuss, Chair
Becky Hoort	



Pastoral Care



This past Spring, we launched a new Pastoral Care Network. This model calls on the congregation to commit, as a spiritual practice, to performing one to three acts of care a year. At that time, 250 people offered to help their fellow congregants with 578 care commitments. The Pastoral Care Team spent the Summer creating a database and gathering best practices. We are now ready to start calling on you to offer care to your fellow congregants. Please keep an eye out for "Care Request" emails. These emails will detail who and how you can help someone in need. Please respond to this call for support as you are able.

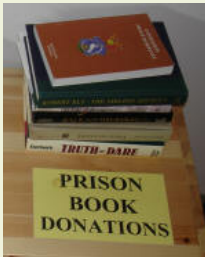
If you currently need pastoral care, you can reach the Care Team in the following

ways:

- Call UUAA a 734-665-6158 and ask for Pastoral Care.
- Send an email to pastoralcare@uuaa.org.
- You can speak directly to someone by visiting the Pastoral Care Table during Social Hour in the Social Hall after each service.



Prison Books



Prison Books Program

Help! We need more volunteers to help us with our work, especially those able to lift and move boxes of books. For nearly 15 years the Prison Books Program has been collecting gently used books from area public libraries and delivering them to the county jail, the women's prison in Ypsilanti, and men's prisons (directly or indirectly) in Jackson...but we need your help to continue doing this.

We have many volunteer opportunities:

- assistance on an occasional Sunday after first service to drive to and from Jackson with deliveries
- monthly on Thursday afternoons to deliver to Ypsilanti
- monthly during the week to deliver children's books to the county jail
- monthly on Saturdays or Sundays to pick up books in Saline, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti
- monthly on Tuesdays at 11:00am to pick up books in Chelsea
- monthly help with sorting donated books at church

If any of the volunteer opportunities above spark your interest, email prisonerbooks@uuaa.org.



Unity Group

Curiosity, Conversation, Covenant

The Unity Group is sponsoring two more Sunday afternoon forums as part of our "talking across the divide" series. Both take place in the Fahs Chapel at 1:00 pm.

- Sunday, October 27: "UU Multicultural Outreach and Ministry." Quiana Perkins, UUAA Social Justice & Pastoral Care Coordinator, will speak to us about [BLUU](#) (Black Lives of UU), [DRUUMM](#) (Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries) and other UU outreach projects you may have been hoping to learn more about. Co-sponsored by the [Unity Group](#) and [Challenging Racism Group](#)
- Sunday, November 17: "[Michigan Poor People's Campaign](#)" (PPC) Work in Washtenaw County and Beyond." Rev. Joe Summers, Eric Krawczak, and John Hollingworth from the Michigan Poor People's Campaign will spotlight the effects of poverty and present some of the national and local work of the PPC. Co-sponsored by the [Unity Group and Challenging Racism Group](#)

If you missed them, previous presentations in this series were:

- September 22: "Conflict Management: Talking Across the Divide," Reese Havlatka, UM Office of Student Conflict Management . Co-sponsored with the Shared Ministries Team
- August 25: "Refusing to Be Enemies" Laurie White and the [Zeitouna Group](#) - For those who missed the [documentary available following this link](#). Co-sponsored with the UU Justice in the Middle East Group
- May 19: "A Contemporary Overview of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict," Professor Victor B. Lieberman, Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished University Professor of History at UM.

The Unity Group is a relatively new group at UUA that strives to expand interfaith and intercultural understanding by offering programming that speaks to our UU principle of respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We listen deeply to speakers and ask questions in keeping with our covenant with one another. Curiosity, Conversation, Covenant. Questions? Email unitygroup@uua.org.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



Please go to the [UUSC website and click on news and stories](#). This section kicks off with reporting on the UUSC commitment to the Climate Strike September 20. We hope that you have been part of that demonstration of commitment.

The second story is about accountability to Indigenous Peoples. August 9 was the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. As part of UUSC's ongoing efforts with climate justice work, the plight of indigenous people in Alaska and the Southern Pacific has been an important focus. Their lands are being swallowed by the rising sea levels. This situation has necessitated the moving of communities to higher ground, often long distances away from their native and sacred places. UUSC does ongoing work in these indigenous communities to better understand their plight, gather their wisdom and work to be better partners in their relocation, and aid the retention of their language and culture. UN experts identify nation building as largely responsible for the ongoing discrimination and eradication of indigenous language and culture. One might reference our Native American communities in this description, unpacking the invisible knapsack of settler privilege.

UUSC Hurricane Relief Response

[Please make a generous contribution to help UUSC Relief Response deliver critically needed support to those in the Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian.](#)

This storm brought to light incredible underlying inequities on the ground. UUSC will partner with local groups to conduct an assessment of the greatest threats survivors face and put together an emergency crisis response. We'll focus especially on the Haitian migrant community on Abaco Island and other groups most likely to fall through the cracks of traditional rescue and relief efforts. As we do in any emergency response, we're also working to plan for long term relief and equitable recovery-so that UUSC can remain working with those displaced by the climate crisis.

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



Social Justice Council Reports on Statements of Immediate Witness

Delegates at the 2019 General Assembly (GA) in Spokane, Washington voted to approve three Statements of Immediate Witness that call attention to specific social justice issues that UU congregations are urged to advocate for with their voices, their money, and their votes. (This is a correction to last month's *Newsletter* article, which posted the 2018 recommended Statements of Immediate Witness.)

#1 Be It Resolved: Protect Right to Boycott

This Action of Immediate Witness calls on Unitarian Universalists and UU organizations to support our constitutionally protected right to boycott. (An Action of Immediate Witness at the UUA 2019 General Assembly sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East)

The movement for Palestinian human rights has grown stronger in recent years with student groups, faith groups, unions, and academic associations all coming out in support of Palestinian justice, and in many cases calling for boycotts and divestment from corporations complicit in violations of Palestinian human rights. This growth in support for Palestinian rights has led to a backlash from all those who are threatened by criticism of Israel. The backlash has taken many forms, including a major effort to damage the movement for Palestinian rights with legislation aimed at intimidating or even criminalizing participation in boycotts directed at changing Israeli behavior.

Since 2014 over 100 measures targeting the use of boycotts in support of Palestinian rights have been introduced at local, state, and federal levels. Twenty-seven different states have adopted such laws. Some of the more extreme federal legislation that has been proposed calls for prison sentences of 20 years and fines of \$1,000,000.

This massive effort to pass anti-boycott legislation is disturbing given that the US Supreme Court determined in 1982 that boycotts are a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment. The ACLU takes no position on Palestinian rights but has strongly opposed all of the anti-boycott legislation. But we must recognize, along with the ACLU, that all of us are threatened by this attack on our fundamental rights. Broad opposition to these anti-boycott laws should be based on their unconstitutional, anti-democratic character and separate from one's views concerning how to support Palestinians.

This Action of Immediate Witness calls on Unitarian Universalist and UU organizations to oppose these anti-boycott laws by reaching out to their representatives at state and federal levels. We also ask UUs to sign UJME's petition calling on Congress to oppose this legislation (see <https://tinyurl.com/defendrighttoboycott>) or collect signatures via a paper version (<https://tinyurl.com/defendrighttoboycott-paper>) and mail them to the indicated address.

#2 Be It Resolved: Protect the Rights of Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

That the Unitarian Universalist Association condemn the policies of the U.S. Government regarding the treatment of Immigrants and Asylum seekers, and

That the UUA supports its members and others in their actions to protect and assist immigrants and asylum seekers in their attempts to lawfully enter and/or remain in the United States, and

That the UUA encourages its members to communicate with their Congressional representatives and condemn the policies of the Administration.

#3 Be It Resolved: Build the Movement for a Green New Deal

Questions? Contact Kate Warner at kpwarner@umich.edu.



On the Horizon

Jordan Harper Memorial Symposium * October 30-November 2



Black Lives UU (BLUU-National) is hosting the [Harper Jordan Memorial Symposium](#), a four-day gathering responding to a longing on the part of many Black Unitarian Universalists to more fully understand where we have been, who we are now, and how we hope to live out our Unitarian Universalism as Black people. The Symposium is open to everyone, prioritizing spaces for Black people, Indigenous People, and People of Color. Quiana Perkins, our Pastoral Care Social Justice Coordinator, and Laura Bollettino, Board Vice President, will be attending the event taking place in St. Paul, MN Wednesday-Saturday, October 30 through November 2, 2019.

To make the event more accessible, BLUU is offering a streaming service option. BLUU@UUAA is partnering with Challenging Racism to host Symposium watch parties at UUAA. Details of these events will be shared widely in coming weeks.

Questions? Email Quiana@uuaa.org.



Becoming a Member



Becoming a Member

Stepping Stones

- ✚ Experience being part of the congregation by attending Sunday services and seeking out groups of interest.
- ✚ Learn about UU faith and history by attending an Introduction to Our Faith Class. (For information about registering for an upcoming Introduction to Our Faith class, check the Sunday Bulletin or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.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 Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org.



Office and Building News

Did You Know...

Did you know that on a typical Sunday when the choir is singing over 30% of the congregants that you see around you are volunteering? Between our choir members, SGD teachers, Sunday Welcome Team members, presentation facilitators, Social Hour group display table representatives, the number of volunteers hovers around 150. So pat yourself on the back if we can't reach you. Thank you for your part in making this such a vibrant community!

If you are interested in how you can take part, contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuaa.org.



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.

November Newsletter Deadline: Monday, October 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.



Change of Contact Information?

If you have had a change in name, residence, email address, or phone number over the past year and would like to update your information with UUAA, [use this link](#) or email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Two-Service Season Hours * Sunday, September 8 - Sunday, May 24

Sunday | 8:30am-4:00pm

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

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

Other Fridays | Closed

Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm

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



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

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