



The 2016-17 Annual Report of The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

2016 – 2017 Board of Trustees

Beth Hospadaruk	President
Margie Teall	Vice President
Allen Duncan	Treasurer
Cathie Breidenbach	Secretary
Laura Bollettino	Trustee
Haley Boyse	Trustee
Tricia Mooney	Trustee
Lissa Oliver	Trustee
Jim Schaefer	Trustee
Ken Clein	Past President

Staff

Rev. Doug Wadkins	Senior Minister
Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich	Assistant Minister
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout	Director of Worship & Music
Rev. Cassandra Hartley	Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD)
Ed Lynn Interim	Administrator
Debby Casamatta	Office Administrator
Hannah Hotchkiss	Welcome Ministries Coordinator
Mark VanKempen	SGD and YRUU Coordinator
Debra Jean Golden	SGD Program Assistant
Allison Halerz	Pianist-in-Residence
theresa rohlck	Director of Chalice Bells
Brianne Boyd	Director of Chalice Sparks
Erin Dixon Lead	Preschool Teacher
Sanne Krummel	Lead Nursery Teacher
Hanh Bui	Nursery Assistant
Arthur Whigham	Custodian and Building Attendant

UUAA gratefully acknowledges Beth Hospadaruk, who completed her Board service and term as President of the Congregation this year; and Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Julie Dybdahl and Aaron Gibson whose tenure on staff ended during this year.

Annual Report Senior Minister

Here are some key points of work that are generally beyond the call of upholding the core duties of senior minister, and speak to essential work in the interim time. I am using the focus points of interim work as the organizing considerations.

Heritage: *reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed. The congregation's heritage, both corporate and individual, is the foundation upon which the present rests. Paying attention to heritage means encouraging and hearing all of the stories about the congregation's past and embracing the rich variety that makes up this particular congregation.*

Held conversations with congregational leaders to talk about their experience of areas of strength and challenge in the past and share some stories that illustrate key points of heritage. Met with recent past presidents to recall some of their key learnings from being president, how their learnings assisted in seeing the congregation in new ways, and have them weigh in on important task for the interim period.

Facilitated workshop in November that included exploring themes from the past, present and identifying the key values embodied in these stories.

Leadership: *reviewing the membership needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership. Transition time provides opportunity for individuals and congregational organizations to examine the types of leadership needed. New leaders will emerge, while some seasoned leaders may re-commit or may decide to refocus their gifts.*

Preached on Stewardship in November.

Explored job descriptions and duties of staff.

Working with Staff on team building and explored models around change

Worked with the board and other leaders to explore potential models for the Council of Ministries.

Worked on Governance with task force.

Connections: *discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself. Sometimes congregational life is so busy that congregations and their leadership forget to attend to their connections both to the denomination and to the network of communities around them. Transition is an appropriate time to reassess old links and to consider new ones.*

Work with the Social Justice Council to think about next steps and how to explore greater partnership with community organizations. Will work with them in retreat this summer.

Participated in the Service of Affirmation in the larger community.

Work in programming and worship around engaging the current events in the world and exploring ways to take this ministry into greater community engagement.

Mission: *defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction. The primary work in this area involves clarifying the faith community's identity and core values, working to develop mission and vision statements, and perhaps even working out short-term tactical plans.*

Lead gathering on Re-Visioning Work

Preached on Mission in Aug and September

Facilitated workshop on Sharing Stories in November.

Attended Social Justice Task Force Gathering sharing the work of the many social justice taskforces in the congregation.

Working with staff to explore the implications of a lived sense of mission for their daily ministries.

Future: *developing congregational and pastoral profiles. Focusing on the future requires a healthy and honest assessment of the other focus points so that the congregation can turn its energy toward proactive decision-making for the future.*

Worked with the Board of Trustees to continue process of educating the congregation about search.

assisted the board to engage in process and begin to populate a nomination for the search team.

Worked to reimagine the Pastoral Care system for the congregation.

Board of Trustees

Submitted by Beth Hospadaruk, President

Description of the Board

The Board serves as the governing body for the Congregation. In the course of bi-monthly meetings, the Board considers new policies, reviews existing policies, approves the annual budget, and monitors compliance with the by-laws and other guiding documents, such as the strategic plan.

The Congregation elects lay leaders at the annual meeting to serve on the Board of Trustees, including four officers and five members at large. Terms of services are rotated to ensure stability. Each year, the Congregation votes on a slate of 3-4 people, presented by the Leadership Development Team (LDT). In addition, the Past President and the Senior Minister/CEO advise the Board and serve as non-voting members.

Members of the Board of Trustees: (June 5, 2016- June 4, 2017)

- Officers: Beth Hospadaruk (president), Margie Teall (vice president), Allen Duncan (treasurer), Cathie Breidenbach (secretary)
- Trustees at Large: Hayley Boyse, Lissa Oliver, Tricia Mooney, Laura Bollettino, Jim Schaefer
- Past President: Ken Clein
- Senior Minister/CEO: Reverend Gail R. Geisenhainer, retired, August 2, 2016), Reverend Douglas Wadkins (August 2, 2016-present)

2016-2017- General Statement:

This has been a year of transition. Rev. Gail Geisenhainer retired on August 2, 2016 after 8 years as our Sr. Minister. The previous BoT along with the current BoT successfully walked side by side with Rev. Gail during all of the Congregation-wide good-byes, presentations and major celebrations. This congregation conferred with pride, Emerita status to Rev. Gail. She created a ministry here that was so much loved and we sent her on to retirement with ONLY good wishes and many, many thanks. We donated over \$50,000 to help purchase the Geisenhainer Steinway Grand Piano for the sanctuary as well as a beginning balance in the Geisenhainer Music Fund to provide piano lessons for children in our community.

The Rev. Douglas Wadkins was hired as our interim Sr. Minister by the Board of Trustees with the goal of helping us do the hard work to prepare for our next called Sr. Minister in 2018. The areas of concern from the interim application are:

1. Need to rebuild our pastoral care programs (recent structure breakdown).
2. Need to continue discernment of the most effective staffing appropriate to our size and means.
3. Improve connections with larger UUA /Regional conversations & programming.

4. We are revisiting, restructuring our policy based governance
 5. Fundraising- internal/ external (Have a new committee that needs to review, revise and promote rental opportunities such as weddings, etc.)
 The board has worked closely with Rev. Wadkins to support and collaborate when necessary in these areas of work during this interim period. Rev. Wadkins has consistently kept the board updated on progress in the areas of need and understand that the work is ongoing and priorities placed on the most urgent needs (pastoral care, staffing configuration and restructuring our policy based governance) have taken precedence during this first year.

Board Activities and Accomplishments:

- Created a Board Covenant for a good working relationship
- The rebuilding of the parking lot was completed
- Many repairs, upgrades and building improvements completed.
- Together, studied the book: Governance and Ministry, 2nd ed. by Dan Hotchkiss.
- Supported the continuation of Reflective Conversations with emphasis on SGD
- Supported Leadership Development Team's work by attending fall gatherings of lay leaders at two different locations (LDT member homes) for fellowship, conversation, sharing of ideas and appreciation of current lay leaders
- Supported the creation of a Governance Task Force and charged this group to do the following:

To review our current policy governance and study governance systems in other UU Congregations and other non-profit organizations. The task force is asked to recommend to the board changes in our governance system that would

1. *Ensure that the job description for the next called Senior Minister is clear and achievable.*
2. *Clarify the shared leadership responsibilities of the Board and the Senior Minister.*
3. *Create a governing system that can be explained simply to the Congregation*
4. *Better spell out the Board's responsibilities for monitoring the health and well-being of the Congregation and its assets.*

Ideally the task force, working with the Board of Trustees would provide any recommended changes to UUAA Bylaws and Governing Policies in time for a vote at the Annual Meeting in May/June of 2017.

- Met with Ian Evison from the MidAmerica Region of the UUA in a Board Retreat. He helped the board understand it's role in the life of the Congregation, and especially during these 2 years of interim period.
- Held regular Q & A's with the President and the Sr. Minister. Topics over the year were:

October- Meet our new Sr. Minister, Reverend Doug Wadkins

November- Worship, in conjunction with the Worship Team

December- Finances and Fundraising in conjunction with the Finance and Fundraising Teams

January- Search Committee Process

March- Updating our governance policies in conjunction with the Governance Task Force

May- Annual Meeting Topics

- Approved a balance budget and supported a successful Annual Budget Campaign (pledge drive).
- Approved a proposed room name change from “The Thomas Jefferson Room” to “The Viola Liuzzo Room” to honor the Unitarian Universalist activist killed in Selma, AL during the Civil Rights movement in 1965. A letter was sent to her grandson informing him of this naming and inviting him at any time to visit UUAA.
- Supported the Social Justice Council on applying for a grant from UUA to support a local Get-Out-the-Vote effort sponsored by the League of Women Voters.
- Received updated reports (every 6 months) from the Fundraising and Finance Teams. These teams are both in an 18 month experimental period. If proven to be successful, the goal is to propose bylaw changes to make these both permanent standing committees of the BoT. The timeframe for a decision is Fall, 2017 after the final report to the BoT.
- Supported a proposal to update the Gift Policy and Executive Limitation on Gift Acceptance.
- Conducted a successful process to fill a balanced slate of 9 nominees for the Sr. Minister Search Committee. A vote for 4 by the congregation to be held at June 4, 2017 Congregational Meeting with the remaining 3 to be nominated by the BoT (2 of the 9 will not serve). 125 members participated in suggesting trusted leaders for consideration. From those suggested, the BoT chose members who met the desired criteria and who said “yes” to the call, which included but were not limited to the following:
 1. Has been a UUAA member for at least a year
 2. Is not a paid member of the UUAA staff.
 3. Is respected and trusted by many in the UUAA Congregation.
 4. Is strongly committed to the Congregation as a whole, not just to a subgroup.
 5. Doesn't hold extreme views, either positive or negative, about our previous ministers.
 6. Is capable of both self-assertion and compromise.
 7. Is well suited to teamwork.
- Officially accepted the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Certification Award from Michelle Avery Ferguson (UUAA member and UUA AIM Administrator) at the January, 2017 Congregational Meeting.
- Supported sponsoring Theresa Rohick as a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Seminary.
- Voted as a Board to authorize our Immigration Action Coalition to sign the Sanctuary Pledge on behalf of UUAA—“As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration’s policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.” with the following resolution: We authorize the IAC to sign the above pledge on behalf of the

congregation and to request them to work towards answering questions and carrying out the processes for bringing the issue to a congregation vote on becoming a sanctuary space. The IAC continues to educate the congregation and work toward a goal of opening the doors at UUAA for Sanctuary in the future.

- Supported a proposed bylaw change (to be voted on at the June 4, 2017 Congregational Meeting) to create a standing committee on Governance with a charge with advising and educating the Board on governance issues.

It has been my honor to serve the last 2 years as President and the year prior as Vice President. My faith, my heart and my love belong to UUAA and I look forward to moving into other areas of focus as I continue to support the work of this congregation. As we say each and every Sunday:

The spirit of this church is love
And service is its law
This is our covenant with each other:
To dwell together in peace.
To search for truth in love,
And to help one another

In Faith,
Beth Hospadaruk
President

2016-2017 UUAA Leadership Development Team Report

Submitted by Tom Reischl

The mission of the Leadership Development Team (LDT) is defined in the UUAA Bylaws. The LDT is charged to (1) identify, cultivating and developing leaders for the Congregation and to (2) Prepare a slate of nominees for positions to be filled by election at the spring annual congregational meeting. This mission aligns with UUAA Core Values of Community, Stewardship, and Culture. During the past year, the members of the LDT were Hayley Boyse (Board of Trustee Liaison), Elizabeth LaPorte, Pete Mooney, Mary Lynn Stewart, and Tom Reischl.

To identify, cultivate, and develop leaders during the past year, the LDT hosted four events designed to build stronger connections among current lay leaders of UUAA ministry programs. These events were also designed to build stronger connections with and among emerging lay leaders. The first two events were Lay Leadership Appreciation social events hosted in homes of LDT members. At these social events, lay leaders engaged in informal conversations about their work with UUAA ministry programs and exchanged ideas for future work. The other two events were Lay Leadership Discussion Forums where small groups of lay leaders discussed goals and strategies for engaging congregants in their ministry programs.

Hosting these events with current lay leaders gave the LDT the opportunity to engage those leaders in helping the LDT identify congregants who would consider serving in elected leadership roles. This groundwork helped the LDT identify a slate of nominees for the spring annual meeting election.

Finally, the LDT engaged in monthly discussions about the leadership capacity needs at UUAA, especially during the interim ministry period. One very helpful discussion occurred when Rev. Doug Watkins attended a meeting and provided his perspectives on leadership needs at UUAA.

Spiritual Growth & Development Annual Report 2016-17

Written by the Reverend Cassandra Hartley

Our program offers religious education opportunities for all ages - from toddlers to adults. In the 2016-2017 church year we have 298 registered children and youth who are served by 55 volunteer teachers and assistants, as well as three dedicated staff members: our SGD Assistant Debra Golden, our SGD Coordinator Mark Van Kempen (formerly Programs Coordinator Aaron Gibson) and Assistant Minister for SGD, Rev. Cassandra Hartley. The SGD Committee for 2015-2016 was: Lisa Kohn, Stephanie Surfus, Christine Pellar-Kosbar, Gregg Peterson and Michelle Avery-Ferguson.

The members of our Adult Education Advisory Team are: Charley Burleigh, Bruce Gibb, Bett Weston, Bev Black, Carol Acitelli and Sandy Eyl.

Summer Program

Our 2016 summer SGD session for grades K-5 reprised the "Bible Heroes and Beyond" curriculum. Ten teachers and assistants helped Debra Golden run the program and 48 children participated (an average of 14 attending each week). Highlights included acting out the story of Moses, playing jump rope as we learned about brave Queen Esther the hip hop queen, and doing yoga while talking about the Buddha.

Transitions

Rev. Cassandra Hartley came onto staff in July 2016 to fill the vacant DRE position; Julie Dybdahl stepped down as Lead Youth Advisor for YRUU in October 2016; Aaron Gibson took Julie's former position and combined it with his Programs Coordinator position, creating the new SGD Coordinator role (now a UUA recognized title and job description); Aaron Gibson stepped down as SGD Coordinator in February 2017 and Mark Van Kempen was hired to fill the role in April 2017.

General Program Updates

We've made several important changes to our SGD program this year, including creating a more comprehensive teacher's handbook, introducing a new background check system for volunteers, upgrading our files to Google docs, and having a consultation with the Washtenaw sheriff's department about our safety policies.

Children's Church Year

During the church year we returned to many favorite curricula such as "OWL," "Building Bridges," and "Peacemakers." We also experimented with new curricula such as "Harry Potter and UU" (a fun class that gets our 4/5th grade "wizards" involved in social justice projects) and "The Spirit of Adventure" (a curriculum to help 2/3rd graders learn about UU heroes in hands-on ways). Our children and youth have also completed many successful fundraisers, drives and social justice projects throughout the year, including: the YRUU service trip, the YRUU apple dumpling sale to support Peace Neighborhood Center, the 7th graders "Rockin' for the Hungry," and the 4/5th graders running the Giving Tree to support Alpha House.

Multigenerational Worship

We are beginning to introduce more stories into the beginning of our worship services, we have done multiple full multigenerational worship services throughout the year (including our Winter Solstice Pageant and New Year's Day service), we set up a children's book table with new

selections each month that relate to the worship theme, and we introduced our “Bringing it Home” publication, which offers ideas for how families can explore the monthly worship theme at home.

Coming of Age Changes

In the second week of May 2016, the Coming of Age program held its first co-ed initiation weekend. Out of both a recognition of the need of some of our youth and families to re-think gender binaries, and an increased mindfulness about resource use, past and current facilitators, mentors, and SGD staff created a single weekend for all the youth in the program. We received very positive and constructive feedback, and we will be repeating this model again this year. The 2016-2017 class includes 23 registered youth and 18 mentors.

Adult Education

Our Adult Education Advisory Team put together a wide variety of quality classes this past year. New offerings included classes such as “Financial and Estate Planning for Young Families” and “Examining Whiteness.” The Fall session had 18 classes in the catalog and the Spring session had 21.

Looking Forward

We have many goals going forward, including:

- Continuing to update our safety policies/procedures and making alterations to our building to improve security.
- Increasing the number of Adult Education classes and offering classes that appeal to all life stages.
- Finding ways to more effectively address the needs of the 20s and 30s group.
- Updating our playground area.
- Increasing our emphasis on family ministry and a “full week faith.”
- Offering children and youth more regular worship experiences.
- Rebuilding a robust SGD Committee.
- Continuing to find ways to integrate SGD with other church programs and groups.

Chalice Singers & Chalice Bells

2016-17 Annual Report

Chalice Singers

Director of Worship and Music Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout leads the music ministries at First UUAA, and serves as the director of the Chalice Singers, who rehearse weekly from Sept. through May. A highlight of the past year was the 3rd annual BIG sing hosted by the Chalice Singers, held on March 11 and 12, 2017, drawing an enthusiastic group of singers from the congregation and the region (Lansing, Kalamazoo, suburban Detroit, Ontario) to form a choir of over 100 voices. This event provides an experience in music and community that reaches far beyond the walls of sanctuary.

Of note is the work of the congregation's pianist-in-residence, Allison Halerz; Allison is most visible during Sunday worship but plays a vital collaborative role in rehearsals for both the Chalice Singers and the Chalice Sparks.

The Chalice Singers are supported by an active team of volunteers from within the ensemble, who assist with score preparation, social events, the BIGsing, sectional rehearsals, and program note writing for the Order of Service.

Music at UUAA continues to grow each year; the Chalice Singers now number close to 70 voices. Beyond the choir, the sound of the voices of this congregation singing on any given Sunday is clear evidence of how essential music is to the spiritual well-being of First UUAA.

Chalice Bells

The Chalice Bells have completed their first full year under the direction of Theresa Rohlck. While the group is small, it is an enthusiastic and dedicated group of musicians, some of whom are first time players this year. A goal from last year was to increase the times the handbell choir would play in worship services; we have met that goal by playing in four services this year, plus one collaboration on a piece sung by the Chalice Sparks. In October 2016, the group benefitted from a workshop focusing on playing technique led by guest clinician Susan Berry.

In December 2016, First UUAA received the gift of a 3-octave set of handchimes, which had their debut at the Christmas Eve services. We are extremely grateful for this gift, and thrilled to be able to expand our repertoire to include pieces that incorporate handchimes with the handbells. As the director, a goal I have is to find ways to use the new handchimes in collaboration with the Chalice Sparks, and perhaps involve more children and congregants in the experience of playing in an ensemble. We hope to increase membership in the choir and continue to be a presence in worship 4 or 5 times a year.

Chalice Sparks Annual Report 2016-2017

Brianne Boyd & Rick Witten

Group description: Children's choir for grades 3-8

Mission statement: The purpose of this choir is to provide an opportunity for children to learn about group dynamics, develop musicianship and performance skills, nurture their spirit through song, and enrich the worship experience of our congregation.

Core values:

- #1 Spiritual life – All of our songs are based on UU principles, and we discuss this while learning them. When performing we strive for a connection to the divine and to our congregation.
- #3 Community – Singers of different ages and abilities work together and form friendships. Performing at service allows them to be a valuable part of our church community.
- #5 Culture – Our repertoire reflects different religious traditions, cultures, and languages.

Highlights/Goals reached:

- Membership has grown annually since the choir restarted in February 2013. This year there are 28, and we have gained members through the year.
- The children have shown positive growth in attitude, leadership, and musicianship.
- They now sit proudly in the choir loft, and they look great in their new matching stoles.
- They performed with the Chalice Bells in December and will premiere a piece with the Chalice Singers in April. They will also be one of four children's choirs featured in a concert this May to benefit the Interfaith Round Table.

Participants:

- Brianne Boyd, music director
- Rick Witten, coordinator (takes attendance, emails parents, organizes events, provides support)
- Teri Minton, assistant coordinator (monitors and assists with rehearsals)
- approximately 28 children and their parents
- Allison Halerz (accompanist)

Future:

- Continue to collaborate with performing groups in and outside of the congregation
- Continue to grow in number
- Have a smooth transition as Rick leaves the group

Chalice Circles Annual Report

Submitted by Co-Chairs Anne Ramsey and Karen Hale

The 2016-2017 Chalice Circle Program continued to provide meaningful facilitated sessions that offered opportunities to grow spiritually as individuals and build community within the circles and the larger program. This year, the program continued to develop and mature, building off the robust structure previously put in place.

The 2016-2017 program year realized the following results:

1. 6 Chalice Circles were offered through the Church. Four of the Circles were held at First UUAA, one at a satellite location in Tecumseh, one at a satellite location in Chelsea. Participation this year included 58 participants and 11 facilitators.
2. A new "Newcomers" Circle was established with a shortened schedule of four sessions which took place in the fall. The purpose of offering the Newcomers Circle was to introduce the Chalice Circle program for those new to the church.
3. We continued to offer One Time Chalice Circles as a way to introduce people to the program without a 14 week commitment. This also provides an opportunity to experience a Chalice Circle to those who are not able to participate in the regular program. Four One Time Circles were held in February, March, April, and May.
4. The scheduling process was very effective, managing the number of circles offered and working to match members with the number of available sessions.
5. An investiture of the facilitators was held in November in recognition of their lay leadership role and responsibilities to the congregation.
6. Two facilitator training opportunities were provided. New facilitator training was held in June and training for all facilitators was held in September.
7. Each Chalice Circle that met at the Church completed a Service Project to benefit the Congregation. These projects included newcomers welcome dinner and First Friday Fun Night dinner and the teachers appreciation brunch, as well as assembling the notebooks which the 2017-2018 Facilitators will use. The Tecumseh satellite Chalice Circle completed a project at its host location, as did the Chelsea satellite Chalice Circle.

The steering committee is responsible for the operations and program implementation. This key committee was led by the co-chairs and comprised of Dixie Hibner (Writing Team), Ginny Preuss (Registration and One Time Chalice Circles) and Shelley Stoll (Service Projects).

The program's continuing success is due to the passion and integrity of its participants and lay leaders. It would be difficult to continue the program without their dedication and commitment to Chalice Circles. Without them, we would not be able to achieve the program's goals and meet the needs of the larger faith community at UUAA.

**First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
Well-Being – Education**



“As We Age”

Team Members: Sandy Breck, Robert Kropf, Meredith Ley, Terry Madden, Els Nieuwenhuijsen, Emily Simon, and Kate Warner

Mission/Vision: To nourish our human spirit in order to help each other age gracefully.

Goal: To help members of the First UUAA and the greater community strive toward a state of well-being by becoming more informed concerning quality of life issues and to identify resources available in Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County to assist us as we age.

UUAA’s Well-Being Education program provides regularly scheduled presentations on a variety of health-related topics for caregivers and care receivers. This series of offerings combine presentations by “outside experts” as well as “inside experts” sharing both their expertise and experiences dealing with various life issues of concern as we age.

Fall, 2016 Offerings

Tuesday, October 11

Personal Decisions at Life’s End

This course is designed to help one deal in advance with personal decisions that approach us at life’s end.

Facilitator: Marion Holt

Tuesday, October 18

Aging in What Place?

This workshop will feature a panel of UU’s who have recently changed their residence for age-related reasons, or are considering doing so. Facilitator: Kate Warner

Saturday, December 3

Dancing with Dementia

The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi, serving the UU Church of Farmington, offers information and vignettes that invite us into understanding the 'dance with dementia.'

Facilitators: Meredith Ley and Sandra Breck

Spring, 2016 Offerings

Tuesday, April 25

Learn About Community Resources for Older Adults

Guest Presenter: Maire DeLand , Assistant Director of the Turner Senior Wellness Program to speak about Community Resources through the U of M Turner Center.

Facilitators: **Emily Simon and Kate Warner**

Friday, May 5 *Readers Theater Demonstration featuring Seniors at the UUAA*

Enjoy a demonstration of Readers Theater, with the reading by older adults from our congregation of quality 10 – 20 minute plays. Facilitated by **Terry Madden**

May 17, 5/24, and 5/31 *Intro. to Readers Theater at the UUAA*

Participants will read and discuss short literary scripts between two - five characters who through voice rather than movement, cause the audience to sense imaginary characterization, setting and action. Facilitated by **Terry Madden**

Annual Report submitted by **Terry Madden, Chair of Well-Being Education**

Social Justice Council (SJC) Annual Report 2016-2017

Mission and Core Values

As the administrative umbrella for all social justice groups and projects at UUAA, the SJC's mission is to:

- Coordinate, nurture, and support the congregation's efforts to advocate, educate, organize, serve, and witness for social action.
- Develop and maintain policies and procedures for UUAA's social justice groups.
- Review and provide oversight for the initiatives and actions of the congregation's social justice programs and projects.

The SJC works to realize UUAA's Core Values of Social Justice and Environmental Action, Community, and Culture through ministries that:

- Work for peace, search for truth in love, and identify ways to help one another
- Promote the inherent worth and dignity of every individual

Members

Carolyn Madden and Connie McGuire (co-chairs), Hayley Boyse (Board liaison), Cristy Cardinal, Mark Jagner, Sally Preston, Julie Voelck, Kate Warner, Hannah Hotchkiss, and Carol Acitelli (Facebook facilitator)

Selected Activities

- Organized a potluck to introduce Interim Senior Minister, Doug Wadkins, to our social justice cluster. The dinner was held in honor of Don Pelz, longstanding member of the SJC who died in 2016.
- Held an Involvement Fair for social justice groups.
- With Challenging Racism and the Board, named an SGD classroom after Viola Liuzzo, a UU social activist from Detroit.
- Initiated *Social Justice Connections*, a monthly presentation during the Sunday service by UUAA's social justice groups.
- Supported Cristy Cardinal who brought the *Examining Whiteness* curriculum to UUAA in her role as a UUSC Justice Building Innovator.
- Sponsored *Justice Day @ UUAA*, organized by Angelina Zaytsev, which had over 120 participants.
- Assisted UU Indivisible with a Town Hall featuring Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.

Goals

- Hold a retreat in preparation for searching for a new minister
- Revise and update policies and procedures
- Increase awareness of SJC's role

Carolyn Madden and Connie McGuire
SJC co-chair

2016-17 UAAA Annual Report - IHN Alpha House Ministry

Report Author = Angela Barber, UAAA Alpha House Coordinator

The work that the members of UAAA do for Alpha House supports our congregation's Core Values of (1) Social Justice, Environmental Action and (2) Community. Alpha House is a shelter for homeless families in Washtenaw County that is run by the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). IHN was formed in 1994 by six local congregations -- UAAA was one of these founding member -- to provide shelter for homeless families in Washtenaw County.

Four times each year, UAAA is responsible for a Host week, and need to recruit volunteers to fill ~145 positions. For example, for the "bring Dinner" positions, the volunteer makes or purchases food that they deliver to Alpha House (these volunteers are not reimbursed). Other volunteers come to serve dinner, and to play with the children after dinner, etc. It is not unusual for one volunteer to sign-up for multiple positions during a Host Week. They are a wonderful group of people!

The members of the Alpha House Committee who staff the recruiting table in the Social Hall include: Jon Boyd, Dee Dishon, Sandy Eyl, Pat Herbst, Angela Menegay, Sally Preston, Tricia Smith, Cheryl Valentine and Vey Valentine. The Committee is also responsible to purchase items for Alpha House for each of our Host Weeks at a cost of about \$300 per Week. Funds for this grocery shopping come from the Alpha House account that's funded by donations from the recruitment table.

Since the last annual report, our Alpha House Host Weeks have been: August 22 to 28th, 2016; Thanksgiving week 2016; February 6 to 12th, 2017; and April 17 to 23rd, 2017. Our future Host Weeks are June 26 to July 2, 2017 and Thanksgiving week 2017.

The following lists the people from UAAA who have volunteered to support Alpha House from August 2016 to April 2017: Aida Gadelkarim; Allison Caine; Amie Anderson; Amy Grant; Amy Hortop; Angela Barber; Angela Menegay; Anita Bosky ; Ann Brennan ; Barb Gales ; Benjamin Childs; Bet Weston; Betsy Price; Betsy Reitbauer; Brandi Sinco; Brian Matzke; Bridget Laundra; Bruce Shields; Carli Hildebrandt; Carol Cramer; Carolyn Roberts; Carrie Hatcher-Kay; Cassi Hartley; Cathie Breidenbach; Cathy and Mike Muha; Catie Wytychak; Chantelle Shields; Cheryl Barget; Cheryl Valentine; Christina Wall ; Connie McGuire; Constance Bridge; Dana Jackman; David Eyl ; Deana Shields; Dee Dishon ; Delphine Benard; Diana & Tom Bauld; Diane Fead; Don Luke; Dorothy Cavanaugh; Doug Park; Ed Rutherford; Edward & Carolyn Norton; Eileen Wright; Elinore Sommerfeld; Fran Dew; Fran Lyman; Gina Boldman ; Gloria Jones; Greg Meier; Gwen Guthrie; Hal Breidenbach; Halla Motawi; Harris H; Ilene Beninson; Ilene Deninson; Jackie Koch; Jamie Anderson; Jamie Griffith; Jamie Krake; Jamie Woodring; Janet Duncan; Jay Cavanaugh; Jeff Della Rovere; Jen Coffman; Jim Lee; Jim Schaefer; Jo Anne Diehl; Joe Griffith; John & Rosemarie Russell; John Guthrie; Jon Dickinson; Jon Boyd ; Karein Goertz; Kate Burkhardt; Kate Hutchens; Kate Warner; Katen Park; Kathy Friedrichs; Kathy Shay; Kirsten Clark; Kirsten Mogbo; Kristin Evon ; Kyla Boyse; Lara Brown ; Larry Graban; Laurie Schiller; Leslie Abcouwer; Lia Kahan; Lora Girata; Lorelle Otis; Lorelle Thomas ; Lori Reece; Lorna Gibson; Lucy Graff; Marcia Cameron; Margaret Flannery; Margaret Kazarinoff; Marianne Montalva; Mark Dickinson; Mary Locey; Mary Sapienza; Marylynn Stevens; Matt Hortop; Melanie Dever; Melissa Villanueva; Michelle Diepenhorst; Monica Cochran; Nikolas Sweet; Pat Herbst; Paul Albanese; Paula Matzke; Pauline Loewenhardt; Peter Cipparone; Rebecca Chamberlain; Roan Martin-Hagolen; Rob Beane; Robert Treadway; Robin Fowler; Rochelle

Murphree; Roen Montalva; Sally Preston; Sandy Simon; Sara Mathews; Sara Rudy; Sharon St. Mary; Sherry McCargar; Spencer Wilkerson ; Steve Coffman; Steve Nason; Susan David; Susan Simon; Suzanne Davidson; Terri Palacios; Terri Wilkerson; Terry Butcher; Terry Kress; Theresa Braunschneider; Thomas Longworth; Tim Farmer; Tim Richards; Tom Guthrie; Tom Longworth; Vey Valentine; Victoria Moessner; Virginia Luke; Wendy Dorman ; Yvette Boyse-Peacor.

*This list doesn't include all the children who came with their parents for the "Play with Kids" activity or the "Serve and Clean" activity, or the people who made donations to the UUAA Alpha House Fund. I apologize if any names are missing or misspelled.

Challenging Racism 2016-17 Annual Report
Submitted by Gina Boldman and Kathy McLean

Challenging Racism supports members of this Congregation on their journey toward spiritual growth and self-knowledge about their own racial, ethnic, and/or class privilege. We present programs that affirm the worth and dignity of all and build meaningful connections and community partnerships with others on the same journey and provide opportunities for reflection and action.

This year our programs included monthly drop in circles and discussions about race; a discussion of Rev. William Barber's book *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, the UU read of the 2016; a viewing of a Rev. Barber speech with small group discussion afterward; a Standing Rock Forum with Terri Wilkerson, who spent four months at the camp last fall and winter; and many co-sponsored events with various groups, including Justice in the Middle East and Interweave. We sent flowers to the Islamic Center in Ann Arbor after it received hate mail. We sold Black Lives Matter signs at the Social Justice table. And during our Social Justice Moment in Fall 2016, we included "Ten Things Congregants Can Do to Increase Social Justice," an excerpt from *The Third Reconstruction*, in the order of service.

We continue to support the African American Cultural Heritage Museum and ICPJ programs, especially on race and class. In Fall 2017, we plan to actively support the Immigration Coalition and the move toward becoming a sanctuary congregation. We also have several film and discussion events planned: a restorative justice film and a John Lewis documentary. We also plan to co-sponsor a trip with Justice in the Middle East to Dearborn's Arab American Museum.

This year Lucia Heinold, Kathy Friedrichs, Edie Croake, Sandy Eyl, Quincy Northrup, Joanna Courteau, and Kate Warner were our leading program contributors.

2016-2017 UUAA Climate Action Group

Submitted by Kate Hutchens

This past year the Climate Action Group has continued to offer a venue for (and member participation in) meetings for the Ann Arbor chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Our mailing list that gives updates on Climate Action events at UUAA and in the community goes out to 165 email addresses.

We also hosted a film screening of "Before the Flood," and contributed ideas towards the 2017 UUAA Earth Day worship service. Otherwise, our main efforts have been in support of individual group members showing up and advocating for climate action at all levels when the opportunities arise - local and national marches, rallies, lobby days, faith-in-action events, elections, publications, workplace efforts, and more.

We hope to continue to foster commitment to reckoning with climate change as a matter of faith.

Coffee Project 2016-17 Annual Report

Every Sunday morning in the Social Hall, the UUSC Coffee Project sells organic Equal Exchange products—coffee in nine different roasts, six kinds of tea, chocolate bars in ten different flavors, dried fruits, nuts, and olive oil. The Coffee Project is an ongoing fundraiser for UUSC's social justice program that works with small farming communities globally to bring about economic, social, and environmental justice. Equal Exchange (EE) is a democratic worker-owned co-operative that partners with the UUSC.

Last year UUAA was one of EE's top buyers. For every pound of product we purchase from EE, they donate 20 cents to UUSC, and the Coffee Project also raises money for UUAA. Last year we raised \$4,000 for our church from sales in the social hall. During coffee hours the church serves flavorful EE coffee?

Thank you to all who supported A TASTE OF JUSTICE by buying EE products from our friendly Coffee Project team: Ilene Beninson, Cathie and Hal Breidenbach, Lynn Dwyer, Connie Frederick, Sara Gibb, Nancy Harter, Shireen Jones, Denise Kearns, Jenny Kropf, Judi Marks, Sharon St Mary, and Cathy Whitaker.

Habitat for Humanity Outreach 2016-17 Annual Report

Submitted by Sandy Simon & Mike Muha (chair)

UUAA has been a very active participant in the “Good News” Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley (HHHV) home projects since 2000 (3 years after the group was started as “The Methodist House”).

Good News is a group of 17 area congregations who pool financial and volunteer resources to build/renovate Habitat for Humanity homes in the Huron Valley area. In 2009 HHHV switched from building new homes to purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed homes in targeted neighborhoods. This has proved a win-win-win as Habitat puts more tax paying families into more homes, while stabilizing neighborhoods and removing blight.

This UUAA community outreach speaks to all of our Core Values as it addresses housing (no-interest mortgages to families who meet income requirements), racial and gender equality (all races and configurations of families are included), environmental concerns (all houses are energy star rated), UU community building (UUs are always meeting each other while painting together), and very visibly “making a difference in the world”.

Each summer the 17 Good News congregations provide over 1000 volunteer hours to rehab 2 homes purchased by families who have successfully gone through the Habitat for Humanity program of homeowner classes and “sweat equity” volunteer hours.

UUAA remains a major contributor to Good News. We provide over \$7000 of the \$50,000 raised for construction costs and we staff at least 4 work days. UU’s also serve in the Good News leadership – Mike Muha serves as the Good News Treasurer and Sandy Simon chairs the Good News steering committee.

In 2016 we renovated 2 homes on Blossom Avenue in Ypsilanti, now owned by Melodie Tolbert and the Kevin Platte family. In the summer of 2017 we will renovate our 30th and 31st homes on Harvest Lane in Ypsilanti. Our 30th home will be designated “The Whitacre House” in honor of Bob Whitacre, the founder of the Good News Group, who passed away in February, 2017.

Committee Goals:

- We are always trying to offer opportunities to pitch in to more and more UUs!
- Our committee needs additional members to help with organization and sign-ups, so we are starting up efforts to recruit.

Habitat for Humanity Committee-

Mike Muha (chair), Barb Pickett, Fran Lyman, Dorothy Wilson, Sandy Simon

www.uuaa.org/h4h

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

IMMIGRATION ACTION COALITION

Submitted by: Cheryl Valentine

Why we exist: The Immigration Action Coalition was formed in 2014 in response to a 150th Anniversary Service, “Welcoming the Stranger.” After hearing the family who we embraced into sanctuary in the 1980s talk about what that sanctuary had meant to them, we asked ourselves, “Why aren’t we putting our faith in the inherent worth and dignity of every person into action today to support our immigrant neighbors?”

Goals of the IAC: To educate ourselves and our congregation about immigration issues, to advocate for immigration policy reform and to act in support of immigrants in our community.

Accomplishments May 2016 to April 2017

- **Advocated against the deportations** of Alexis, Susana Bernabe-Ramiriz, and Yousef Ajin. Attended rallies, fund-raisers, and court hearings. Made phone calls, wrote letters, and signed petitions.
- **Educational program for RE.** What kids can do to welcome immigrants.
- **Supported Immokalee Farm Workers.** In collaboration with Mindful Eating and UofM Student Farmworkers Alliance boycotted Wendys and showed the film, “Food Chains.”
- **Understanding Ourselves and Our Muslim Neighbors** - Two-part educational program. Collaborated with Challenging Racism and Justice in the Middle East.
- **Political advocacy** packets distributed to congregation. Advocated for “Don’t Ask” at Ypsilanti City Council.
- **Moving towards becoming a Sanctuary Congregation**
 - Sanctuary workshop at UUAA Justice Fair
 - Presented slide programs, “What is Sanctuary?”
 - Collected pledges in support of sanctuary
 - Attended Sanctuary Training sponsored by Michigan United & UUA webinars
 - “I stand with my immigrant neighbors” - posters and social media campaign
 - Founding member of Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary

Members: Over 60 members on Immigration Action List Serve. Members who planned and/or presented programs and actions this year include: Cesilie Cordovilla, Joanna Courteau, Ruth Cassidy, Anne Drake, Vicki Echegoyen, Melanie Harner, Lucia Heinold, Arlene Huff, Louise Kazarinoff, Mollison Morgan, Linda Sprankle, Carol Thomas, Cheryl and Vey Valentine.

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

2016 – 2017 Annual Report

by Mark Jagner

Description

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) advocates for a human rights-based approach to achieving peace in Israel-Palestine and resolving the seven-decades-long Palestinian refugee crisis. UUJME has 22 chapters in 14 states, including our group at UUAA.

Accomplishments

With Larry Cooper as national president, members of Ann Arbor UUJME were instrumental in drafting and advancing the business resolution “Divestment from Corporations Complicit in the Violation of Palestinian Rights” at the 2016 UUA General Assembly. UUAA delegates attended GA well informed about human rights abuses and Apartheid conditions in Israel-Palestine. Despite lobbying of UU clergy and top UUA officials by pro-Israel groups to silence debate, a 55% vote in favor of divestment demonstrated denomination-wide support but fell short of the two-thirds required for adoption. However, our efforts likely contributed to the UUA Socially Responsible Investment committee’s decision to adopt a human rights screen.

Other Activities

- Anne Garcia organized a screening at the Michigan Theatre of the “The Wanted 18”, a film about 18 intifada cows that were declared a threat to Israel’s security in 1987
- Documentary films: “Roadmap to Apartheid” and “Occupation of the American Mind”
- Video: “Remarks on Middle East Peace” by Sec. John Kerry
- Fourth series of Israel-Palestine study sessions
- Promoted campaign to Boycott Hewlett Packard
- Monthly meetings and information table in the social hall

Active Participants

Mark Jagner and Anne Garcia (Co-Chairs), Larry Cooper, Diane Cooper, Ruth Vail, Marina Brown, Akin Ori-Orisan, Halla Motawi, Jane Capin, Jan Bower, May Seikaly

Reflection

This year reflects more active engagement in resistance against oppression as we join with other faith communities, college campuses, and human rights activists around the world in support of the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Movement for Palestinian Rights.

MINDFUL EATING TEAM

Submitted by Co-Chairs Cathy Muha and Colleen Crawley

Our Mission: *The Mindful Eating Team of UUAA, acting with the denomination's Seven Principles as our guide, inspires and supports the congregation and the wider community to become informed about and advocate for food justice. We promote equitable and sustainable food systems that benefit farm and food workers, human health, animals, plants and the environment.*

Our activities address all five Core Values of UUAA. Our programs challenge us to understand how our food choices affect the planet and other beings. We promote social justice and environmental issues locally and beyond. We search for truth in love, never dictating but encouraging exploration of how our values inform our food choices. The inherent worth and dignity of every being underlies our work, and we recognize food's impact on the environment and its role in the interdependent web of all existence.

We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. Core group members are co-chairs Cathy and Colleen, and Guala Lauzzana, Connie McGuire, Merrill Crockett, Ruth Vail, Eileen Wright, and Sheila Sanders. This year, Guala stepped down as co-chair, after many years serving in that position.

Activities

Our weekly Social Hall table provides information and opportunities to sign up for activities. On first Sundays we feature samples of local, healthy treats, and during summer we offer Produce Sharing.

We have a website: <http://uuaa.org/social-justice/324-me-home-page> and a FACEBOOK page: <https://www.facebook.com/MindfulEatingUUAA/>. Our bi-weekly newsletter is sent electronically to over 530 people.

Other activities included:

- Veg UUAA hosts a Plant Friendly Family Potluck at church every other month.
- We hosted farm workers from Florida when we showed the movie "Food Chains" and again when they returned to explain their struggles to us. We also heard from EMU students who had researched this topic.
- 2016 was our fifth season on the Food Gatherers Farm Project, working with our Maple Road neighbor Farmer Bill Schmid, raising and donating over 3,200 pounds of fresh produce and \$3,500.
- We raised \$1,175 for CROP Walk.
- Our Fall Harvest Potluck featured Amanda Edmonds, Director of Growing Hope and Mayor of Ypsilanti.
- We continued to host the "Meet Your Farmer" series, featuring the Dyer Family Organic Farm.
- We showed the documentary "Just Eat It", a story of food waste, and followed up with a food waste challenge to the congregation.
- Merrill taught "Gardening in Small Spaces".
- The Mindful Eating Team provided a Social Justice Moment. That same Sunday, Amanda Edmonds joined the Seeds of Revolution sermon.

Future Ideas, Plans, Goals

Our goal remains to find creative ways to carry out our Mission, such as:

- Contributing a fundraising dinner for the congregation's Auction.
- Hear more from local small farmers in our “Meet Your Farmer” series.
- Educate ourselves and the congregation on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and repercussions if SNAP is cut from the next Farm Bill.
- Continue to grow our core group membership.

UUAA Prison Books 2016-17 Annual Report

UUAA PRISON BOOKS continues in a successful mission to deliver reading materials to confined readers. We were able to deliver approx. (18,000) books to our readers during 2016...our 11th year of operation.

Some highlights during 2016:

- 1) Continued providing Books/Reading materials to Prison Readers.
THE HIGHLIGHT for 2016 is that we have now delivered a cumulative total of **over 130,000 books** to Fed/State/Local facilities!
- 2) Continued emphasizing Children books for Washtenaw County Jail reception area...reading materials for little visitors and a chance for a “free” book, our compliments!
- 3) Prison Facilities...(14) Total Correctional Facilities are on our delivery calendar. Our collection sources include (10) recognized Libraries and Organizations including own Congregation-
- 4) We continue the Drop-Ship arrangement (using Jackson MDOC transport terminal) that allows us to service distant facilities. We successfully transported a large shipment to the Marquette Prison and Ionia (4) Prison Facilities using drop-ship in 2016.

UUAA Prison books continue to collect books from Congregants and outside organizations while distributing these “valuable” commodities to different Prison Facilities. BUT during early 2017 CY, the Prison Books Team will address an aging “Team Membership” and attempt to recruit younger/stronger members to better support pick-up/delivery needs (“stevedores”). Without replenished ranks the Prison Books effort will be reduced in scope to a more sustainable operation. (reduced storage space and limits on access at UUAA have also placed greater demands on book transport/movement needs- “stevedores” are even more critical)

Prison Books is grateful for your continuing contributions to this worthy cause (donation site in SGD Wing upper corridor) and for the wonderful volunteer efforts provided by UUAA members. **THANK UU !...contact us if you want to join the FUN!**

Friends of Restorative Justice 2016-17 Annual Report

Submitted by: Kathy Friedrichs and Carolyn Madden

The Friends of Restorative Justice of Washtenaw County (FORJ) of UUAA is part of an interfaith and secular group of people committed to transforming the criminal justice system from a punitive or retributive system into a healing, restorative system.

Our work promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

FORJ activities during this last year include:

- Bringing in former Iowa prosecutor Fred Van Liew for several meetings and presentations to educate and motivate our community on a new perspective of justice;
- Organized a workshop and presentation to engage in a dialogue with Washtenaw County prosecutors, judges, county commissioners and the community about restorative justice;
- Held an informative panel at the Gerald Ford School of Public Policy featuring Fred and Sheriff Jerry Clayton;
- Organized and participated in a pilot project on juvenile court watching;
- Participated in circle keeping, an integral part of the family reunification juvenile court.
- Held a workshop on circle keeping and restorative justice at the UUAA Justice Fair.

Future plans include educating the community to enable more restorative practices to be brought into the courts and schools. Continue the court watching program into the adult courts. Working with the Washtenaw County Commissioners to understand and influence County participation in Restorative practices in our courts, jails and prisons. Organize a panel with community support to promote awareness of prosecutorial practices that are detrimental to a more restorative approach to our justice system.

Active members of Friends of Restorative Justice of UUAA include: Kathy Friedrichs, Lucia Heinhold, Mary Ann Hergengrother, Joanna Courteau, Carolyn Madden, Margaret Pekarek, and Kate Warner.

Sharing the Collection 2016-2017 Annual Report

Chairperson: Bob Dinan

Chairperson Emeritus: Terry Madden

Other committee members: Mary Ann Camron, Barb Cherem, John Preston

Sharing the Collection gives all of us an opportunity to provide financial assistance to the non-profit service organizations in Washtenaw County that are doing important work in the community.

Our UUAA Social Justice core value statement reads,

This (UUAA) congregation acts in concrete and substantial ways to promote social and economic justice in the larger community.

We are in alignment not only with our Social Justice core values at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAA) but with the commitment to serve the organizations to whom we donate our 1st Sunday collection. Our collection serves predominantly disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, as well as people who have been targets of discrimination.

From May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017, our monthly collection has supported twelve different community organizations. On average, each recipient received a donation of \$2,100, with the largest monthly donation being \$3,370 and the smallest \$847.

The twelve organizations supported in the twelve months ended April 30, 2017:

- Habitat for Humanity - Huron Valley Chapter
- Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)
- Community Action Network
- HIV Resource Center/AIDS Partnership Michigan
- Children's Literacy Network
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- IHN/Alpha House
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Washtenaw County
- Religious Action for Affordable Housing(RAHH)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness of Washtenaw County
- The Women's Center for SE Michigan
- Growing Hope

Future plans:

- Continued support of one community organization per month.
- Solicitation of applications for support in 2018 (October)
- Selection of 2018 recipients (November)

Arts and Aesthetics Committee 2016-17 Annual Report

Members: Barbara Hall, Eppie Potts, Bob Peyser, Mark Dickinson
Staff Liaison: Glen-Thomas Rideout

Our committee has completed several project aimed at improving the aesthetics and way finding for public spaces in the main church. The Foyer, Jackson Chapel, and Redman Room have been painted and redecorated. We have hung art in these areas that are connected with the main purposes of these spaces. The stained glass dove is the main feature in the Foyer and is meant as a welcoming image and one that reflects the spirit of the Congregation. In the Jackson Chapel, we hung the works by Ben Shahn which were given to UUAA in gratitude for contributions from the Jackson Fund. The portraits of the Jacksons are hung near these works. We also reorganized the portraits of Senior Ministers. They are displayed in chronological order and labeled. In the Redman Room, we hung a collection of photos depicting UU's living the principles as well as a portrait of Rev. Redman. Orientation and general information meetings for visitors are held in the Redman Room.

We have created and hung way-finding signs in the foyer and maps of rooms in the SGD wing.

The Zimbabwe Artists Project has been going on during the month of April. We learned of this project through the Portland UU Congregation. We displayed art produced by people from the town of Weya, Zimbabwe. Proceeds from the sale of art go to the nonprofit and pay for school fees, health services, fertilizer and other critical services needed by the people of Weya.

In the future, we look forward to organizing art displays by UU artists. Members of the Congregation who would like to display their art should contact the Arts and Aesthetics Committee. The UUAA policy on the sale of art by members or friends of the Congregation is that 50% of the proceeds go to the Congregation and 50% to the artist.

Bridge Group Annual Report for 2016-2017

The UUAA Bridge Group has been popular in this congregation for many years. The early organizers were Marjorie Reade and Elsie Sinclair. The Bridge Group gives us an opportunity to get to know other UUAA members and friends while playing a popular Ann Arbor table game. We play in a convivial social atmosphere in the Emerson Room, where no one is embarrassed by mistakes. Our players have a broad range of skill and, with regular mini-lessons by Dick Bauman most months; we strive to improve our bridge skills. We meet the second Sunday of the month except for May and June when we meet the first Sunday afternoon. In March, at the request of the church, the time was changed to 12:30pm to 4:30pm. New players are always welcomed regardless of skill level. If a person does not have a bridge partner they may join as a substitute player and several partnerships have developed in that way. Each month a different bridge team contributes snacks for the group. We have 22 people playing regularly plus 4 people who are available as substitutes. We contributed \$550 (\$25.00 per person) to the UUAA General Fund for the year.

Members for the 2015-2016 year are: Dick Bauman, Bob Reed, Karen Bourdon, Cathie and Hal Breidenbach, Jo Anne Diehl, Grace Dryer, Jayna Eckler, Tom First, Frederick Lynch, Sonia Manchek, Wanda Mumford, Dennis O'Brien, Jeanne Van Ochten, Wayne Adams, Donna Roe, Tim Romlein, Emily Sharp, James Todd, Phil Tuchinsky, Joyce Van Ochten, Jack Volk, and substitutes Bob Treadway, Steve Kuzman, Lucy Bauman, and Martin Gaertner.

Karen Bourdon: Bridge Coordinator
Tim Romlein: Bridge Manager

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF UAAA COMMUNITY OF WRITERS

The UAAA Community of Writers meets on the second Sunday of each month and welcomes adults interested in creative writing, from beginners to advanced writers, seeking a supportive community to foster self-awareness, spiritual growth, creative expression, communication, and social witness through writing. Our meetings are focused on our original writings, both impromptu and works prepared in advance, which are read together and given appreciative feedback as requested by each writer. (Paraphrased from the Community of Writers' credo).

From May 2016 to April 2017 the Writers encouraged members [fifteen active members] to both participate and lead in our meetings. We explored why each person writes in their chosen genre, the role of memory in writing, blog creation, memoir, the art of the personal letter, current social issues, and other topics. For example, for the June 2016 meeting, the focus chosen by group consensus was our favorite authors, poets, memoirists, and journalists and their influence on our own writing. We highlighted Stephen Crane, 19th Century poet; Ernest Hemingway, 20th Century novelist; and contemporary poet, Mary Oliver, respected by many members for her poem, "The Summer Day," which questions our universe. Each member then read to the group a sample of their own writing, illustrating their regard for their admired writing style. These shared samples fulfilled the Writers' goals of creative expression, spiritual growth, and social witness.

On May 15, 2016 and December 18, 2016, 1:00-2:30pm, the Writers presented two formal Readings, inviting the UAAA congregation, ministry, and staff, and concluding with a social time of coffee and conversation. The writers, eleven in May and fourteen in December, presented many themes in several genres, poetry, fiction, memoir, journal, and song. The Readings attracted appreciative audiences, numbering twenty-three and twenty-five, and each event brought new members.

Thank you very much.

Respectively submitted by Mary Lund and Bridget Laundra, Co-Facilitators of the UAAA
COMMUNITY OF WRITERS

The Humanist Group at the UUAA

Authors: Bruce Gibb and Charlie Pekarek

Description of the Ministry

The Humanist Group (HG) is comprised of members and friends of the Congregation. The group meets twice a month, on the first and third Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00. Everyone is welcome.

The HG is the only group in the Congregation that explicitly considers the beliefs and values of the members not with the purpose of changing the beliefs of other members but to understand them. It is a safe group for individuals to share their thoughts and feelings openly without challenge or criticism. The Humanist label of the group means that anything which pertains to human processes of thinking, feeling or behaving is open for discussion. It is not specifically focused on more general humanist doctrine or advocacy but these topics do come up for examination.

Core Values

The Humanist group enhances the mission of the UUAA by living the UUAA 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th principles.

Goals and Objectives

Some members advocated for identifying and taking the initiative to bring one core social justice concern for the whole Congregation to rally around and take coordinated action toward its solution. Most recently, the group has been talking about how to increase the congregation's understanding of humanism and its role in the history of Unitarian Universalism.

Goals and Objectives Achieved

The group considered the following 63 topics, articles and/or books this year. Implicitly, we are a group that builds and strengthens the relationships among the members of the group. By exploring concepts and issues of importance to the members, each thinks more broadly than before the discussions. Another implicit goal is to engage and apply the understandings, insights, and values we gain in our lives outside of the group, to become better people.

Internet Technologies Group Report

Submitted by Sandy Simon & Don Winsor

The volunteers from the Internet Technologies group are responsible for the operation and overall organization of the uaaa.org web site. The group also addresses technical issues, interfaces with our Internet service provider (currently UUism.net) and helps answer technology related questions. Content updates are submitted to “webtech@uuaa.org” by program leaders and office staff.

Our website gets over 1000 distinct visitors each month. The most visited pages on our site include "About Us", "Sermons and Forums", "Ministers and Staff", "Directions and Transportation", and "What UUs believe", indicating that many non-members access our site every week.

The 2016-17 year brought a few cosmetic changes to the web site to make the colors and other small aspects of the site look more like the UUA template used by many UU congregations. Some of the groups that updated and expanded their content included the Partner Church, Governance information from the Governance Task Force, Chalice Circles and some of the Social Justice ministries.

The web team also loosely oversees the UUA general Facebook page. That page now has 1260 “fans”. Each Facebook post reaches between 30 and 850 people. People viewing the pages are 70% female, mostly from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, but scattered all over the world: 12 from India, some from the Philippines, Pakistan, Germany, etc.

Future work:

- We are working with the office to plan a transition to a new web hosting service in the near future. Our current host servers have had too much down time. This is especially disruptive since email stops working for all uaaa.org addresses. Several times email has been down for over 24 hours.
- We are expecting requests for updates to make the web site in best possible shape for candidates as we head into our Search for a new Senior Minister. A video tour of the building, more photographs and other improvements may be needed.
- We need to recruit a few more people to help with improvements and bring fresh eyes to a group that has been stable for a long time.
- We need to work on our procedures for receiving news and content for the web site. This has not been working as well as it used to.

The current core members of this group are Don Winsor (chair), Bob Hospadaruk (Facebook), Connie Lippert, Tricia Mooney, Sandy Simon and Brandy Sinco.

Men's Fellowship 2016-2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Tom Reischl

The Mission of the UU Men's Council is to provide leadership and support for the development and stability of programs for those who identify as men and boys that enhance friendship, spiritual growth, and positive community engagement. This mission aligns with UUAA Core Values of Spiritual Life, Social Justice and Environmental Action, Community, Stewardship, and Culture. Serving on the Men's Council last year included Kurt Skifstad, Craig VanKempen, Jeff Surfus, Mike Muha, Tom Reischl, Dave Borneman, Russ Blaesing, Gregg Peterson, and James McCargar.

The year's highlights:

1. 2016 Coming of Age Initiation Weekend – The Men's Fellowship hosted a community dinner for the initiates and their mentors May 15. Some men participated in the boys' initiation events.
2. 2016 Men's Retreat – The retreat was held at Judson-Collins Center on Wamplers Lake on October 7-9. Over 50 men attended.
3. Men's Circles – Five active circles involve approximately 70 men. The Men's Council is working with interested men to establish a new men's circle.
4. Men's Dinner – The 2016 Men's Dinner occurred on April 16 featured Domenic Tamborriello, who spoke on "Healthy Masculinity: Oxymoron or Hope for the Future?" Over 100 men and women attended the dinner. The 2017 Men's Dinner was held on April 15 (before the posting of this report) and the program will feature the Neutral Zone's Music Programs.
5. Monthly Breakfasts – On the third Saturday each month at 8:30am, a mix of dozen men drop by to share stories and news of the day.
6. Church Property Activities – The Men's Fellowship paid for repairs to the brush mower and is planning trail improvement projects.

The Men's Council is discussing new ways to promote stronger friendships and more meaningful commitments to the UUAA Core Values.

UUAA North Group Annual Report

Submitted by Sandy Breck

The UUAA North Group was begun in 2015 as a discussion group for people who live in or near the north side of Ann Arbor. It was felt that the distance to the church sometimes reduced participation in church events, and also that northsiders might enjoy coming to know and support each other.

UUAA values reflected in this team's activities are inclusion, shared leadership from within the group, and focus on a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning". We invite the congregation to participate by means of the weekly bulletin and have had attendance at the last four sessions of 8-13 people.

We publish a topic monthly and a host (volunteer homes) in the bulletin as well as S. Breck's email or phone for further information. Three sessions focused on various aspects of spirituality as the group's members view that concept and its relevance in their lives. Topics are chosen by the group and as our relationships grow, we will probably explore both fun getting-to-know-you activities and in-depth conversations about issues that face our congregation, our local community and our world.

Wednesday Morning Readers 2016-17 Annual Report Submitted by Liz Hartley

Wednesday Morning Readers meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00am in the Jackson Chapel. Book selections are nominated by individual members, and then voted upon. The Wednesday Morning Reader member who nominates his/her book will lead the month's book discussion. A variety of books, both non-fiction and fiction, are selected. A few examples of the 2016-2017 books discussed were: *She's not There*, Jennifer Finney Boylan, *The Sympathizer*, Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Peabody Sisters*, Megan Marshall, and *My Life on the Road*, Gloria Steinem. We attempt to choose books at least three months in advance.

Since we strive to keep our monthly discussions related to the book and associated topics, many Wednesday Morning Readers meet for lunch afterwards to socialize.

Welcome Ministries 2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Hannah Hotchkiss, Welcome Ministries Coordinator

The mission of Welcome Ministries and Sunday Welcome Teams is to welcome all who enter UUAA, provide information about Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, and integrate visitors and new members into our spiritual community.

Sunday Welcome Teams and a new offering, First Friday Fun Nights, which are organized by many of our Welcome Team members, strive to uphold our third Core Value, Community, which states the following.

We create and foster community by providing an intentionally welcoming and safe environment where all feel valued and cared for, and where all are given opportunity to form meaningful connections with one another. We foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all. We cherish the diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, and national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial means, education, and political perspective. We live together in peace, search for truth in love, and help one another.

Welcome Ministries oversees the coordination and training of the Sunday Welcome Teams, which include greeters, ushers, Involvement Table staff, newcomer welcomers, and the Social Hour Team. In 2016, sixty-five committed welcome team volunteers contributed to provide a positive, welcoming experience for our congregants.

Vital Signs 2016 (January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016)

- Total active membership reported for UUA Certification 2016: 620
Previous year: 629
- New members in 2016: 24
Previous year: 35
- Visitor cards in 2016: 188
Previous year: 202
- Introduction to Our Faith Registrations: 41
Previous year: 62

Accomplishments in 2016

- Launched Community Culture Event: Social Connections: First Friday Fun Nights
Average attendance 98
- Expanded roles of Sunday Welcome Team Members

Future Opportunities

- Update emergency training for Sunday Welcome Teams
- Devise more systematic and procedures for comprehensive follow up to new members
- Expand Community Culture to provide more regular multi-generational events: emphasis on seniors
- Expand Social Hour Team

2016-17 Annual Operating Fund Pledge Campaign Committee Report

Submitted by Stephanie Surfus

The **5 to Thrive** campaign generated **376 pledges for a total of \$901,280**, or 98% of our goal of \$920,000 for the 2017 Operating Budget. This represents an increase over last year's campaign results. Given the transition we, as a community, are experiencing, the campaign was definitely a success! The **5 to Thrive** campaign sought to highlight the mission and purpose of our faith community.

This is the second consecutive year in which there was no second ask. And even though there were 14 fewer pledge units than the previous year, total pledges increased from \$895,133 last year and the average pledge increased by about \$100 to \$2,397.

The median pledge (half above, half below) remained at \$1,500. In a normal distribution, the average and median would be the same. The effect of this skewed distribution can be seen in the table below. The top 30 pledge units (\$6,000 and above), or 4.3% of the total pledge units, pledged about 30% of the total money pledged.

Thank you to Reverend Lindasusan, Reverend Doug Wadkins, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Ed Lynn, and all the others who supported the campaign in so many ways. A special thank you to those members of our community who generously shared personal stories about the many ways in which our faith community holds its members in love and covenant.

The **5 to Thrive** campaign will continue through 2018. We will build on our theme of mission and purpose and provide opportunities to demonstrate stewardship of our UUAA community and the world around us.

Pledge Amounts (^{'000})	Pledge Units				Total Pledge Amounts		
	Number	Cum	%	Cum	\$	%	Cum %
≥ \$10	9	9	2.4%	2.4%	123,740	13.7%	13.7%
\$8 to \$9.9	5	14	1.3%	3.6%	42,500	4.7%	18.4%
\$6 to \$7.9	16	30	4.3%	7.7%	103,200	11.5%	29.9%
\$4.80 to \$5.9	22	52	5.9%	13.3%	112,300	12.5%	42.4%
\$3.6 to \$4.8	41	93	10.9%	23.8%	163,560	18.1%	60.5%
\$2.4 to \$3.59	49	142	13.0%	36.4%	135,646	15.1%	75.6%
\$1.2 to \$2.39	89	231	23.7%	59.2%	139,917	15.5%	91.1%
\$0.6 to \$1.19	72	303	19.1%	77.7%	58,247	6.5%	97.5%
< \$600	73	376	19.4%	100%	22,170	2.5%	100%
Total	376		100%		901,280	100%	
				Average Pledge	2,397		

Planned Giving Team 2016-17 Annual Report

Submitted by: Becky Hoort and Toni Wander

In service to our congregation's core values of stewardship, spiritual growth and community, the current Planned Giving Team (Don Duquette, Becky Hoort (co-chair), Jim Lee, and Toni Wander (co-chair), with crucial support from Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich and Ed Lynn) continues efforts to raise congregational awareness about planned giving options and benefits. The Team also finds ways to recognize and celebrate Sunderland Society members. The Sunderland Society is comprised of congregants and friends of the congregation who are known to have made a commitment for a planned gift (bequest, etc.) to UUAA.

This year's projects include:

- Camaraderie at a May 2016 reception for Sunderland Society members, held at the home of Jim Lee and Terri Wilkerson
- Thanksgiving cards expressing our gratitude to Sunderland Society members
- Recruitment of new members to the Planned Giving Team
- Updating our records and database of planned giving donors, as well as our Sunderland Society plaque, found on the wall outside the Phifer Sanctuary
- Continued work on printed materials, including a new brochure
- A May 5th workshop on Financial and Estate Planning for Young Families led by Jane Bassett, a local attorney, and our own Toni Wander, a Financial Planner

Since 2005, generous planned gifts have amounted to more than \$900,000, and have made substantial contributions to the vitality and outreach of our congregation. We are excited about the rollout of our '20 by 20' Campaign, with a goal of adding twenty or more planned giving commitments by the end of 2020. If you are not already a Sunderland Society member, will you be one of the twenty? We hope so! Please speak to a member of the Planned Giving Team or email us at plannedgiving@uuaa.org for more information.

QUUest 2016-17 Annual Report Submitted by Co-Chair Lucia Heinold

The QUUest Bookstore's ministry is to support members' and visitors' spiritual journeys by providing a welcoming center with a stimulating selection of UUA and general books addressing spiritual growth, social and environmental justice and other UU seven principles.

QUUest is open between services September – June and after the single service during the summer.

In spite of reducing our hours of operation in 2016, QUUest sold \$6,235.00 of books at retail and transferred \$3,000 to the UUA general fund. This is the same amount we transferred last year. Thank you to the congregation for adapting to our new hours.

The highlight of the year has been welcoming Tim Richards, retired U-M Dearborn librarian, to our group. He is handling the buying and invoice processing. Of course, we also order books recommended by the team and the congregation, and welcome special orders.

In 2017 we will continue to streamline our operations. The first step has been to work with Ed Lynn to move two of our suppliers to being reimbursed by UUA credit card rather than checks.

Each Sunday, three people staff the book-selling table, two for the selling social hour and one to help put books away quickly. There are eleven team members now: Roberta Billingsly, Evelyn Burns, Terry Butcher, Elsie Dyke, Anne Hagiwara, Marion Holt, Lucia Heinold, Lineve McKie, Tim Richards, Linda Sprankle, and Joyce Phillips. We always welcome additional bookstore workers. Schedules are flexible. Attending monthly meetings is optional. Interested? Contact Lucia Heinold at Heinoldcia@aol.com or 734-996-2796.

Scrip Program 2016-17 Annual Report

Submitted by Carolyn Barber, Scrip Program Coordinator

Scrip = Cash Equivalent. By using scrip, congregants earn free money for the church while buying those items that they would ordinarily buy anyway. Over 600 retailers participate in the program, offering rebates from 2 to 16%, some even more.

For 2016, we were budgeted to earn \$1000 per month, but we ended up months short of our goal. This year, we are budgeted for \$10,000, and once again, we're running behind. Why? Please tell us.

- Income from Kroger's continues to fall, as it is a challenge to get all congregants who shop at Kroger's to (re-)enroll their Kroger Plus cards every April.
- Arbor Farms, however, is sending us about \$190 per month, just for a shopper there mentioning they "support First UU."
- 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 (3%) now links My Way cards to the church when registered online.

More families are placing online orders with Great Lakes Scrip. This earns them rebates that can be itemized on their income taxes.

Having scrip on sale after each service requires two teams of two sellers every Sunday, except for the single-service months. I am so grateful for the reliable regulars – Barb Dinan, Jo Dodge, Sara Gibb, Cindy Hegg Krueger, Sara Mathews, and Becky Swank. We could use two more volunteers.

I am especially grateful for the loyal efforts of:

- Jo Dodge, who helps out multiple times each month;
- Becky Swank, who fills in for me when I am out of town and publicizes Scrip Table news; and
- Elsie Dyke, who picks up local grocery scrip orders.

You can help, too. Figure out where you regularly spend your money (groceries, restaurants, gas, pharmacy, household goods, etc.) then come talk to us.

Treasurer's Assistants Annual Report 2016-2017

Submitted by Phyllis Valentine, Member

Each Monday morning, our group counts and processes all monies (currency and checks) received by UUAA during the previous week. These monies include the weekly offerings, pledges, memorial gifts, Social Hour activities (Equal Exchange Coffee Project, QUUest Bookstore, Scrip, Alpha House, Khasi Hills, etc.), rental income, and other sources. Counting and processing involves filling out standard forms and double-counting to insure accuracy. We fill out the bank deposit slips. Deposits are made by Ed Lynn or Debby Casamatta.

Each UUAA group that processes money fills out a standardized sheet that separates cash and checks and provides us and the individual groups with an accurate record of their financial activity. This allows for our work to proceed faster, with fewer questions.

Our process works ideally with at least four people. The current group members are: Carolyn Barber, Jo Dodge, Marie Duke, Royla Furniss, Roberta Allen, and Phyllis Valentine. We welcomed two official substitutes this year, Betsy Price and Ruth Vail. Our staff liaison is Debby Casamatta.

Interweave Annual Report for 2016-2017
Submitted by Joan Burleigh, joburleigh@aol.com

“Mission: Interweave is a spiritual home to transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, questioning, and intersex people, their families and allies. Together, with our Congregation, we nurture social connections, support spiritual growth, educate ourselves and others and advocate for social justice.”

Interweave brought its mission and our core values to life this year through these activities:

- Interweave hosted five **Potluck and Film nights** open to all UUAA members and friends from October through March that attracted between 15-50 participants. October featured Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich speaking on Bisexuality. In November we viewed the classic film, *Paris Is Burning*, followed by a lively discussion. January’s gathering joined 50 folks together to prepare the Women’s Marches with singing, poster making and the sewing of pussy hats by Betsy Price and Victor Hola. February featured Cristy Cardinal with a presentation of *Intersectionality, What Is It? Who Came Up With It? What does It Mean?* The March meeting, co-sponsored with the Accessibility Team, explored a topic of mutual interest *Inclusion: What Does It Mean?*
- To create safe space for conversation and social connections, Interweave hosted **Circle Conversations** on Sundays. Topics included “language matters,” National Coming Out Day - what does it mean to you and planning for the 2017-2018 year.
- Interweave was involved in the planning and coordination of the **Annual Interfaith Service of Affirmation**, *One Family Undivided, Reclaiming the Blessing*, held in December with outreach and affirmation in particular to transgender people, with about 150 people in attendance. The Planning Team made up of community members was led by Margaret Pekarek with assistance from Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, and Joan Burleigh. UUAA folks who provided music for the service included Brandy Sinco.
- An **Interweave table** was present on Sunday mornings in the Social Hall to welcome visitors, members and friends and to provide information on LGBTQIA topics. The table volunteers were coordinated by Carol Thomas, supported by Victor Hola, Scott Ferguson, and Joan Burleigh.

UUAA Jackson Social Welfare Fund Committee

2017 Annual Report

This report covers the activities of the UUAA Jackson Social Welfare Fund Committee (“Committee”) for the last funding cycle, with the year ending 31 May 2017 and includes information about our 2016 decisions.

The Fund and the Committee’s Mission: The Committee has implemented the 1955 bequest of George and Bessie Jackson annually since 1956; we are in our 61st year. The bequest requires that we distribute annual earnings for two purposes, briefly stated as follows:

- (1) to advance understanding and acceptance of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution OR
- (2) to promote rational and peaceful means of conflict resolution.

The Committee and its annual activities: The Committee’s annual cycle of activities extends from January to May. We...

- learn our annual giving limit from the UUAA Investments Committee (\$28,600 for 2017);
- solicit proposals by distributing a Request for Proposals to local, regional, national and even international organizations, using our contacts and the UUAA website;
- receive proposals by our deadline;
- analyze and discuss the proposals, then decide on grants. For the 2017 annual cycle, this occurred in May; we received 12 proposals and made 10 grants. In 2016 we received 12 proposals and made 10 grants totaling \$28,200;
- send decision letters to all applicants, enclosing checks as appropriate (completed for the 2017 in May).

Membership: The Committee’s unique membership consists of six UUAA members plus two members appointed by the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (AAFM). The 2017 UUAA Committee members are Roberta Allen, Kyla Boyse (co-chair), Cesilie Cordovilla, Akin Oni-Orrison, Phil Tuchinsky (co-chair) and Kate Warner. AAFM appointed Thomas Taylor and Art Wolfe.

2016 Award Recipients: We congratulate last year’s (2016) grant recipients:

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
Citizens United for Rehabilitation Of Errants (Michigan Chapter, MI-CURE) with
American Friends Service Committee
Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living
National Committee Against Censorship
Michigan United
The Dispute Resolution Center, for the restorative justice program at Ann Arbor Skyline
High School
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Prison Creative Arts Program (PCAP)
UM-Dearborn College Courses at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR) TEAM Program

2017 Award Recipients: We also congratulate our most recent (2017) grant recipients:

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Citizens United for Rehabilitation Of Errants (Michigan Chapter, MI-CURE) with
American Friends Service Committee

The Right to Write (Groundcover News-related project)

Friends Committee for National Legislation

Michigan United

The Dispute Resolution Center, for the restorative justice program at Ann Arbor Skyline
High School

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice

Prison Creative Arts Program (PCAP)

UM-Dearborn College Courses at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR) TEAM P rogram

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Boyse and Phil Tuchinsky, co-chairs,
UUAA Jackson Social Welfare Fund Committee

2016-17 Annual Report
Khasi Hills Sponsor a Student (SAS) Committee
Submitted by Cathy Doherty and Allen Duncan

Brief Description of the Work of the Committee

The Khasi Hills SAS Committee provides financial support for a Unitarian elementary school in the village of Mawkisyiem in the Khasi Hills, located in northeast India. In addition the program makes possible transformational personal connections between the students there and their sponsors in Ann Arbor. While India has stated a commitment to providing “universal access” to publicly funded primary education, such is not available in many areas, including northeast India. Private schools are necessary to ensure access, and tuition waivers must guarantee the possibility of inclusion in these private schools. Our financial support helps to improve access to education in the region.

Additionally, the SAS program provides a conduit for written correspondence between congregation members and the students of the school. Congregation members (sponsors) provide support in the form of unrestricted contributions and are then assigned to a particular student. The relationship and communication between a particular congregation member and a particular student are maintained throughout the student’s tenure in the school (or the congregation member’s participation in the program).

The committee also organizes occasional pilgrimages to the Khasi Hills. Such trips were made in 2006, 2011 and 2016. The next trip is tentatively scheduled for October of 2021. There is also a possibility that committee members and interested members of the congregation may attend the biennial conference of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU), to be held in northeast India in February, 2018.

Demonstration of UU Core Values

Without elaboration, the committee directs its work to support the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
4. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part.

Highlights of Activities taking place from May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017

Representatives of the congregation (and committee) traveled to India in October of 2016 to meet with the Education Committee of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India (UUNEI), to train teachers of schools sponsored by UUNEI, to meet with students and teachers at the Mawkisyiem Lower Primary School, to teach a knitting class (primarily attended by students), and to

participate in other community activities. The travelers used the trip to (among other things) assess the long and short term needs of the UUNEI and Mawkisiyiem Lower Primary School.

Participants in the Committee include Laura Bauman, Cathie Breidenbach, Hal Breidenbach, Mary Ann Camron, Cathy Doherty, Allen Duncan, Janet Duncan, Deborah Golden, Rick Johnson, John Seeley, Hashen Sohtun, and Robert Treadway

Plans for 2017/2018

- Continue support of the Unitarian school at Mawkisiyiem through the sponsorship program
- Tentatively plan to send representatives from our congregation to the ICUU conference in February 2018 (to include a visit to the school in Mawkisiyiem)

UUAA Partner Church Program Annual Report for 2017

Submitted by

Phyllis Valentine, Chair

In 1997, the UU Church of Ann Arbor formally voted to establish a formal partnership arrangement with the Unitarian Church in Kézdivásárhely, Romania. This coming year we will celebrate our partnership and are looking forward to that. Our partner church has approximately 100 members, with about one-third of them active. This program supports all 5 core values of our congregation: spiritual life, social justice, community, stewardship, and culture. We share many of the same values as our partners, although there are variations in the way we practice our religions; both partners learn from each other.

We have accomplished two of the goals set out for the past year: increased communication and continued financial support. A combined goal, a visit and Sunday service, from our PC minister Rev. István Buzogány-Csoma and his wife, also a minister, had to be postponed to this fall. Their visit will be an opportunity to celebrate our 20th anniversary in very tangible ways.

Communication continues to be enhanced through Facebook, especially by those who travelled to Transylvania in 2014. That group works together to discuss potential visitors and assist with decisions. Most recently the group participated in promoting a separate fundraiser in late March to help with the purchase of a used mini-van by our partners. We have published several UUAA Newsletter articles about our partners. We continued our financial assistance for a University student (Lestyan Attila), the Kezdi congregation's building search, and for the minister. Attila wrote an article about his studies for the February 2017 Newsletter.

Beginning in November 2015 we added an on-going goal to coordinate our activity with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Blacksburg, Virginia, the new partner of Rev. Istvan's village congregation in Szentivanlaborfalva. We have not been able to further the goal this year, as they too have an interim minister and are occupied with all the work that entails. Rev. Doug Wadkins helped us coordinate with Blacksburg the fundraising for the mini-van project. Thanks, Rev. Doug!

Our goals for the coming year are:

- Celebrate our 20th anniversary of Partnership:
 - Collaborate with the Blacksburg, VA congregation to bring Rev. Istvan and his wife Csilla to the United States for a visit in Fall 2017
 - Work with our ministers to plan and execute a Partner Church Service during Rev. Istvan's visit in order to build on the visibility of this program in the wider congregation.
 - Plan a pilgrimage for Spring or Summer 2018 and/or facilitate travel by UUAA congregants
- Continue regular communication with our partners via Facebook and other means, especially as they develop plans for a church building of their own.
- Continue to engage this year's and previous travelers in conversations about the partnership.

Reflective Conversations Team 2016-17 Annual Report

Prepared by Jim Lee, Chair

The Reflective Conversations (RC) process was created at the behest of the Board of Trustees to:

- Gather reflective feedback regarding Sunday Worship and Program Ministries for the ministers, staff and or lay program leaders to use in reflection and consideration of ways to improve their respective offerings.
- Give members of the Congregation an opportunity to be heard in a safe environment.
- Model healthy communication within the Congregation.
- Affect the culture of the Congregation using reflection and listening as a model.

In the Fall of the 2016-2017 calendar year, the Board of Trustees, Interim Senior Minister Rev. Doug Wadkins, and staff discussed the ongoing role of the RC process. After careful consideration, they selected the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) program for review. Sunday Worship was to be addressed through a separate process led by the President of the Congregation and Rev. Wadkins.

With Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development, and the SGD Committee, we agreed to focus on the Coming of Age and Adult SGD programs. We worked with leaders of the programs to establish questions and processes for performing the Reflective Conversations, many of which will be implemented in the 2017-18 calendar year.

Since we are in the midst of designing and implementing the SGD conversations we will not provide a detailed report to the ministers and congregation this year. The report from last year is available at <http://uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/lay-leadership/reflective-conversations> . A fact sheet and lovely photo of our participants are also available there. Our participants this year included: Dixie Hibner; Becky Hoort; Jim Lee, Chair; Carolyn Madden; Tricia Mooney, Board Liaison; Catherine Olson; Ginny Preuss; and, Erik Stalhandske. If our ministry is of interest to you please let us know at reflectiveconversations@uuaa.org - we're happy to listen, talk and welcome volunteers.