

Unity Group Annual Report 2018-19

Submitted by Sandy Simon

The Unity Group is a new ministry at UUAA formed in April, 2019.

The Unity Group is named in honor of a proud part of UUAA's history, the very successful "Unity Club" started in 19th century Ann Arbor by our then minister, Rev Jabez Sunderland. In the late 1800's, the Unity Club held public meetings with a variety of speakers on issues of the times. The program was said to bring people into a stronger sense of community and fostered positive interfaith dialog in Ann Arbor.

The new Unity Group will focus on the UUAA community, offering intellectual and cultural programs representing a range of religious perspectives, in an effort to expand interfaith and intercultural understanding. The programming should reflect on our UU principle of respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person and as our Core Values state, "expand religious understanding and nurture spiritual growth".

We scheduled our first speaker for May 19th, 2019:

Professor Victor B. Lieberman, Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Asian and Comparative History at the University of Michigan. His talk will provide an historical and contemporary overview of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on a course that he teaches at the University of Michigan, a course popular with students of quite diverse ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds. His talk will consider origins of the conflict, self-images and grievances held by the two sides, and barriers to resolution.

Future events might provide intercultural music or dance, in addition to speakers. Our mission is still evolving.

The founding members of the Unity Group are: Joan Burleigh, Lisa Lemble, Sandy Simon and Brandy Sinco.