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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

May Newsletter

May 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 5

Worship @ UUA

Congregational Links

UUA Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUA](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

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Worship Services begin
at 9:30 & 11:30am
followed by Social Hour.

May 3, 2015

"Crossing the Bridge to Selma"

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed

What gave those who crossed the Pettus Bridge in 1965 the courage, and what will it take to lead you to march for justice today?

Bio: Mark Morrison-Reed served for 26 years as co-minister with his wife, Donna, in Rochester, New York and Toronto. During this time he also served as vice-chair of the UUA Commission on Appraisal and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. As a historian of the African-American presence in UUism, he is author of *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*, and *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism*. He also wrote the curriculum *How Open the Door? The African-American Experience in Unitarian Universalism* and the book *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*. He is co-editor of meditation manuals *Been in the Storm So Long* and *Voices from the Margin*. A former president of the Canadian Unitarian Council, he is currently an affiliated faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, coordinator of its Sankofa Archive - a collection of materials about the people of color who were Unitarian Universalist, and UUA Ambassador to fellowships in Europe.

May 10, 2015

Two Services: 9:30 and 11:30am

"Let the Sunshine In"

Nic Cable

As we approach the 150th Anniversary Celebration of UUAA, we must return to the beginning, in order to understand what might await us in these years to come. Nic Cable will preach on the radical, counter-cultural, and heretical nature of our interdependence, which is the essence of our existence, and in so doing offer a vision for our shared journey and destiny as a religious people.

Bio: Nic Cable is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist who grew up in Milwaukee, WI. He studied at DePaul University and Chicago Theological Seminary, before moving with his wife, Hattie, to East Lansing, for her law studies at MSU. Nic believes in the saving power and potential of our faith, which at its core is a Love that will not let us go. He currently serves our Unitarian Universalist Association as a Donor Relations Specialist and the UU Church of Greater Lansing as Ministerial Intern for Multigenerational Community.

May 14, 2015

**THURSDAY 7:30pm Candlelight Service
"A Reflection in Gratitude"**

Becky Hoort, preaching, Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer,
presiding

Continue the journey of faith begun by our founders on
May 14, 1865

May 16, 2015

**SATURDAY 2:00pm to 4:30pm: Special Event!
"The Dawning Future of UUism"**

Cutting edge UU thinkers explore the future of
Unitarian Universalism.

May 17, 2015

***** ONE SERVICE, 10:00am*****

Service of Celebration for Children and Adults
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Our Senior Minister and others will gather us to
celebrate the Anniversary of the founding of our
Congregation. Let's play!

May 17, 2015

**4:00pm Service of Commissioning for our Next 150
Years!**

"What to Pack on the Road to the Dawning Future"
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

The question at such moments as this one - at an anniversary or a rite of passage or marking of time of any kind - is what will be the same after this, and what will change. What will we take with us and what new provisions might we need to pack for where this chapter will take us? One-hundred-and-fifty years past. And the unknown future just breaking on the horizon. We'll let a Zen Monk, my favorite movie, and your own history tell us how to pack for the adventures that await.

May 24, 2015

***** ONE SERVICE 10:00am *****

"The End of Religion Is a Beginning"

Rev. Brent Smith

The end of religion has been heralded across time and culture since the 1600's, and now, in the academic study of religion, it can be heard again. But, this declaration is different and the meanings it has for spiritual communities and traditions of spiritual expression are critical to understand in the 21st century.

Bio: The Reverend Doctor Brent A. Smith was born in 1954 and raised in Richmond, Indiana, graduated with a B.A. in literature from Hanover College, a Master of Arts from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Meadville Theological School in 1984. Dr. Smith was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry and served congregations in Milwaukee, Tulsa, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, before moving onto the faculty of Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Allendale, Michigan, where he teaches in the Religious Studies program. Dr. Smith lives in Grand Rapids with his wife Pat, a lawyer with GVSU. They have two grown children, Elizabeth and Josh.

May 31, 2015

**** ONE SERVICE 10:00am *****

Annual Meeting After the Service

"Come Sing a Song With Me"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Annual "Bridging Ceremony" for High School Seniors with Rev. Gail's reflections and lots of hymn singing. 

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



This column is excerpted from a sermon I preached on April 12, 2015, that really ought to have been titled: "Road Trip!"

"My work today is to set out before you an invitation to join in co-creating with me, and with one another, a vision for the next chapters we will write together in the life of this Congregation. Looking ahead is much like driving at night on dark and curvy roads. The headlights of insight show only the next 200 yards..., never the long view. The headlights may show the immediate potholes and obstacles..., but never the troubles and never the beauty that lies way ahead. That view is found only in moving down the road together.

"What comes next for us? After all our reflection on the history of our Congregation..., what comes next? Who are we now?

What elements of our past will we retain? What will we strengthen? What will we relinquish, what to put on hold?

"I offer you, here, the abridged version of my own list-in-progress of what I believe are necessary steps and strategic goals for the next chapter we will write together in the story of our Congregation. This is by no means the whole list, not at all. To quote the Facebook meme, "not my circus, not my monkeys." My list is not THE list. Mine is to jump start the process of visioning. I flip on the headlights on the dark road. We create this road trip: together.

Three Traffic Alerts:

As we roll out, I offer three traffic alerts..., definite obstacles to our smooth travels.

"**First**, we need to recognize that all programs, all fresh ministries, all the activities of a church have life cycles. At some point, all programs need to be put on hold or put to rest. To survive into the 21st century, churches must learn which ministries to revise and which ones to relinquish.

"**Second**, we must become vigilant about ATAP..., the expectation and practice that our ministries, our outreach, our programs are All Things to All People: ATAP. It is like a box of nails thrown out onto our roadway. They create holes in our tires..., deflating our energies, blocking our progress. ATAP. The passionate desire to assure that our Church commits to the vision of being all things, on all issues, to all people. To counter the hazards of ATAP thinking, we need to focus, assess, reflect, reconsider all of our assumptions so that we can ensure maximum effectiveness, ensure we are living within our means, and ensure we are not diluting our strength.

"**Third**, it is time to take on something that has vexed this Congregation since 1865. Together, we need to learn how to fund this Congregation. We started as a mission church, supported by the Unitarian Association. Most years we fail to adequately fund what we set out to do. Please, please..., do NOT hang your heads or look away. If this were simple or easy we would have figured it out by now. Smart cannot fix this. You all are generous and engaged. We have made huge strides toward paying down our

mortgage.., but we still have not found a way to fund the upkeep of our buildings, to support the staff we clamor to have, or to fund the many ministries we envision as ours.

{Ideas about how to move forward together.}

"**First**, our ministries of religious instruction were so important to the founders that they were mentioned explicitly in the Articles of Association. We have been successful in restructuring, revisioning Spiritual Growth and Development to become even more deeply effective in the lives of our children and youth. In the deepest of ways, I wish all of our ministries could resemble what happens in SGD. Through our programs of Spiritual Growth and Development we give deeply of ourselves, thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours, we give deeply of our resources of time, the building, our staff..., and we give all that away. Like clockwork, year after year, we give it all away to folks who leave. This is not a surprise. This is not a failure. From the moment the littlest ones come into our nursery, we all agree on the hoped for path. Give deeply, deeply of who we are and what we have. Create an open spigot. Our life energy flows through those kids and out into the world. We give, the youth leave, and we have given our best aspirations and efforts, freely given, out into a bruised and hurting world.

"Now is a time for us to assess other ministries with that same template. Are we sending Unitarian Universalism out into the wider world?

"**Second**, the way we offer worship and preaching needs to change to keep up with the blazing speed of change in our culture. The models we use now were shaped centuries ago. Preaching needs to change.., worship models need to change..., what abides is this. Church and worship need always to be here to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, each in gentle measure.

"Reliance on a Sermon for the whole of Adult Spiritual Growth and Development is a centuries-old model which translates poorly into an internet-connected world. What could it look like to have more lay voices in the pulpit, to have clergy teaching in smaller groups on Sunday mornings? What if worship were less sermon focused and more relationship focused? What might that look like?

"**Third**, we would be wise to reconsider how it is we envision our work for Social Justice, the Action part of the Love and Action we seek to weave each week. We are learning important paradigm changes as we come to terms with the privileges we do have. We are learning to listen, to empower, to share, and to collaborate. I am proud of the shifts we are making from offering less patriarchy, where the privileged people enter each situation talking and telling others how things should be done. We are offering more partnering. We are learning to use our privilege to become allies. We are learning to partner with traditionally marginalized groups to create new paradigms.

"**Fourth**, within our Pastoral Care and Small Group Ministries, we employ the same weary models of ministry that have grown stale within worship and religious education. That one, central minister model is inadequate in a world connected by the internet of everything. The minister is no longer the most educated person in the room. We would do well to think outside the 19th century box that expects only the clergy to preach and teach, only the Pastor to be present in times of need.

"Nothing in the 19th century model can equip us for large church ministries. We are living with 21st century demands, 20th century communication structures, and 19th century ministry models.

"For my part, I find all this energizing... I would like to work on this with you over the next few years. I'm ready for the road trip...!

{much more can be found in the full text, linked from the 150th Anniversary web page.}

"**Finally**, a word about the future. Our world needs change. Our planet and atmosphere are desperate for human beings to change. Our systems of race relationship, gender expectations, class imbalance..., all of those systems cry out for deep, systemic, effective, immediate change. Our world needs change. And change needs leaders.

"Go forward in the power of love...,
and change the hell out of our irreplaceable world."

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail



Musings Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

New Peer Support Group for Adults with ADD / How to Start a Group

I would like to make you aware of our newest officially recognized group. We now have a peer support group for adults who live with Attention Deficit (Hyperactive) Disorder. The administrative leaders of the group are Doug Harris, John Erdevig, and Jamie Todd. They plan to meet monthly to promote improved quality of life and well-being for adults living with ADD.



To become a recognized group you need three people, two of whom must be members in good standing (have a current pledge and payment of record supporting the Congregation through the Operating fund). In completing the Group Recognition Form available on the Congregation's web site (here: www.uuaa.org/index.php/policies) you articulate how the group's goals align with the Congregation's overall goals and describe what activities you plan to engage in, and what resources you need.

A senior staff person reviews your information, and after approval, identifies which senior staff person will provide support to the group, adds the group to the Congregational Map and Recognized Groups List, and gets the other administrative details set up.

The Adult ADD Peer Support Group is connected to Congregational resources as part of the Pastoral Care program and will be supported by the Pastoral Care minister, currently myself. This group is open to Congregants and non-Congregants. If you or someone you know might be interested in participating, contact Doug Harris at douglasharris@gmail.com or 734-717-7529.

In Faith,
Mark



Board of Trustee News

President's Message Ken Clein, Board President



Sesquicentennial

It was 150 years ago this May that our Congregation was formed by a small group of intrepid Unitarians. Please be sure to join in celebrating that occasion during the week of May 14-17 and help us launch the next 150 years of reason and compassion in action!

Proposed By-Law Revisions

Also, mark your calendars to attend the Congregational Meeting on May 31st. We'll elect new Trustees, review the Annual Report, discuss financials, and vote on proposed By-Laws revisions. There are a number of minor revisions to correct inconsistencies and add clarity, and there's a significant proposed revision to return to a two-year term for the Board President. The Board, numerous past presidents, and senior minister all support this change to make the position more effective and less of a 12-month blur. Plus, in coming President Beth Hospadaruk is willing to serve for two years. I hope you will consider and support these proposed changes to make our Board more effective.

2nd Ask Update

As of April 15th there has been about \$45,000 pledged towards the 2nd Ask goal of \$190,000. This is enough to make payments (\$30,000/year) on an anticipated loan to rebuild the north parking lot and fund half of a replacement SGD coordinator position. However this is not sufficient to hire a new associate minister, replace the SGD / ministerial support person, or fund the capital maintenance fund.

In preparing for giving the tour of our former church building at the corner of State and Huron, I learned that we were forced to sell that beautiful structure because the Congregation dwindled and could not afford to maintain the building and pay the minister. Please don't let history repeat itself.

Thanks to everyone who has made or increased their 2015 pledge. The Board of Trustees asks that all members and friends make an amended pledge commitment by May 10. Let's close the gap and allow for responsible stewardship of our buildings and grounds, and people! FUND IT! SAVE IT!

In Fellowship,
Ken Clein,
2015 Board President

2015 Annual Congregational Meeting * Sunday, May 31



All are warmly invited to attend the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 31 after the 10:00am Worship Service. The agenda will be announced soon.

Questions? Contact Board secretary Priscilla Spencer at paspencer44@yahoo.com.



2015 Nominees * Sunday, May 31

2015 Board of Trustees Nominees:

Trustee: Hayley Boyse

Hayley Boyse is a relatively new member of the church, joining in 2012 and attending since 2011. She grew up in southern New Mexico, but has been coming to Ann Arbor her whole life to visit family. She decided to settle into Ann Arbor after finishing graduate school in Bowling Green, Ohio. She didn't grow up in a church, but being in southern New Mexico was surrounded by very welcoming Catholic and Mormon families and always wanted to be part of a church community. After coming to a few sermons here in 2011, she quickly signed up to go on the Partner Church trip to Transylvania and learn the history of our church and get to know her own extended family in Transylvania.

Since joining the church, Hayley has been involved in Challenging Racism, ushering on Sundays, the auction committee, re-instated the 20s/30s (+/-) social group, and the Social Justice Council. She cares about the long term health and sustainability of the Congregation because she will be here in the next 20, 30, 40 years (assuming life doesn't throw a major curveball).

Outside of church, she is a flutist (or flautist, whichever you prefer), nature lover, crafter, enthusiast of all things home improvement, and works at Thomson Reuters. She is humbled and grateful to be considered a leader for this Congregation and looks forward to the opportunity to serve our community.

Trustee: Lissa Oliver

Lissa and her husband Gregg Peterson joined UUAA in 2010 after moving to Ann Arbor from Chicago in 2008. In Chicago, they were members of Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. They have a daughter currently participating in the YRUU program. Lissa has spent most of her volunteer time at UUAA in Spiritual Growth and Development, serving for three years as a member of the Children & Youth Committee, and helped organize the annual Teacher Appreciation Brunches. More recently, Lissa has been spending one Sunday a month as a Newcomer Welcomer.

In her earlier professional life, Lissa was a freelance film and video editor-editing many documentary and educational programs as well as independent narrative programs. She is a Master Gardener and has been a volunteer/mentor for the Tappan Middle School Garden for several years.

Vice President: Sandy Simon

"I first attended the UU Church on Washtenaw as a university student in the wild and crazy late '60s. When my husband Dick and I moved from Denver to Ann Arbor in 1981, we started our children Sarah and Matt in the RE program, which they attended

through high school. As an active member since 1982, it might be easier to name the committees I have not served on rather than those I have. But here's a try: I taught Religious Education classes for many years. I served on the Board of Trustees in the 1990s, first as Religious Education liaison and then as the Involvement Coordinator. As a lifelong computer nerd, I have been active on the web committee since its founding in 1999. And for almost that long I have served on the Habitat for Humanity committee. Three UUAA projects have been deeply rewarding for me and taught me so much - chairing the Sankofa project in 2005-2006, serving on the Strategic Planning Task Force in 2011 and co-chairing this year's enormously fun 150th Anniversary Celebration Task Force. With all of the Congregational input gathered during those three projects, it seems like a good time for me to represent the Congregation on the Board of Trustees.

Outside of church, I keep trying to be retired as a partner in a small medical imaging software company; I visit my 2 granddaughters in California and my son and his soon-to-be-wife in Connecticut; I hike, kayak, swim, and through snow and rain and heat and gloom of night, walk my dog Sophie."

Treasurer: Jeff Poliner

"I have attended and been a member of this Congregation since arriving in Ann Arbor in 1996. Since then, I have been active in a number of aspects of church life. I was an active participant in the 20s/30s group in the late '90s. My Men's Circle formed in 1999 and still meets regularly. I was on the Green Sanctuary committee from 2000 to 2004 and was one of the co-chairs as we obtained the Green Sanctuary certification from the UUA. In youth religious education, I have taught nearly every RE/SGD level from pre-school to 7th grade, been a mentor for Coming of Age for many years, and co-facilitated the class for two years; in addition to serving on the previous RE Advisory Committee, and YRUU Advising Committee for two years each. Other years, I served on the previous Board Nominating Committee, as well as the Auction committee. I have recently completed a three-year term on the Men's Council and have been part of the planning of several Men's Retreats and Men's Dinners.

Outside of church, I am an engineer, working for manufacturers of medical devices. I enjoy cycling, cross-country skiing, reading, cooking, and playing board games and euchre. My two children, Justin (12th grade) and Megan (9th grade) have been coming to the church since they were born.

I am honored to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees."

Leadership Development Team (LDT) Nominees:

Tom Reischl

"I joined the Congregation and a Men's Circle in 2002. I served on the Stewardship Committee from 2004 to 2006, the Men's Fellowship Council from 2007 to 2009, and the Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2013. I recently joined the Reflective Conversations Task Force, joined another Men's Circle, rejoined the Men's Fellowship Council, and participated as a mentor for the Coming of Age program. My wife Cathy, and I have enjoyed attending Worship Services, watching our two children being nurtured by our SGD programs, taking adult education classes, and building close friendships with other Congregants. I am employed as a research faculty member at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, where I conduct program

evaluation studies of community-based public health programs. I am honored to be nominated for the Leadership Development Team, and I feel excited to work on expanding leadership opportunities and empowering Congregants to succeed as leaders."

Mary Lynn Stevens

"I'm terrifically honored to be asked to contribute to UUAA through the Leadership Development Team and look forward to learning and serving well. I discovered this Congregation in 2008 and, after participating in and facilitating Chalice Circles, staffing the Involvement Table, and working on the Auction, I joined in 2011. This is also roughly the timing of meeting, courtship, and marrying of my husband, congregant Ed Rutherford - so UUAA is truly the object of my affection!!

I've had two careers - the first in history museums, the second in University fundraising. I've served in leadership roles in both arenas and worked extensively with volunteer boards, both official and advisory. I hope that my skills of listening, recognizing talents and matching them to work, and communicating clearly will be of use to the Team. I really look forward to building new relationships with other Congregants.

In my spare time I love to get outside, to sing, to read medical non-fiction, to cook, and to fix up our 100+-year-old house in Chelsea." 

150th Anniversary Celebration



**150th Anniversary Grand Finale and Launch *
Thursday - Sunday, May 14 - 17**

UUAA 150th Anniversary Grand Finale and Launch

May 14, 7:30 pm: CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Continue the journey of faith begun by our founders on May 14, 1865.



**May 16, 2:00 - 4:30 pm:
THE DAWNING FUTURE OF UU**

Cutting edge UU thinkers explore the future of Unitarian Universalism.



Rev. Tom Schade
Moderator



Rev. Meg Riley



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout



Rev. Leslie Takahashi



Rev. Sue Phillips



Rev. Don Southworth



Rev. Tandi Rogers

May 17: COMMISSIONING SUNDAY

10:00 am: Service of Celebration for children and adults.

**4:00 pm: Service of Commissioning for the
Next 150 Years of Reason and Compassion in Action**
Keynote: "What to Pack on the Road to the Dawning Future",
Rev. Vanessa Southern, Minister-at-Large, UU Leader



5:15: Grand Celebration/Reception throughout the building
following the Service.



[Click here to download](#) the UUAA 150th Anniversary Grande Finale and Launch flyer.



The 150th Anniversary Grand Finale and Launch will be Thursday, May 14 through Sunday, May 17. The year of 150th celebrations is drawing to a close. Don't miss any of the Grand Finale events.

Thursday, May 14 at 7:30pm - on the actual 150th anniversary of our



founding, gather in the Sanctuary for a Candlelight Service to continue the journey of faith began by our founders on May 14, 1865.

On **Saturday, May 16** from 2:00 to 4:30pm in the Sanctuary, there will be a panel discussion on "The Dawning Future of UU." Rev. Tom Schade, a UUAA member and retired UU minister, will moderate a panel of cutting edge UU thinkers from around the country as they explore the future of Unitarian Universalism. These luminaries include:

- Rev. Sue Phillips, Massachusetts Bay/Clara Barton District Executive of the UUA.
- Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Music Director, First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor.
- Rev. Meg A. Riley, Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.
- Rev. Tandi Rogers, Growth Strategist for the UUA.
- Rev. Don Southworth, Executive Director of the UU Ministers Association.
- Rev. Leslie Takahashi, co-minister at the Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek, CA.

There will be thought-provoking BIG Questions. Check out www.uuaa.org/150 for the questions and for advance written thoughts from the panelists.

Sunday, May 17 will be Commissioning Sunday. At 10:00am enjoy a Service of Celebration for children and adults. At 4:00pm, The Service of Commissioning for the Next 150 years of Reason and Compassion in Action will feature keynote speaker Rev. Vanessa Southern, Minister-at-Large, UU leader, and author of *This Piece of Eden* and of the forthcoming *2015 UUA Meditation Manual*.

A Grand Celebration/Reception throughout the building will follow the 4:00pm Service. Additional information is available on www.uuaa.org/150. Families can sign up for child care at www.uuaa.org/index.php/child-care-for-150th.

Questions? Contact co-chairs Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at birthday150@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary Tile Pick-up * Sundays, May 3 & 10

The Motawi Tiles ordered this winter may be picked up during Social Hour on Sundays, May 3 and May 10. Questions? Contact Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com or 734-998-3522.



150th Anniversary in Review

Enjoy photos, videos, and more. Keep abreast of all the wonderful things happening at the Church commemorating the 150th anniversary at: <http://www.uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/birthday150>. Find photos, the Klein Lecture video, Ken Phifer's sermon video, and letters of congratulations from partner organizations.

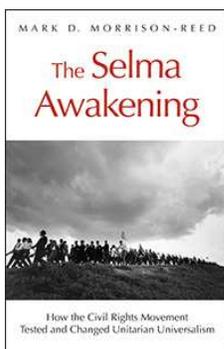
Questions? Contact Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at birthday150@uuaa.org.



Activities and Events

Workshop with Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed * Saturday, May 2

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will lead the workshop "African-American Unitarian Universalists: Exploring Our Heritage and History" from 10:00am to 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Enjoy UU history as seen through his various books. A light lunch and conversation will be held at noon in the Social Hall. Pre-registration is required. Register with Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com. There is no charge for the workshop or lunch.



Copies of his latest book, *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism*, will be available at the workshop and at the QUUest Bookstore on Sundays. The author will sign his books on Saturday between the workshop and lunch and again on Sunday, May 3 after each Service. Rev. Morrison-Reed will preach during both Services. The title of his sermon will be "Crossing the Bridge at Selma".

Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) * Saturday, May 2



At 12:45pm in the Jackson Chapel the monthly meeting of the Ann Arbor Chapter will be held. All are welcome. The meeting will consist of dial-in call to a national CCL expert talk, followed by local discussion. For more information about CCL, check their website at <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/> or contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu.



Drop-In Race Conversations * Sunday, May 3



Challenging Racism will hold another in their series of drop-in conversations about race from 1:00 to 2:30pm. This will be an opportunity to share thoughts about the inspiring weekend events of Saturday, May 2 through Sunday, May 3 and/or racial issues that have come to mind. Kathy Friedrichs will facilitate. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Challenging Racism * Monday, May 4

From 7:00 to 8:30pm Challenging Racism will meet to set some priorities for the 2015-2016 year. Join to share ideas. Check the board in the lobby for the location. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Senior Dinner * Wednesday, May 6

All are invited to the monthly senior dining out gathering at the Gourmet Garden at 6:00pm. There will be a big round table in the back room to make it easier for good conversation and serving the delicious Chinese food. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Adult SGD Active Dream Workshop * Saturday, May 9

The "Dreaming with Our Ancestors: World Day of Active Dreaming" workshop will be from 1:00 to 4:00pm in the Harper Room.

Groups around the world will gather to dream together. Use the tools of Active Dreaming, including conscious dream journeys, dream theater, and dream re-entry, to commune with ancestors of the past and future. Explore how each was dreamed into being, and how each dreams of lives. Bring dreams and sense of adventure to explore dreaming with ancestors. Questions? Contact Julie Tumbarello at info@dreamingjulie.com.



Round Robin Dinner * Friday, May 15

Discuss the dawning future of UUA while sharing a meal at the last Round Robin Dinner of the season. Notice this is a new date that does not conflict with the Men's Dinner on the usual second Friday of the month. As always, people are needed to host 4 to 6 others in their home for dinner. Contact Sally Preston at sally@pctraining.net by Wednesday, May 6 to join the dinner or to host.



Men's Breakfast * Saturday, May 16

All men are invited to attend breakfast at 8:30am at Holidays Restaurant located at 2080 W Stadium Blvd across from the Post Office. Enjoy good food and make new friends. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904.



Game Day * Sunday, May 31



Join from 11:30am to 2:30pm for a multi-generational day of board and card games. Some games will be available but bring a favorite and introduce it to others. Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even without a dish. The Annual Congregational Meeting is at noon, and kids are welcome to attend Game Day with a parent. Questions? Contact Shelley Stoll at shellstoll@gmail.com.



Announcements and Notices

Alpha House Thank You by Angela Barber



The second Host Week of 2015 ran from Monday, April 20 through Sunday, April 26. A big "Thank You" to all the people who donated meals, money, and/or their time. Without these contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all that it does for homeless families in Washtenaw County.

The following lists those who volunteered:

- Day Host: Brandy Sinco, Sally Preston, Lorraine Gutierrez, Diane Fead, Amyleigh Johnson.
- Make Dinner: Lisa Kohn, Patty and John Danks, Suzanne Davidson, Pauline Loewenhardt, Sara Mathews, Madeline Goodson, Sandy Eyl, Joyce Phillips, Jo Anne Diehl, Michelle Diepenhorst, Cathy Reischl, Ruth Cassidy, Eva Johnson, Dixie Hibner, Rosemarie Russell, Cathy Muha, Sandy Simon, Betsy Reitbeuer, Pat Herbst, Angela Menegay, Carol Cramer, Brandy Sinco, Carli Hildebrandt, Thomas

- Longworth, Kate Burkhardt, Gretchen Ridenour, Sandy Eyl, Lorelle Otis.
- Serve Dinner and Clean Up : Terry Kress, Patty Danks and her daughter, David Bates, Sandy Eyl, Cathy Cherico, Jon Boyd, Terri Wilkerson and Spenser, Amy Hortop, Angela Menegay, Gavin Taylor, Brenna Taylor, and Lucy Taylor, Roen Montalva, Tim Farmer, the 7th grade students and teachers.
 - Play with Kids: Vey and Cheryl Valentine, Matthew Cunningham, Carie Rheingaus, Lorie Otis Thomas, Vilma Mesa, Amy Grant, JC Grant, C. Ryan Grant, Sherry McCargar, Dorothy Haigler , Emma Grace, Jackie Grace, April Grace, Jackie and Jeremy Koch , Anne Garcia, Angela Menegay, Gavin Taylor, Brenna Taylor, and Lucy Taylor, Betsy Price, Lisa Kohn, Sam Kohn, Dave Kohn, Roen Montalva, Tim Farmer, Ryan Tamblyn, Karter Tamblyn, Keva Tamblyn, Amyleigh Johnson, Kate Wells, Ann Brennan with Mateo, Lara Brown with Katie, Sophia Wakeman, Joe Krushelnick, Kathy Friedricchs, James Hance.
 - Make Weekend Breakfast: Sara Schaefer, Mary Lynn Stevens, Ed Rutherford, the 7th grade students and teachers.
 - Overnight Host: Paul Lalinsky, Steve Nason, Terry Butcher, Margaret Flannery, Jim Schaefer, Amyleigh Johnson, Larry Junck.
 - Alpha House Shopping Team: Tricia Smith and Sally Preston. Note: Alpha House provides us with a shopping list for the weekday breakfasts, the bag lunches, cleaning and laundry supplies, baby supplies, etc.
 - Social Hour Recruitment Table: Jo Anne Diehl, Tricia Smith, Sandy Eyl, Pat Herbst, Sally Preston, Cheryl Valentine, Vey Valentine, Angela Menegay.

Note that some volunteers made multiple dishes for a meal, or provided dishes for more than one meal. If there are any misspelled or missed names, please accept an apology. "Thank you" again to a great group of volunteers for a wonderful cause. Questions? Contact Angela Barber, UUA Alpha House Coordinator at abarber@gmail.com.



Denominational Connections Team (DCT)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2015 GA will be held Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28 in Portland, OR. Most GA events will be held in the Oregon Convention Center.

A forum for delegates and attendees will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 11:30am in the Young Room. Sign up to show interest in attending GA 2015 at the Social Justice/DCT Table during Social Hour.

The 2016 GA will be held in Columbus, OH from Wednesday, June 22 to Sunday, 26, 2016. More info to come.

Here is a Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI) Update:

2014-2018: [Escalating Inequality](#)

This CSAI was just chosen at the 2014 GA. A study guide is now available. Those interested in this CSAI, contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com. A study group will be forming at UUA to begin to better understand this complex issue.



DCT serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between UUA and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing our Congregation and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs.

Questions or suggestions? Contact Royla Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.



Immigration Action Coalition (IAC)

The IAC supports justice for immigrants in the community by acting as observers where there is a threat to the inherent worth and dignity of immigrant individuals and where there is a potential for injustice to occur.

Cheryl Valentine, co-founder, recently observed the trial of Ubaldo Castaneda-Tapia in Ann Arbor. Ubaldo was accused and found guilty by a jury of being an undocumented alien and returning to the US after being deported. Ubaldo faces 10 to 20 years in federal prison and deportation upon his release.

Cheryl observed that the jury returned the only verdict it could under the present laws. Ubaldo was accused of entering the US illegally, an accusation he did not deny. However, Ubaldo's side of the story was silenced. The defense called Ubaldo's brother, sister, and mother as witnesses, but their testimony was dismissed by the judge as irrelevant. The jury didn't hear that Ubaldo was eight when his mother brought him to Michigan from Mexico, because she feared for their safety after his father was murdered. Soon after turning 18, while hanging out with friends, he was detained by the police for not having a photo ID. Immigration officers were called and had Ubaldo sign a paper giving up all his rights to ever return to the US. All this happened before he could talk with his family or legal counsel. He was left alone at the Mexico border. He returned to the US at his first opportunity. It was the only home he knew.

Ubaldo's attorney did her best in closing arguments, but was powerless against the injustices of a court that refused to hear the human side of the immigration story.

Ubaldo's sentencing hearing will be in June. To be an observer at the hearing or be placed on the mailing list for the Immigration Action Coalition, contact Cheryl Valentine at cherylnatzmervalentine@gmail.com.



Partner Church by Phyllis Valentine



Below is a recent email conversation with Partner Church minister Rev. István Buzogány-Csoma:

"Dear István,
I hope that you and your family are all well and that spring will arrive soon for all of us. I thank you for all the wonderful photos you have put on Facebook. They really help us enjoy your family celebrations and keep in touch with both of your congregations.

Attached is the official invitation to the culmination of our year-long celebration of our 150th church anniversary. I know that this longevity is short compared to the

extraordinary endurance and perseverance of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church. But for our young country and even younger city, it is important.

We wish that you and your family, as well as the whole congregation, could be here for the celebration weekend. Our partnership has meant a lot to our congregation and many of us personally. More than 35 congregants have travelled to Kézdivásárhely since 1997 and even more have met Rev. Maria and you here in Ann Arbor. We have developed lasting friendships. We are grateful for the contribution that you continue to make to our understanding of Unitarianism and life in Transylvania and Romania.



Our best wishes to you and your family. We will be thinking of you especially this May. We are recording the major events and will be able to share them with you and the Kezdi congregation.

In faith, Phyllis"

"Dear Phyllis!

We are also grateful to have a partner church congregation with longevity like yours from Ann Arbor. We send our best wishes for you and the congregation, for those who are working on this beautiful anniversary.

We sent some Easter gifts for the congregation and some members on March 30. Did you get it? We are waiting to hear from you and about the events you are planning. We are excited to see the photos and the recordings.

In faith, István"



Membership at UUAA

New members are welcome throughout the year, and all Congregants can take part in most aspects of Congregational life without technically being a member. Worship Services, most volunteer opportunities, SGD classes, and social gatherings are open to all.

So why join? Most Congregants experience a far deeper sense of connection and commitment after officially joining the Congregation. By signing the Membership Book, one declares support of the UUAA liberal religious tradition and the future of this Congregation. Members can vote on issues brought to annual meetings and hold leadership positions. Members also receive priority in pastoral care and rites of passage, and can organize new UUAA sponsored groups.

Becoming a member involves these steps:

- Take the Introduction to Our Faith class offered Saturday, June 13 from 10:00am to 2:30pm.
- Understand and be in accord with UUAA mission and by-laws.
- Complete the enrollment packet, which includes a pledge form and a talents and interests survey.

- Make arrangements with Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss to sign the Membership Book in the presence of a minister and Board member.
- Attend a recognition ceremony to be welcomed into the Congregation.

To start a path to membership, contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuua.org or 734-665-6158 ext. 136.



New Member Bio

Mary Burton

"Having gone through some major life changes I was looking for a church for both social and faith-related needs. I started coming to the UUAU a couple years ago and value the emphasis on social justice, diversity, and the lack of religious dogma.

I've been a resident of Ypsilanti for eight years where I live with my partner Kriss and our two rescued whippets. I work as a research study coordinator at the University of Michigan. In my spare time I enjoy gardening, cooking, and doing home renovation projects."



Carli Weber Hildebrandt



"I have lived in Ann Arbor since 2010 when my family relocated so that our son, who has autism, could be a part of a school system and community with better supports and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts and have done additional studies in Education at Wayne State University.

Since becoming a mother, I have had the good fortune to stay home to meet the needs of my family (my husband Eric, son Zack, 11, and daughter Charlotte, 9) as well as helping to raise my sister's children (Makayla, 6 and Jacob, 2). I look forward to bringing them up with UU principles and working with the

Congregation to meet the needs of the larger world."



Ryan Tamblyn and Amyleigh Johnson

Ryan, originally from Belle Vernon, PA, found his way to Michigan via his 20-plus-year career in the cable industry. Amyleigh, originally from Tahlequah, Oklahoma, found her way to Michigan via her 15-plus-career in clinical data management (Zeneca, Parke Davis, Pfizer, U of M Clinical Trials Office, and U of M MICHU).

They met through a mutual mountain-biking friend, and their first date was parachuting at Skydive Tecumseh. They were married by Ken Phifer in 2004 in Recreation Park behind their Ypsilanti home. Ryan now works as a Network Analyst for University of Michigan's Video Services department within IT and Amyleigh is a 'Professional Mommy' to their 2 daughters, Karter (8) and Keva (4). She will be the first to admit it is the hardest job she's had yet.



Ryan and Amyleigh have found the UUAU community a place of spiritual grounding each week for their family and look forward to it becoming a place of spiritual growth for a lifetime. The family enjoys camping, hiking, cycling, cooking, reading, and relaxing at home with their two dogs, Moxa and Luther. 

On The Horizon

Men's Retreat News

The 2015 Men's Retreat has been scheduled for Friday to Sunday, September 25 to 27 at the Judson Collins Campground. Come join with other men in the Congregation for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Mark VanKempen at mark.vankempen@gmail.com. 

Church Office News

Building Hours

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm

Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm

Fridays, 5:00pm-9:00pm

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

***Note: The UUAU building and office will be closed
on Monday, May 25 to honor Memorial Day.
The building and office will be closed from**

9:00pm on Sunday, May 24 to 9:00am on Tuesday, May 26.

Communicating at UUAU:

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *Weekly Bulletin* is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2015 June Newsletter* is 9:00am on Thursday, May 21. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website (uuaa.org) to webtech@uuaa.org.

For general guidelines on submissions to the *Monthly Newsletter* and *Weekly Bulletin*, refer to the [Content Guide](#).

For more information about how to get things done at UUAU, refer to the [Lay Leader Administrative Guide](#).

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Venus Gregory, Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org

Robert Klingler, Friday Night Building Attendant, robert@uuaa.org

Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, dewon@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian



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