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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

May Newsletter

May 1, 2016 - Vol 5, Issue 5

Congregational Links

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Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Dir. of Worship & Music

Sunday Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

May 2016 | Rites of Transition

In May's beginning, our Congregation will ordain assistant minister Lindasusan Ulrich. By May's end, we will have begun our summer worship schedule of one weekly service of worship.

In early June, we celebrate our high-school graduates as they prepare the transition to their lives' next stages. The very next week, we devote worship to hear the emerging voices of our 9th-grade Coming of Age students in an annual Credo service.

And this year, the Congregation adds the retirement of our Senior Minister to a time of motion, of change.

This season brings a gift of opportunity- to seek sources of new growth, to acknowledge the pivotal moments that change the courses of lives, to hone a vision before next steps.

As we gather for worship in May and June, we offer our attention to the rites of transition-the many ways we celebrate, acknowledge, grieve, learn, re-focus, grow up in seasons of great change.

The Worship Planning Team at UUAU strives to grow a collaborative conversation of worship. Your visit, your return, your reflection, your voice is very welcome here.



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship & Music
glen.thomas@uuaa.org



Sunday, May 1
Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am
AWAKEN, ENGAGE, COMMIT

Reflections on a path into Unitarian Universalism through the 5th Edition of the *UUA Pocket Guide*.



Saturday, May 7
The Ordination of Lindasusan V. Ulrich
3:00pm

In Unitarian Universalism, the authority to ordain rests in the hands of each congregation. Our congregation has chosen to exercise this prerogative, conferring upon assistant minister Lindasusan V. Ulrich the authority to use the title "the Reverend." Help your congregation to observe and celebrate this powerful practice of the people.

Sunday, May 8
Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

The Congregation welcomes Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs to our worship planning team as guest preacher. Rob serves with his wife, Janne, as Co-Minister of Unity Church-Unitarian in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He is an organizer, an activist and a minister deeply devoted to the efficacy of congregational life. He has served the Unitarian Universalist Association as a member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, as President of the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association and is presently a Trustee and Secretary of the UUA. He and Janne have three grown children and one grandchild, Lewis Pete, of whom they are inordinately proud.

Sunday, May 15
Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Ancient Hebrew wisdom reminds that we build on foundations we did not lay, sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig. We profit from persons we did not know.

What foundations will we lay for the builders to come?
Where will new generations find the evidence of our love?

Where will new generations find the evidence of our love?

Sunday, May 22

Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Gospel Mass

The Chalice Singers offer an extended meditation on composer Robert Ray's landmark setting of the Roman Catholic Mass text in the gospel music idiom. Together, we re-visit this ancient text for sprouts of new wisdom.

Sunday, May 29

Beginning of Summer Worship Season

Worship | ONE SERVICE - 10:00am

Grief

Change can offer so much opportunity to harvest. Often, she arrives with as much loss to bear. How does a beloved community respond when a time for grief has come?



Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



My most robust Gratitude goes out to all UUA volunteers. Our Congregation is particularly blessed. Volunteers are at the ready every day to ensure the well-being of Unitarian Universalism and all we serve here. I can attest, our elected officers and our Board of Trustees are diligently at work to ensure a smooth transition in ministry after I retire. Volunteers are guiding the financial management, parking lot construction, and repairs that will keep us able to use our buildings and property for our many ministries. Volunteers teach with our children, sing in our choirs, keep watch over one another, and provide our public witness.

Decades ago, Unitarian Universalist minister, Rudy Nemser, wrote about "Long Haul People". He said, "They happen in churches when you're lucky..., Long haul people upon whose shoulders (and pocketbooks and casseroles and daylight/nighttime hours) a church is built and - more important - maintained after the brass is tarnished and cushions need restitching.

"They pay their pledges full and on time even when the music's modern; support each canvass though the sermons aren't always short; mow lawns, and come to suppers; teach Sunday School when there's no one else and they'll miss the services....,

"Asked what they think of the minister, plans for the kitchen renovation, choral

anthem, Christmas pageant, color of the bathroom paint, they'll reply: "individuals (and fashions) arrive and pass."

"The church - their church - will be here, steady and hale, for a long, long time. It will. For long haul people bless a church with a very special blessing."

Our Congregation is particularly blessed with Long-Haul People. Some would say our volunteers make the church possible, they make the church happen. I agree. And I think our volunteers make the church.

Unitarian Universalism is a hands-on faith. Have you found ways to lend your hand? If you have, Thank You! If you have not yet found your way to join your efforts with the church, please do chat with some who have, chat with a staff member. Let our experienced volunteers and our supportive staff help you find your way to connect.

And Thank You: All.
My Love Abides,
Rev. Gail




Upon Reflection

Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister



You're about to do something beautiful and irrevocable on Saturday, May 7: you're about to ordain a minister.

In our tradition, the power to ordain lies solely with congregations. While the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA can make recommendations and set requirements for accessing certain systems that UU congregations share, that's the limit of their power. I understand the importance of the MFC process and have chosen to respect that path. Ultimately, though, what they do can be undone. Ordination is forever.

Given that I'm the person you've voted to ordain, I obviously have a vested interest (pun intended) in this particular event.

But it's easy to fall into the assumption that the rite is primarily about the ordinand. Rather, it's about the relationship between congregation and minister.

In our polity, we gather under the fundamental understanding that we're in this together. We enter covenants, making promises to each other. All of us have direct access to the sacred, with no intermediary. We challenge each other to be our best selves because every person is potentially our teacher. Ministers - by virtue of our call, our training, and our commitments - act as guides, exhorters, visionaries, and companions along the way.

Ordination signals that a congregation recognizes the minister as a spiritual leader. It's a formal acknowledgment that you've seen something in me worthy of trusting and endorsing, and that I, in turn, am invested in the life of the congregation. Without that reciprocity, I believe something essential gets lost. Through this rite of passage,

though, we will always have a connection.

I hope as many of you as possible will be there on May 7 to exercise your power as the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. I'm thrilled for us to cross this threshold together.

Peace,
Lindasusan



Ordination of Lindasusan Ulrich * Sunday, May 7
Rev. Gail Giesenhainer, Senior Minister



Ordination of Lindasusan Valerie Ulrich
to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry,
Saturday, May 7, 3:00pm, in the Phifer Sanctuary

After the three year graduate degree, the hospital chaplaincy internship, the parish ministry internship, and the credentialing interview (grilling comes to mind) of the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee..., a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry is still not entitled to wear a stole or use the title, Reverend. Those rights of the office come ONLY after ordination by a Unitarian Universalist Congregation. In January, this Congregation voted to conduct the ritual and vows of Ordination for Lindasusan Valerie Ulrich, our Assistant Minister. The event, her Ordination, is this month. Saturday, May 7 at 3:00pm in the Phifer Sanctuary.

The Act of Ordination is a responsive reading of vows made between a Congregation's members and the Ordinand. The President of the Congregation presides over those vows. Only a Congregation can ordain a minister. UUAA's members are encouraged to be present and lend their voice to this life-changing ritual. UUAA's friends are warmly invited to be present, to witness and to share in the celebrations.

This is a unique opportunity to hear our guest preacher, Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Co-Minister with Unity-Unitarian Church of St. Paul, MN. There will be speakers from across the country, wonderful music, and the warmest of celebrating.

Ordinations are a time-honored, unique, and powerful ceremony wherein we exercise the power of our congregations for self-direction and empowering their religious

leaders. All Are Invited!

Notice posted by Rev. Gail, Senior Minister



Board of Trustee News

President's Message Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

As with the bursting of spring all around us, so is our Congregation bursting with changes, transitions, party plans, goodbyes done well, new beginnings, and excitement. These events are happening daily it seems, at least to me, as the Board of Trustees and I have been engaged in leading us into our dawning future. A tad bit of anxiety bubbles up in times like these, but I'm here to assure you all that experiencing anxiety is normal. However, that feeling can and should be replaced with a sense of confidence that we are walking this journey together, as we have done for over 151 years. Please make plans to be present at the upcoming events that bind us together as one Congregation, such as Lindasusan's Ordination, the Coming of Age Credo service, the annual Congregational Meeting, and our Goodbye Gaila.



Our Congregation voted in January to ordain Lindasusan Ulrich. Only a congregation can ordain someone, and it is with great joy that we have this unique opportunity. It will be a very special and transforming service. I invite you all to be present. Let's surround and support her with loving care. With one voice, we will ordain her so she shall begin the journey towards the fullness of her ministry. Saturday, May 7 at 3:00pm, come one, come all!

Monday, May 16 marks the beginning of the construction work on our new parking lot. The prediction is that it will be completed within one month. WOW!!! As we move through this period, please plan on carpooling if possible. They have assured us that we will be able to use the lot, but beware, it's happening and it's happening soon. I have already admitted this, but I am just giddy with excitement over curbs, painted lines, and black asphalt!

You may have noticed the recent trench dug up along the side of our SGD wing. Work is being done to direct the underground stream away from our building prior to the parking lot work, and that drainage will be incorporated into the rebuilding of the lot. Mold that has come into one of the classrooms will be eradicated and repaired. Once again, we are taking care of our beloved home!

Upcoming informational meetings regarding financial issues (Sunday, May 15) and President Q & A about interim and other relevant information (Sunday, May 22) prior to the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 5 are on the horizon. Stay informed and attend if possible.

Be well friends,
Beth Hospadaruk
2015-2016 Board President

president@uuaa.org



Board of Trustee and Leadership Development Team Nominations

The Leadership Development Team is proud to announce the 2016 slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development Team. Each person has volunteered to give generously of their time, talent, and dedication to the work of UUAA. Below is a list of the 2016 nominee biographies. Voting will take place at the Congregational annual meeting to be held on Sunday, June 5.

Board of Trustees- Officers

Vice President: Margie Teall

"I was first introduced to Unitarian Universalism through the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, where I became their Director of Religious Education for two years before moving to Ann Arbor, where I joined the staff as the Assistant Director of Religious Education from 1995 to 1997. After stepping away from that position, I served on the Board of Trustees as the liaison from the RE Committee. I was on the Board through the move to our current location here on Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

My now-grown daughters, Clara and Gillian, both fully participated in SGD programs, including Coming of Age, and Clara and I were both fortunate to also participate in the Mothers and Maidens class that was offered at the time.

I have attended several UU General Assemblies, which have shaped my own worldview greatly.

I have served UUAA in a number of other positions including facilitating Coming of Age, participating in the Arts and Aesthetics Committee, and working on the 150th Anniversary programs last year. I am also involved with a women's circle that started through our Cakes for the Queen of Heaven class. This women's group has been together for almost 20 years.

In 2000, I worked to get 100 Ann Arborites, including many UUAA members, to participate in the Million Mom March for sensible gun laws. The Ann Arbor chapter of the organization that developed out of that effort continued to meet for several years at this church.

In 2002, I ran for a seat on Ann Arbor's City Council and served as a 4th Ward Representative for six terms, totaling 12 years. I served on many councils and committees focusing on affordable housing, human services, and the environment. I now serve on the Board of Directors of Recycle Ann Arbor and am active in the National Wildlife Federation, League of Conservation Voters. I also work on issues of prisoner re-entry and mass incarceration.



I look forward to serving this Congregation again, as we enter a new era of leadership and service. Thank you for your consideration."

Secretary: Cathie Breidenbach

"My husband Hal and I moved to Ann Arbor almost six years ago and straight away joined UUAA because we knew that being part of an active UU church was an important part of our lives. We'd been members of the Birmingham UU church for 25 years and raised our three now-grown daughters there. So when I retired from

Oakland University after 20 years of teaching Writing and Rhetoric, we moved to Ann Arbor, the town where we and three generations of our family had gone to school. It felt like coming home.

At UUAA, I've been involved with the UUSC Coffee Project, the Book Discussion Group, the Humanists, Round Robin Dinners, study groups, Family Camp with our grand kids, and the Khasi Hills Project. In June, I'll attend GA in Columbus, having been to three other GAs over the years, and in October, we'll visit the Khasi Hills with the UUAA group.

I love English country and contra dancing, theater, food (in all its aesthetic, health, and political aspects), camping, cross-country skiing, biking, acrylic painting, and travel-- a passion that began years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia and has continued ever since. I look forward to serving UUAA as board secretary."

Nominees for Board of Trustees - At Large

Jim Schaefer

"My history with the UU community goes back about 20 years when my wife and I were searching for a spiritual community for our young family. Raised a Presbyterian, I found an open-minded community, principles I could believe in, and different words to all the hymns.

Over my time at UUAA, I have led the Coming of Age program for two years and was a mentor four times. I have helped plan almost all of the 16 men's retreats and have led the retreat two times. My wife and I taught the 8th grade Our Whole Lives sexuality class for four years which broadened my understanding of sexuality, gender, and relationships. The Congregation has supported me through my association with men's groups as well as providing meals and love during difficult times with my disabled son. In my non-UU hours, I make my living working for myself as an engineer programming machines to do various things. I love music and am currently learning to fiddle better, since my trombone playing discourages campfire sing-a-longs. As a board member I will advocate for programs and activities that will enable new and existing members to feel connected to each other. This Congregation has flourished over the years and I hope to help contribute to its continued success."

Laura Bolletino

"I'm from New York originally (born in Greenwich Village, grew up mostly on Long Island) and have been living in Ann Arbor more than 30 years; long enough that I'm practically an Ann Arbor native. I first attended a service at UUAA in 2007, during David Keyes' year as interim minister, and immediately felt that I'd come home. I've been here ever since, and I joined the church in 2008.

I've been involved in the church in a variety of capacities: in Interweave, the Denominational Connections Team, the Leading with Love class, a Chalice Circle, etc. I went on the church's pilgrimage to Transylvania in 2011. I've gone to General Assembly six times, including twice as an off-site delegate. I've thought for several years that I'd like to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees someday, and this feels like the right time.

I enjoy puzzles and reading, especially science fiction and fantasy, and I'm interested in history. When inspiration strikes, I write funny songs. I love to travel, and I have

ambitions of de-cluttering my house."

Tricia Mooney (second 2-year term)

Tricia is a life-long Michigander. She attended the University of Michigan, where she majored in mathematics and met her husband Pete. Trish currently works as an actuary/computer programmer, specializing in software used in calculating employee benefits.

Tricia and Pete have been attending the Congregation regularly since 2001, after going on a several-month "church crawl". Tricia has taken various adult classes at UUAA. She began teaching SGD classes around 2005 and enjoys spending time with the children in her classes. Since 2003, she has also been on the Webtech Team, which helps to maintain and design the Congregation's website. Tricia has also served as entertainment chair for the annual auction fundraiser. Most recently, she has been on the Board of Trustees for the last 2 years and is excited to remain on the Board to help UUAA through the ministerial transition.

Outside of work and church, Tricia loves music, both playing the piano and attending performances of various styles of music, with jazz being her favorite. She creates stained glass and mosaic artwork, and enjoys old-fashioned wood jigsaw puzzles. Tricia is a fervent animal lover, supporting the Humane Society and other animal charities. Her greatest passion, however, is for the Michigan men's basketball team. She attends every home game and watches every away game. Go Blue!

Nominees for Leadership Development Team:

Elizabeth LaPorte

"After years of searching for a place to explore my spiritual beliefs in a community with others, I found UUAA. At the time I signed the membership book, Reverend Gail was still new as Senior Minister and CEO. Interested in volunteering, I began with the Sunday Welcome Team as a greeter. Recently, I completed four years of service for the Board of Trustees, and served as president for a year. In addition to my experience on the board, I bring to the table nearly 30 years of experience in communication and public outreach, planning, program management and evaluation, developing procedures, meeting facilitation, and a strong history and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. While serving on the board, I became increasingly interested in leadership development. Communicating how we lead and cultivate good leaders is key to the future of this Congregation. I look forward to contributing my time, in collaboration with others on the LDT, to recruit potential board candidates and promote leadership at UUAA.



Outside of UUAA, I began working at the University of Michigan in 1988, about the same time I met my spouse. Currently, I am a Science Outreach Manager at U-M focusing on the intersection of sustainability and water quality, climate, engineering, urban planning, and other disciplines. When it comes to sustainability outside work, I walk the talk. At home, we have naturalized an acre, reducing mowing by planting trees; compost and recycle as much as possible; grow our own vegetables; and conserve energy. All of these efforts are ingrained in how we live and are part of our commitment to future generations."

Dee Dishon (second 2-year term)

"I started attending UUAU in February 2011 after moving back to Michigan from the DC area. I joined the church in May of that year and was a member of the Chalice Singers for 2 years. I have been on the Alpha House planning committee as well as the Auction Planning Team. For the last two years, I have been member of the Leadership Development Team.

I grew up in the Baptist and Methodist churches. My experience in leadership in Unity of Fairfax, as well as the UU Congregation of Fairfax, included the choir and Board of Directors, as well as leadership roles in auctions, fellowship, and welcoming new members. I bring skills of communication, cooperation, group process, and presentation skills not only from my career as a teacher and an educational consultant, but also from my 15 years of living in co-housing. I am now retired and devote a great deal of my time to various areas of leadership within the Touchstone community.

I have been honored to be a member of the Leadership Development Team for one two-year term and trust that my continued participation will be of benefit to UUAU leaders in particular and the Congregation in general."

Questions? Contact Royla Furnisa at refurniss@gmail.com.



Proposed Classroom Name Change

Board of Trustees (BoT) Notice:

A proposal to change the name of one of our classrooms in the lower level of the SGD wing from the **Thomas Jefferson Room** to the **Viola Liuzzo Room** was presented to the BoT on behalf of the Challenging Racism group with support of the Social Justice Council. In part, the proposal states that Viola Liuzzo (pronounced Lee-OO-zo), was a Unitarian Universalist (UU) and civil rights activist from Michigan, murdered by the Klu Klux Klan after participating in the 1965 civil rights march in Selma, AL. Liuzzo lived her life with great courage, putting UU principles and values into action.



In accordance with UUAU Room Naming Policy, the BoT is publishing this notice of request and seeks input from UUAU members prior to making a formal decision at the Tuesday, May 24 BoT meeting. You may view the full proposal on the BoT bulletin board outside the Social Hall. Please send any feedback to BoT members at bot@uuuaa.org.



Ministerial Transition Timeline

With Rev. Gail's retirement in summer 2016, the Board of Trustees has been learning, gathering information, and making decisions toward the future.

Visit uuuaa.org for the most up-to-date information about the [ministerial transition period](#). Check out this link regularly or ask any Board member. The basic timeline is below:



May/June 2016| Interviews with interim minister candidates (Board of Trustees); selection made.

June 19, 2016| A Goodbye Gaila for Rev. Gail Geisenhainer following the Service.

July 31, 2016 | All-Congregation gala farewell and good wishes party for Rev. Gail

August 2, 2016 | Rev. Geisenhainer's last day at UUAU.

August 2016 | Selected Interim Senior Minister joins us for two years.

Spring 2017 | Search Committee forms, meets with UUA consultant, begins search process.

April 2018 | Presentation of final candidate to the UUAU Congregation.

September 2018 | UUAU enthusiastically greets our 13th Senior Minister.

Questions? Contact Beth Hospadaruk at president@uuau.org.



On the Horizon

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 5 from 11:30am to 1:30pm

All are invited to attend.

Goodbye-Gaila

Sunday, June 19 from 11:30am to 1:30pm

Celebrate Rev. Gail's 8 years of service with UUAU as our formal farewell to Rev. Gail.



Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) News

Program Notes

Aaron Gibson, Program Coordinator

The next couple of months are brimming with appreciation for the volunteers that run this Congregation, including the SGD program. It is an honor and a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated group of individuals. Leading youth is one of the most vital roles in a community.

Teachers always hold a special place in our memories. You can probably remember your favorite teachers from your earlier years without hesitation.

What made them special? Why do you still remember their name, intellect, smile, and warmth? Simply put, it is because youth are constantly looking up to adults for guidance and support. It is often very difficult to decipher in the short term the positive effect teachers are having on their students in the SGD program.

Students will remember you. They will be thankful for you. They will go on to teach others in order to bless others the ways you have blessed them.

Thank you for your love, because this is the only requirement for teaching.



Aaron Gibson
Program Coordinator
aaron@uuaa.org



Growing Together

Debra Golden, SGD Program Assistant and Director of Summer Program

Thank you!

Thank all UU you's that do so much for this congregation. Thank you most especially to those UUs who make our Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) program possible. On Sunday, May 1 a special brunch formally thanks our teachers, teaching assistants, and rovers. There are so many of you involved (at least 80). Indeed, it does take a village to raise our children with an understanding of UU principles, with respect for each other and those with differing beliefs, with guidance as they find and walk their paths. Thank you to those who play guitar in the nursery, mentor our ninth graders, drive on field trips, and demonstrate their care and love for all of our children and youth.



Thank you to the various individuals and groups beyond SGD that help support our programs. Social justice and pastoral care groups contribute to and lead summer sessions. Others lead by example showing all ages what it means to honor our principles.

Perhaps you are paid in deep listening, hugs, or laughter. You feel rewarded by insightful comments. Maybe you just know this is important work, and that all of us are needed. You are priceless.

On behalf of those who bring children and youth, we appreciate the valuable contributions of your time, care, thoughtful lessons, and watchful eyes. You serve us well, and your work matters.

Our summer program *Bible Heroes and Beyond* begins with a kickoff on Sunday, June 19. Heroes include Moses, Muhammad, Queen Esther, and our Immigrant Action Group. We have three teachers so far and need some assistants to make this possible. Will you help save the day? Mask and cape are optional.

Gratefully,
Debra Jean Golden
SGD Assistant and Director of the Summer Program
debra@uuaa.org



Activities and Events

Challenging Racism Resolution Proposal * Sunday, May 1

Congregation Resolution: Black Lives Matter
Should UUAA pass a statement supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement, at the

Congregational Meeting on June 5?

Why?

- To practice the UU First Principle: *Respect for the Inherent Worth and Dignity of All Persons.*
- To be consistent with Unitarian Universalist history of supporting those marginalized by society-abolition, women's suffrage, Civil Rights, etc..
- To support the statement of immediate witness passed at the 2015 General Assembly and upheld by 135 other UU Congregations.
- To empower UUAA ministers to speak for the Congregation on issues of racial justice.
- As a foundation and focus for UUAA members' actions in the community showing up for justice.

If passed, what would such a statement require us to do?

- Strive to act in ways that make a positive difference in black lives.
- Study issues such as injustice in the criminal justice system, economic inequality, the need to speak the truth of national history and to come to a place of healing.
- Continue to be involved in programs in the community such as Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and actions within the community such as Race Dialogues.

What has already happened?

- Throughout her eight year ministry with UUAA, Rev. Gail has stressed a responsibility to work against race and class privileges. This year the worship team's support for Black Lives Matter has been strong; culminating in a button distribution and the Black Lives Matter banner in Rev. Gail's office window.
- Challenging Racism members have met with Rev. Gail and Lindasusan for guidance regarding this resolution.
- Challenging Racism members have been meeting with established UUAA groups to secure understanding, support, and approval including the Humanist group, Immigration Action Coalition, and an open meeting on April 17.

UUAA members are needed.

Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com. From 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Jackson Chapel, the Challenging Racism team will hold an open meeting for any interested Congregation members to decide what to do. 

COA Council of Elders Needed * Tuesday, May 3

The Coming of Age (COA) program is seeking members of the Congregation who would be interested in participating as this year's COA Council of Elders. The initiation weekend event will happen on Saturday, May 14 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. It involves a communal dinner, bonfire, and addressing questions from the COA class. Interested in serving? Contact Vilma Mesa at ymmesa@comcast.net by Tuesday, May 3. 

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, May 4

Let's all get together for a monthly senior dinner and hope the May flowers are out as well. Meet at the Gourmet Garden at 6:00pm. No reservations required, so just come at

the last minute. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Finance Q&A * Sunday, May 15

There will be several financial items for approval at the Sunday, June 5 Congregational Meeting. These include the approval of capital projects:

- \$55,000 for the installation of new a drain system along the south wall of the SGD wing, building repair, and the rebuilding of the retaining walls,
- \$65,000 for the installation of a new air conditioning chiller, and
- \$89,100 for a new piano.

Also to be considered at the June meeting will be a proposal for the Congregation to cancel the loans from Jackson Endowment Fund (note: not the Jackson Social Welfare Fund) and the Endowment for a Liberal Church. In 1997, the Congregation voted to borrow money from these accounts to help fund our new home - in essence, to borrow money from ourselves.

Our financial health has improved dramatically since these loans were made, and it no longer makes financial sense to retain them.

A Q&A session will be held on Sunday, May 15 at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel to answer any questions you have on these subjects or any other financial matter of the Congregation.

Questions? Contact Ed Lynn at ed@uuuaa.org.



Interweave * Sunday, May 15

Curious about General Assembly (GA)? Going or not sure about signing up? Hear from prior Interweave participants to get the inside story. Share your ideas for Interweave programming for next fall. Join the Interweave Circle conversation on GA and planning for next year at at 10:45am in the Brown Room.



Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.



Spring Reading of Writing * Sunday, May 15

The Community of Writers invites the Congregation to attend the Spring Reading of writings authored by members. The reading will be held in the Jackson Chapel from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Enjoy a presentation of dramatic and entertaining writings ranging from poems, stories, memoirs, and personal essays. Join the writers afterward for conversation over coffee, tea, and pastries. Everyone is welcome.

Questions? Contact Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com, Kathy Edgren at kkedgren@gmail.com, or Rebecca Manery at rmanery@umich.edu.



Introduction to OUUr Faith Registration * Sunday, May 29

Register by May 29 for this workshop that will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 10:00am to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. This is an engaging workshop for both newcomers and long-time members and is a prerequisite for signing the membership

book. Taught by a Unitarian Universalist minister and the welcome ministries coordinator, topics include the history of Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, how this Congregation is governed, how to get involved, and the meaning and responsibilities of membership. Participants are also given and chance to share their spiritual experiences.

A minimum of eight participants is needed to run the class. Registration forms are available at the Involvement Table and front entrance literature rack. Or, register by contacting Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

Childcare is provided if there are sufficient numbers interested. Child-care requests must be submitted two weeks prior to the class. Register for childcare by Friday, May 20.

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



Announcements and Notices

Geisenhainer Music Fund



By now you very likely know that our Senior Minister, Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer will retire from UU ministry effective August 2. It is time to celebrate Rev. Gail's eight years of loving service to UUA. Read on to find out about several ways that you can share your appreciation for Rev. Gail.

As a long term tribute to Rev. Gail, we want to recognize the dedicated support and encouragement she has provided to our music ministries by establishing the Geisenhainer Music Fund. The first goal of the fund is to purchase a new piano for the Phifer Sanctuary. Longer term, the fund will support community outreach programs like providing low cost music lessons for area children who cannot otherwise afford them. Director of Music and Worship, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout will direct the programming.

We plan to solicit funds until the end of May and hope to have our new instrument in the Sanctuary by Sunday, June 19, the date of our formal farewell to Rev. Gail.

Please consider making a contribution to the fund as your special farewell tribute to Rev. Gail. You can [download the letter and donation form](#). You can [click here to make a credit card contribution](#) to the fund on-line. Look for the Geisenhainer Music Fund table after Worship Services on Sundays for more information or to drop off a contribution.



2016 General Assembly News



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, learn, connect, and make policy for UUA through the democratic process. Anyone may attend. GA 2016 will be held from Wednesday to Sunday, June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio. Most events will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The drive is

less than 3.5 hours from Ann Arbor.

The theme for GA 2016 is [Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect](#). The faith world is increasingly multifaithed. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels of Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist, and non-theist no longer define who or what to love, or how the spirit moves in lives. GA 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to create a new vision of faith that no longer divides, but connects to an interdependent future that works for all.

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) will sponsor events at UUA to encourage people to go to GA 2016. The next meeting will be a forum to facilitate ride and room shares. DCT will also be available to answer questions about GA. Look for *Weekly Bulletin* announcements this month. There will also be a delegate-only meeting on Friday, June 17 at 7:00pm at UUA.

The UUA has reserved rooms at good rates in three hotels next to the Columbus Convention Center. Online registration is required at uua.org/ga for both the conference and housing. Register as soon as possible to receive the best rates. The early bird full conference registration rate of \$350 ends on Saturday, April 30 and will jump to \$405 on Sunday, May 1. Sunday morning worship will be open to all with no registration required.

Interested in going to GA? Sign up on the interest sheet at the Social Justice Table during Social Hours. This list will be used as the contact sheet to keep everyone abreast of GA 2016 news.

Questions? Contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.



Rideout to Provide GA Worship & Music Leadership

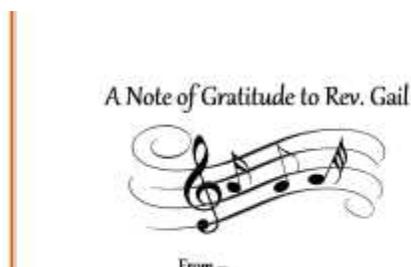
Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, our own Director of Worship and Music, will bring his leadership to several venues for this year's General Assembly (GA) in June. He will be Director of the GA Choir, Director of Music for the Church of the Larger Fellowship Worship Service, and lead Musician and Liturgist for the Grand Sunday Morning Worship Service.



This is an opportunity to showcase what UUA is developing on a much larger scale. He will be teaching what is possible with our model of deep collaboration and theological reflection in worship preparation.



Note of Gratitude



Every one of every age is invited to write or draw a "Note of Gratitude". The notes will be assembled into a Symphony of Gratitude. Pick up a note card at the Geisenhainer Music Fund table at the Congregation office or [download a template to print at home](#). Or feel free to be creative and make your own. Express your

gratitude from your heart.

Also, mark your calendar for a "Goodbye-Gaila" family party featuring fun, food, and fond farewells on Sunday, June 19 following the 10:00am Worship Service.



Thank You Sunday Welcome Team

Thank you to the 75 Sunday Welcome Team volunteers who have served this Congregation so well over the past year. We appreciate the work you do to make UUAU an inviting place on Sundays and the care taken to become more accessibility friendly. In 2015, ushers and greeters served more than 15,800 Sunday service attendees, while the newcomer welcomers oriented over 200 visitors. Meanwhile, during Social Hour the team served over 8,000 doughnuts, 2,000 bagels, and countless gallons of beverages. The involvement volunteers fielded questions from visitors and long-time members alike. The number served is in and of itself impressive, but the manner in which the Congregation has been served is exquisite.

Sunday Welcome Team Members, thank you. Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hanna@uuua.org.



Alpha House Thank You

A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, or time to the UUAU second Alpha House Host Week of 2016 from Monday, April 18 through Sunday, April 24. Without your contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all that it does for homeless families in Washtenaw County. Many thanks to the following volunteers:



Day Hosts: Diane Fead, Barb Gales, and Bianca Verma

Breakfast Makers: Kristin Evon, Wendy Dorman, Lora Girata, and Jaya Vemuri

Dinner Cooks: Gina Boldman, Marcia Cameron, Dorothy and Jay Cavanaugh, Kim Clugston, Carol Cramer, Mark Dickinson, Jo Anne Diehl, Kathy Edgren, Sandy Eyl, Lorraine Gutierrez, Kate Hutchens, Bridget Laundra, Mary Locey, Pauline Loewenhardt, Jennie Lofgren, Fran Lyman, Lorelle Otis, Terri Palacios, Sally Preston, Betsy Reitbauer, John Sepp, Brandy Sinco, Cheryl Valentine, Jaya Vemuri, and Cathy Whitaker

Dinner Servers: James Biller, Jon Boyd, Carol Cramer, Mark Dickinson, Janet Duncan, Cindy Krueger, Sally Preston, Jonena Jones, Joseph Creasman-Jones, Denise Kearns, Tom Longworth, John Sepp, and Cheryl and Vey Valentine

Play with Kids: Christina and Emmeline Wall, Kirsten Mogbo, Suzanne and Sam Davidson, Gwen Guthrie, Cathy and Mike Muha, Amy Hortop, Lisa, Sam, and Tim Kohn, Vilma Mesa, Jim Uicker and James S. Tanner-Uicker, Connie McGuire, Anita Bosky, Fran Dew, Lia McGrath-Kahan, Suzanne Davidson, Amie Anderson, Jamie Krake, Edward Norton, Jon Boyd, Ki-Wing, Sam, Isaac and Louis Merlin, Roen, Sabina and Anya Montalva, Tim and Ezra Farmer, Jay, Emma and Luke Cavanaugh, Melissa, Creed, and Annika Villanueva, Lara Brown, Ann Brennan and Joe and Katie Krushelnick

Overnight Person: Caroline Drake, Lorna Gibson, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, Larry Junck, Steve Nason, and Erik Stalhandske

Social Hall Recruitment Table: Dee Dishon, Sandy Eyl, Sally Preston, Pat Herbst, Tricia Smith, Cheryl Valentine, and Angela Barber

Thank you again to a wonderful group of volunteers. Questions? Contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a long arm of assistance across the US and into the wider world. Funds raised through programs such as the Coffee Project, Share the Collection, and Guest at Your Table contribute to the funds available for this important outreach work. These dollars, added to the funds gathered from our many church families everywhere, allow the Service Committee to find partner organizations in localities needing help due to natural disasters or situations of poverty that impacts the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Along the southern US border, UUSC works with UUA partner organization RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and legal services) in San Antonio, TX. RAICES has set up a residential and healing center for female survivors of torture and supports initiatives to aid unaccompanied children through the court system. At this time, UUSC is looking for volunteers who speak Spanish and/or have legal expertise to help in this effort.



The refugee crisis has severely impacted the nations which offer first refuge, including Greece, Croatia and Serbia. In each of these countries, UUSC and its partner organizations supply direct services including legal aid, humanitarian and psychosocial support, transport vehicles, winter clothing, and assistance with technology. In all places there is special emphasis on aid to women and children. A refugee Support Center in Zagreb will provide a full range of direct services to transiting and long term refugees.

There is a new Ken Burns documentary called *Defying the Nazis* which tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, the founders of UUSC. The Sharps arrived in Europe in 1939 and were responsible for saving hundreds of Jews from genocide caused by the Nazi regime. For more information about UUSC, go to UUSC.org.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at northrup@gmail.com.



Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following people who donated to UUA with Memorial and Tribute gifts in the first quarter of 2016

In Memory of Fred Lee

Richard and Carolyn Barber
 Doug and Grace Clewell
 Fay Lee (Laurel, Kristen, Erika)
 Ed and Barbara Lynn
 Alberta Puma
 Dr. James W. and Antonia Reese

Dorothy Wilson

In Memory of Don Pelz

Donald Packard and Maria Therese Murphy
Rochester Institute of Technology - Carlson Center for Imaging
Weidmayer, Schneider, & Rahm, CPAs

Other Memorial Gifts

Carolyn and Dick Barber in memory of Janice Summers, Mary Corsi Kelley, and Wye Hale-Rowe
Amy and Jason Lindauer in memory of Rebecca Head
Carolyn Roberts in memory of Wye Hale-Rowe
Gertrude Warkentin in honor of Doris Milton

In Honor of the Marriage of Amy Courter and Lisa Presley

Richard and Carolyn Barber
Nancy Keege



Church Office News

Office Volunteer Thank You



Many Thanks to our office volunteers.

The staff would like to say "Thanks!" to the office volunteers for all they do: answer phones; help produce the *Order of Service* and *Weekly Bulletin* each week, and the *Monthly Newsletter* each month; give general office support to staff members; enter data into the financial database; file papers; and so on. The list of volunteers for this year includes Carol Acitelli, Carolyn Barber, Kathy Duquette, Jane Ferguson, Scott Ferguson, Liz Hartley, Jim McCargar, Terry Morris,

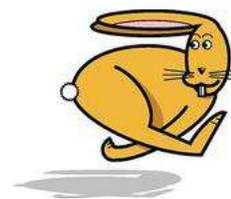
Sally Preston, and Peggy Shearer.

These volunteers serve to fill eight shifts: morning from 9:00am to 12:30pm and afternoon from 12:30pm to 4:00pm Monday through Thursday. Our goal is to add another six people, so that we can have teams of two per shift: one person to answer phones and the other to work on special projects. The backup person is especially important when a volunteer is ill or needs to be out of town. You don't need to have office managerial or special tech skills (although we could use those, too) just a welcoming voice to answer the phone. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuua.org.



Technology Upgrades at UUAU

The internet speeds at UUAU have received a big upgrade. The recent installation of Comcast cabling has brought higher internet speeds that will allow this Congregation to grow and thrive in online forms of communication and workflow.



Also, those who explore the main offices will see new phones. Currently, a Ring Central phone system is in the process of being installed. These new technology changes are an exciting addition to the sustainability of UUAU. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuua.org.



Building Hours**Sundays**| 8:30am-4:00pm**Mondays-Thursdays**| 9:00am-9:00pm**Friday**| Closed**Saturdays**| 9:00am-4:00pm**Church Office Hours**| Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

*Note: To observe Memorial Day, the UUAU building and office will be closed from Thursday, May 26 at 9:00pm through Sunday, May 29 at 9:00am. Worship Service will be held at 10:00am. The building and office will be closed from 1:00pm on Sunday, May 29 through Tuesday, May 31 at 9:00am.

Telephone| 734-665-6158**Fax**| 734-665-7895**General Email**| office@uuaa.org**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 *2016 June Newsletter* is 9:00am on Saturday, May 21. Send 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.

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