



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

November 2018 Newsletter

November 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 14, Issue 11

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

November 2018 | Memory

UUAA's Worship Planning Team

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

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

November 4, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Those We Have Loved

Let us create together what some Unitarian Universalist congregations call an "all souls altar" to honor our loved ones (human and otherwise) and ancestors who have gone before us in death. We invite you to bring a small object, memento, photo, or other memorabilia in honor of these loved ones. Together, building our own memory altar, we reflect on the spiritual intertwining of remembrance and relationship.

November 11, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Wanting Memories

Some memories haunt us, sealed within the walls of our minds. Sometimes when we look back in time, we're all too aware of what was missing. How can we begin to transform those memories into sources of strength?

November 18, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Iktomi's Web: Recalling Our Connection to Indigenous Peoples

This Sunday we will learn about the experiences of our youth delegation to the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation, hear from those directly working to support the Lakota, and learn about the richness and depth of Lakota spirituality and practice.

November 25, 2018

Worship: 9:30am and 11:30am

Remembering Whom Love Calls Us to Be

Gathering this holiday weekend as a spiritual family connected by shared values, we'll recall the spirit of love that infuses our community and shapes who we are in the world. We welcome members, friends, and out-of-town guests and visitors.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Rideout'.

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship and Music



Upon Reflection



As I write this, the midterm elections have not yet taken place. In one sense, the outcome is critical. In a larger sense, though, we're still going to have a lot of work in front of us, no matter the results.

Racists have already been emboldened. Sexual assault and murder have gotten a pass at the highest levels of government. Voter suppression tactics are multiplying and transmogrifying. Asylum seekers are having their children torn away from them. Transgender and non-binary people are threatened with

nonexistence.

As we enter a month exploring Memory, I think about the historical trajectory of these issues. I remember that the only way rollbacks are possible is because we've made progress. It has been uneven, frustratingly slow, and imperfect, for sure, but there has been enough forward movement that the liberation genie won't go back in the bottle without a fight.

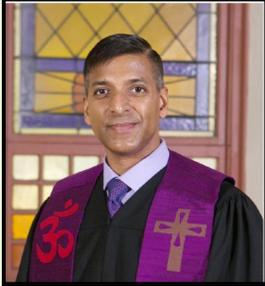
If we're willing, we can also learn from the past and avoid some of its mistakes. For example, we must prevent totalitarianism (and I use that word quite specifically) from taking hold. We must speak up early and often against scapegoating in all its forms. We must find ways to sustain our spirits for the long haul and not burn out.

When the future asks, "What did you do to stop this dystopia?" how will you answer?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
lindasusan@uuuaa.org

Organizing and Deepening Our Ministry Together



Organizing and Deepening Our Ministry Together

As we move deeper into the fall, there are some beautiful developments beginning to take root, which we collectively hope will help us deepen our ministry together here at UUAA. I wanted to share with you this month a few highlights:

- I have received an enthusiastic response to the possibility of my leading a social justice-oriented seminar/learning opportunity, with an intersectional focus on the issue of migration, culminating (for those who are able) in opportunities to travel to the U.S.-Mexico border as a UUAA delegation, learning first hand from impacted communities at/near the border. I am currently fine-tuning what these offerings might look like in 2019; please stay tuned for more information.
- Rev. Lindasusan, providing oversight to our operations/programs on the staff team, is taking lead in the formulation of operational policies. The first of these, which we have developed together this fall, is a policy on policy formulation, which creates a reliable, transparent process for the creation of new operational policies or the updating of existing operational policies. All information related to our congregation's governance is public, and Rev. Lindasusan can share this new procedural policy with you, if it's of interest.
- The UUAA Board of Trustees and I have consulted on the creation of prioritized goals for the senior ministry for the current congregational year (2018-2019), and a work plan that concretizes those goals. That information is contained elsewhere in this newsletter, for those who are interested.
- We launched the Shared Ministries Team (SMT) this past month, creating a new team of congregational peers who will support us, as a community, by receiving, reflecting on, and responding to individual feedback or questions, in addition to helping us caringly navigate conflictual situations. While this new team is just taking its initial steps, they are already off to a good start in helping us live into these intentions.
- Your clergy and worship teams have been reflecting on how we can deepen and expand the modes by which spiritual content is available to members of our community. Beginning this month (November 2018), we will have a rotating clergy-written spiritually-focused column in our monthly newsletters, which will be supplemented by weekly spiritual messages, prompts, and/or reflective questions that will be shared with the community via electronic fora, initially Facebook. We welcome your feedback on this, as we experiment with ways to effectively provide spiritual content across a variety of generations, often with different communication needs.
- The staff team and several key UUAA leadership groups are doing a close read, in the months ahead, of Detroit-resident Adrienne Maree Brown's book *Emergent Strategy*, a spiritual reflection on the times we live in, and what it means to be human, and a thinker and organizer in community, in the midst of such collective social uncertainty, pain, and frequently conflict. It is a deeply spiritual, gorgeous invitation to ground all we do, say, and are in the very best

of what our human spirits call us to be. I invite you to join us in reading *Emergent Strategy*, should you feel so moved.

It is a joy and a pleasure to be in this ministry with you! As we move deeper into the fall season, may we each continue to find ways to nurture, nourish, and take care of our souls. Our world needs the very best that we each have to offer.

Much love,

Rev. Manish

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti
Senior Minister
manish@uuaa.org



Prioritized Goals of the Senior Minister in Collaboration with the Board

In collaboration and consultation with the UUAA Board of Trustees, Rev. Manish has finalized the following prioritized goals and summary work plan for the senior ministry for the 2018-2019 congregational year:

- 1) Establish healthy, productive relationships with staff, key lay leaders, and key stakeholders.
 - This will be worked on via: one-on-one relationship building meetings with staff, key lay leaders, and key stakeholders;
 - attending small group and large group opportunities to meet congregants, as possible;
 - dropping in on our weekly Sunday coffee hours, as feasible;
 - updating the UUAA staff covenant; and,
 - participating in weekly individual and group staff meetings, regular ongoing meetings with the Board President, and monthly meetings and periodic retreats of the Board of Trustees and the Shared Ministries Team.

- 2) Continue the creation of Sunday worship experiences in which the majority of attendees regularly have a spiritually meaningful and engaging experience.
 - This will be worked on by: participating in regular weekly planning sessions with UUAA's Worship Team;
 - continuing to deepen one-on-one working relationships and spiritual relationships with members of our Worship Team;
 - providing ongoing leadership in Sunday morning worship; and,
 - supporting the UUAA Worship Team in articulating and sharing with the congregation the values that the Team is seeking to honor and bring alive through worship.

3) Support the Board of Trustees in developing and implementing a plan that moves UUAA towards articulating a vision for the congregation and, emerging out of that, strategic priorities.

- This will be worked on by: consulting with UUA regional staff and other senior ministers of large UU churches on best practices; and,
- participating in Board planning for and the development of a Board-led work plan that moves the congregation into visioning and strategic priority setting work.

4) Establish and support the new Shared Ministries Team.

- This will be worked on by: creating, recruiting for, and sharing with the UUAA community the development of the new Shared Ministries Team;
- helping develop operational understandings for this Team, by sharing knowledge, best practices, and guidance, as needed;
- developing a Team covenant; and,
- meeting monthly with this team, and regular ongoing meetings with the Team's Chair, to reflect with and support the Team in their response to issues, questions, and feedback.



For Your Calendar

All Souls Altar * Sunday, November 4

Join us in our Sunday, November 4 worship services in co-creating what is known in many Unitarian Universalist congregations as an "all souls altar," an altar of photos and/or memorabilia honoring our loved ones (human or otherwise) and ancestors who have predeceased us. You are invited to bring to this service a small photo or item to share on the altar that we will create together in the sanctuary; children and teens are similarly invited to bring in items to share, if they feel so moved.



Memory Loss Caregiver Support * Wednesday, November 7



The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UUAA Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets regularly the first Wednesday of each month. It is a drop-in group, open to both members of the congregation and the larger community. We encourage congregants who may know a person giving care to someone with memory loss to let them know that they are welcome to join the support group.

Join us from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the David Room for this support group that offers caregivers, family members, and friends of people with memory loss the opportunity to ask questions, share stories, give and receive comfort, and gain practical knowledge. A confidential, positive setting for sharing experiences is

known to be an important factor in how well one copes with caregiver stress. Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com, Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com, or Meredith Ley at meredith1888@gmail.com.



Khasi Hills Meeting * Thursday, November 8

Join the Khasi Hills Committee at 7:00pm and Help Keep a Great Alliance Going!

For over 16 years, UUAA members have sponsored students in the green, rolling Khasi Hills -100 students this year -- at a Unitarian-run village school in rural North East India. Pictured below: The school's girls line up in their crisp brown uniforms in front of their school -- the white classrooms in the background. UUAA sponsorships help buy books, classroom supplies, and school uniforms.

UUAA generosity also supplements teachers' low salaries and a school lunch program. Sponsors exchange letters with the students they sponsor to forge long-distance friendships.

Our Ann Arbor congregation has been connected to Unitarians in the Khasi Hills since 1896 when our early minister, Jabez Sunderland, visited there. It's been a long, fruitful alliance. The Khasi committee welcomes new members to help keep this great connection thriving. Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at cathie@breidenbach.net.



Seeds of Change: Incarcerated Women & Youth Find Purpose in Gardening * Friday, November 9



Be sure to attend "Seeds of Change: Incarcerated Women and Youth; Adult Ex-Offenders Find Purpose in Gardening" on Friday, November 9, 7:00pm at the Ann Arbor District Library, Westgate Branch (2503 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor).

This panel discussion will feature Melvin Parson, founder of "We the People Growers Association" in

Ypsilanti employing adult ex-offenders; Emily Griswold, director of the Chelsea Farmers Market who works with youth in the Jackson County Youth Center through gardening; and Ellen Baron, Vocational Horticulture Instructor at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. This event is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library and UUAA Mindful Eating Team. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha

Immigration Action Potluck & Movie: *Lourdes* * Friday, November 16



Many members of UUA and of the Ann Arbor community took action last year in support of undocumented immigrant Lourdes Salazar Bautista. We made calls, marched, and wrote letters to our legislators calling for a stay of deportation for this mother of three American-born children who had been a contributing member of our community for twenty years.

Now, Anthony Collings has made a documentary film telling the story of Lourdes and her family's struggle to stay together. The film was shot in Michigan and in Toluca, Mexico after Lourdes deportation, showing the effects on her family. Filmmaker Anthony Collings, a former CNN foreign and Washington correspondent, teaches in the Department of Communication Studies at U-M. He will join us to introduce the film and tell how he became involved in Lourdes' struggles.

Bring a dish to pass and join us for this free event, 6:00pm to 8:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at cherylntzmervalentine@gmail.com or 313-618-0025.

Board of Trustees Listening Session * Sunday, November 18

The Board will host a listening session to solicit feedback on the subject of proxy voting at 1:00pm after the second Sunday service, November 18. The Board has been working with the Governance Advisory Team to examine this subject and now wants to present some of this information and gather your input.

We will present some background information on proxy voting and state laws. Then we will divide into smaller groups and capture comments and suggestions about proxy voting from attendees. Please come and participate with your community on this subject!

Erik Stalhandske
President, Board of Trustees
president@uuaa.org

Alpha House Host Week * Wednesday-Sunday, November 21-25



Volunteer or Make a Donation for Host Week

The next UUA host week is quickly approaching! Alpha House is a shelter on Jackson Road for families experiencing temporary homelessness in Washtenaw County. UUA needs 90 volunteers to provide food, serve meals, play with the kids, stay overnight, and be day hosts.

A special training for volunteers will be held Sunday, November 11 at UUA

(Jackson Chapel) from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Volunteers are encouraged but not required to attend. Topics will include our spiritual calling to serve and things to know for volunteer roles: cooks, dinner servers, and children's activity time volunteers. Sign-up for this training is on the link below.

Can't volunteer? Donate! Up to \$400 is needed to cover supplies. Sign up or donate money on Sundays during Social Hour, or online at <https://bit.ly/2Cq8Jlr>. Questions? Contact UUAA Alpha House Coordinator Sandy Eyl at sandy.eyl@gmail.com or Alpha House Coordinators at alphahouse@uuaa.org.



Sponsor a Child or Family for the Holidays | Delivery Date before December 9

Every year the [Community Action Network](#) (CAN) collects thousands of gifts for under-resourced children and teens. The holidays are often a difficult time for the families and children who often feel isolated. Sunday, November 4, stop by the Sponsor for the Holiday Table to pick up information about a child or family to sponsor. You will be given the child's gender, age, sizes, and gifts assigned for that child to receive. All gifts must be delivered to UUAA by December 9. Questions? Email ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



On the Horizon

UUAA Challenging Racism Book Discussion * Friday, December 7

Back by popular demand! Challenging Racism Group will facilitate another discussion of the book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, chapters 1, 3 and 4, including writings by Rev. Manish.

What can we learn from the voices of UU ministers of color? How do our hearts respond to what they tell us?

Join us for a Friday Fun Night Dinner at 6:00pm with this discussion to follow at 7:00pm.

Some copies may be available for loan from the UUAA office. It is also available on Amazon (paperback \$18, Kindle edition \$9.99). Questions? Contact Kathy McLean at jdkamclean@comcast.net.



News and Announcements

The Humanists Have Cloned

Humanism has a long history in our congregation, and a lively group of humanists has been meeting for about 20 years, with the current group of about 20 members gathering on the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons to discuss topics relating to humanists -- philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, science -- the list is



long and varied.

Now the group has spawned the Evening Humanists, with some of the same participants, but at a time when those who have commitments during the day can attend. The topics will be just as varied, and as this group attracts more members, just as lively.

If you wonder what humanism is, or if you have humanist leanings, attend one or the other meeting. Anyone is welcome at either.

Thursday, November 1 and 15 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Wednesday, November 7 and 21 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Questions? Contact Bruce Gibb at blgibb@aol.com for information about the Thursday afternoon group or Hal Breidenbach at hal@breidenbach.net for information about the Wednesday evening group.



Grocery Certificates/Scrip

Did you know that several grocers donate to local charities, including UUAA? At Arbor Farms, when you check out, just say "I support UUAA." At [Busch's](#), designate First Unitarian Universalist. At [Kroger](#), specify First U.U. Congregation of Ann Arbor or use the code 82740 to sign up [online](#). Questions? Contact Carolyn Barber at cmbponyclub@sbcglobal.net.



Salsa and Salsa | Dancing for Social Justice



Those who attended Salsa and Salsa on September 21 at UUAA enjoyed dancing, food, and conversation with old friends and new while taking action to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The evening's first treat was an awe-inspiring Tango demonstration by Sophia and "el Kronox" of the Phoenix Dance Center in Ann Arbor. Later these two made us all look good by teaching us some easy but impressive Merengue steps.

Ticket sales raised over \$1000 for the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition of Immigrant Rights (WICIR), a non-profit volunteer organization that supports the undocumented community in Washtenaw County and helps local immigrant families stay together. The Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) that organized the fund-raising event is a UUAA Social Justice group that works closely with WICIR to support immigrants in our community and immigration policy reform.

Between dances, participants wrote over 100 letters to members of Congress in support of a stay of deportation for Francis Anwana, a 48-year-old deaf and cognitively disabled man. Francis was brought to this country at age 13 to attend a school for the deaf. Supporters say a return to his native Nigeria, where there are no services for the disabled, would be a death sentence. Richard Douglass, a

UUAA congregant who has spent significant time in Africa, confirmed the dire prognosis for Francis in Nigeria and organized the letter writing campaign. The letters were sent to US Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Flint), who has introduced a house bill (HR6829) to make Francis a permanent citizen. Because of the public outcry, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) announced September 28 that it would allow Francis to remain in the US for one more year while his case is being reviewed.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Salsa and Salsa. Your actions make a difference. Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at cherylvalentiner@gmail.com.



Membership



Becoming a Member

Stepping Stones



Experience being part of the congregation by attending Sunday services and seeking out groups of interest.



Learn about the UU faith and history by attending an Introduction to Our Faith class. (For more information about registering for upcoming sessions, check the Sunday *Bulletin* or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org.)



Upon completing Introduction to Our Faith and learning about the rights and responsibilities of membership, arrange with the Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss to sign the membership book and submit paperwork.

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



Memorial Tributes and Gifts

Thank you to the following people who donated to UUAA with Memorial and Tribute gifts in the third quarter of 2018

In Honor of Jack Volk
Dawn Holloway

In Memory of Barb Pickett
Timothy and Janet McGovern



Your Legacy Gift = 10% match now!

Since 2005 UUAA has received nearly \$1 million from planned gifts. That money has been used to reduce the mortgage, improve our building, and get us through some hard times.

Planned giving means bequests from people who remembered UUAA in their wills and estate plans. Organizing our affairs before death is something we want to do anyway. Having a plan is a great benefit to our families and loved ones. But it is complicated and we tend to avoid it and put it off.

We have a unique opportunity this year for UUAA to earn immediate matching gifts for each congregant who notifies us of new planned gifts. In 2018 (and maybe 2019) UUAA can receive a 10% match from the Unitarian Universalist Association for each new or increased planned gift to the UUAA. A planned gift requires no contribution today, yet we will receive the matching funds already in 2019.

Get this! So far in 2018 our UUAA has received 13 new or increased bequests, with several more in process. That means in 2019 UUA will send us a check for more than \$65,000. This is not a typo!

This matching opportunity is available until December 31, 2018 and may or may not be available in 2019. So let's get started now.

This is a complicated and sensitive subject for sure. There is a lot to sort out. The most difficult step is the first one. Please contact plannedgiving@uuuaa.org or one of the Planned Giving Committee Members. We will get information to you and help you every step of the way.

Planned giving tied to one's estate plan is a great way to perpetuate our shared values into the future.

The Planned Giving Team
Becky Hoort at rhoort@umich.edu
Jim Lee at leej_48103@yahoo.com
Don Duquette at duquette@umich.edu



UUAA Food Buckets



As the holiday season approaches, it is important to remember the significant impact your contributions have made to our community. SOS and Unified Health and Beyond are grateful for the donations made to their food pantries by our congregants and welcome more.

Add a nonperishable food item or personal care item to your cart as you go about your holiday shopping. One item per UUAA family adds up to hundreds of items to deliver to our fellow Washtenaw County residences experiencing food insecurity.

Contributions can be left in the Food Buckets outside the Sunderland Library in the

SGD wing. SOS and Unified Health wish lists can be found above the Food Buckets. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



UUSC Coffee Project



Support small farm cooperatives globally while helping to fundraise for UUSC social justice programs and this congregation. Visit our table following the service to choose from fair trade chocolates, coffee, teas, nuts, dried fruits, and Palestinian olive oils. Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.



Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org by Wednesday at 5:00pm.

The week of Thanksgiving, the *Bulletin* deadline is Monday, November 19.

December Newsletter

Submissions for the *November Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org by 9:00am, Wednesday, November 21.

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Reserving a Room at UUA

Submit your room requests by using our room reservation form link ([Request a Room](#)) found on the lower right corner of the home page at www.uuaa.org. Completing this form will allow the Room Team to accommodate requests for accessibility needs, room setup, audio/visual equipment, and special arrangements for large groups.

The UUA room reservation calendar system is divided into two sessions:

- The **Congregational Program Session** | through Sunday, May 19, 2019
- The **Summer Program Session** | begins Monday, May 20, 2019.

Recurring events will be scheduled only within each session. If a recurring event flows into the next program session, a new room reservation request will need to be submitted.

If you are expecting 50 or more attendees, please submit a room request form and

allow extra time for your request to be processed, as it will need to be approved by the UUAA staff prior to being placed on the calendar. Questions? Email room@uuaa.org.



Building Hours

Sunday | 8:30am to 4:00pm
Monday to Thursday | 9:00am to 9:00pm
1st & 3rd Friday | 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Other Fridays | Closed
Saturday | 9:00am to 4:00pm

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



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

See what's happening on our social sites:

