



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

UUAA January 2020 Newsletter

January 2020 Newsletter - Vol. 16, Issue 1

Congregational Links

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

[RECENT SUNDAY SERVICE ARCHIVE & POSTINGS](#): To listen/re-listen to a recent Sunday service, please feel free to access our audio archive.

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship



January | Integrity

January's themes were crafted by the UUAA Worship Team, with creative input from the people of our community (through the monthly order of service insert available each month). Special thanks to Lorelle, Peggy, Elizabeth, Jennifer, Vilma, Vicki, and Susan. Your voices make a difference in our community's spiritual growth.

January 5 | 9:30 am & 11:30 am
Before the Leap

On the integrity of a community -- how would we recognize it, notice when it

frays, heal it? Preparing to take another year's journey in common purpose.

January 12 | 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Got to Be Real

On personal integrity, personal accountability, and owning the reality of who we are.

January 19 | 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Adventure Boldly and Explore

Exploring, Reflecting, Pondering, Learning, Longing, Growing Together

January 26 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Who Cares?

9:30 Worship | 11:30 Congregational Meeting for All Ages

9:30

11:30

Peace,



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music,
for our community's Worship and Music Team members:


Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

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

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister for Operations

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister

theresa rohlick, M. Div.



Vision 20/50 News

Don't Miss This January 26th Event That Will Launch the UUAA New Year and the Whole Next Generation of Action!



An extraordinary "first" for UUAA will take place **Sunday, January 26** in place of the regular second service at 11:30am in the Sanctuary.

All congregants - all ages, all points of view, all persuasions, will all be in the room to continue the interactive planning of our future. Our visioning consultant, Elandria Williams, describes it as "a space where people will be excited, pushed, deepened, provided, and yet at home with each other, prepared to have minds and hearts blown wide open and ready to go."

Online Visioning Input Open Through January 10

All the data gathered from congregants through the last few months of our visioning process (click [here](#) or go to uuaa.org) is being analyzed by a large team of congregants even as you read this. Alignment by the congregation for where UUAA applies its resources - including money, time, talents, our building, and our land - over the next several years is anticipated at the meeting.

Sneak Peek at the Data

You can sneak a peek in advance at some of the data from the small groups by clicking [here](#) or going to uuaa.org.

Our goal for the January 27 meet-up is to create a road map for action, identify the challenges to be overcome, and make action plans accordingly. Elandria and her team will lead the event, and they are eager to hear your thoughts on the "hows" of actualizing our future.

Questions? More information at uuaa.org/vision. Or contact Contact Rick Witten and Laura Bollettino, co-chairs, vision@uuaa.org. See you on January 26!



For Your Calendar

Women's Breakfast * Saturday, January 4

Join us at the Women's Breakfast on the first Saturday of every month at 8:15am. We meet at the Classic Cup Cafe (4389 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, across from the UM Credit Union). Meet UU Womyn for breakfast and enjoy some warm conversation. It will surely be frosty, but you'll be glad you braved the weather! Questions? Contact Joan Wells at jbwells1212@prodigy.net.



Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group * Wednesday, January 8



Due to the holidays, the Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group will be meeting Wednesday, January 8. The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UAAA Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets regularly the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the David Room. 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 this support group.

A support group 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 meredithl888@gmail.com.



Friday Fun Night * Friday, January 10



UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, January 10

6:00pm - 9:00pm

\$5 suggested donation or \$20 per family

Some Transylvanian Evening

sponsored by UUAA's Partner Church group

- * Guest musicians teaching Transylvanian music & dance
- * Traditional Transylvanian desserts
- * Craft: Transylvanian string puppets
- * Dinner: Soup & Sandwiches
- * Adult programming: Exploring Transylvania
- * Movie: *Big Hero 6* (108 minutes)
- * Infant and toddler childcare available



Friday Fun Night regularly serves both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. If you need other dietary accommodations, please email us at fridayfunnight@uuaa.org a week in advance. We also invite everyone to bring their own table setting, if able.



Partner Church Transylvania Crafts, Film, & Music * Friday, January 10

Join Friday Fun for activities hosted by our Partner Church Program. There will be Transylvanian crafts and images to color, songs to listen to and learn, and videos for the adults. The videos will include those taken by our Transylvanian partners and a BBC show presenting Prince Charles' farm in the region. We will have fun and introduce some topics for later discussion. We hope to see you there. Questions? Email partnerchurch@uuaa.org.



Mothers and Others * Saturdays, January 11 & 25

Mothers and Others | A Group for Caregivers of Young Children



Join our group of caregivers of young children for fellowship, support, and friendship! Mothers, fathers, grandparents, foster parents, and others are all welcome to join! We typically meet for playgroups in the UUA nursery on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10:15am. For details, join our email list by emailing Charlene Mangi at Charlene.Mangi@gmail.com.



Humanist Group * Mondays, January 13 & 27 or Thursday, January 16



Are You a Humanist?

Do you believe that we must decide for ourselves what the meaning of our lives is? Do you believe that humans, rather than a supreme being, define morality and ethics? Do you believe that God is created in humans' image? If you answer yes to any of these questions, or if you are unsure of the answers, then consider joining this group that is searching for answers to these questions.

Humanism has a long history in our congregation, and a lively group of humanists has been meeting for about 20 years. The current group of about 20 members gathers to discuss topics relating to humanist philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, science, and more.

There are two Humanist discussion groups. The Thursday Humanists Group and Monday Humanists Group discuss the same issues, with some of the same participants, and sometimes with the same discussion leaders. Both groups provide varied, lively discussion opportunities.

All are welcome at either or both of these meetings at UUAA:

Thursday, January 16 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Mondays, January 13 and 27 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Currently 85 people have chosen to subscribe to our email list, receiving interesting articles and commentary, as well as notices about upcoming meetings. Contact Hal to subscribe to our list.

For more information about the Thursday group, contact Bruce Gibb at blgibb@aol.com.

For more information about the Monday group, contact Hal Breidenbach at hal@breidenbach.net.



Womyn's Potluck N' Paint * Friday, January 17



Join UU Womyn for a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00pm followed by a chalice-painting workshop, 7:00pm-9:30pm, taught by our own very talented Debra Golden. \$45 covers all art materials and instruction. Register in advance. If you're on the Womyn's Community email list, watch for details in your inbox. Or, find details on the Womyn's Community Table during Social Hours on Sundays. Questions? Contact Judi Lintott at 734-352-7285 or jlintott@comcast.net.



Introduction to Our Faith * Saturday, January 25



Join us on Saturday, January 25 from 10:00am-2:30pm for an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for newcomers as well as long-time congregants. This class is a prerequisite for congregants ready to sign the membership book. Learn about UU history, how to get involved, finding your calling, and the responsibilities of membership. [Register online](#) or by filling out a form found on the Involvement Table or in the Newcomer Welcome Room during Social Hour. Registration

deadline is Sunday, January 19. If you are in need of childcare for this event, we ask that you register by Monday, January 13. Questions? Email hannah@uuaa.org.



Khasi Hills Event * Sunday, February 2

New School Year in the Khasi Hills

In India the school year begins in February. You are invited to join us in the Fahs Chapel on February 2, 2020, at 1:00pm to kick off the new school year and learn about life in the Khasi Hills. We will partake of tasty food, watch a short movie featuring students from the Unitarian Lower Primary school at Mawkisyiem, and have time for questions and answers. Plus, you will have the opportunity to enroll in the Sponsor-a-Student Program for the 2020 school year. Questions? Contact Allen Duncan or Cathy Doherty at KhasiHills@uuaa.org.



News and Announcements

Alpha House

A great big "Thank You" to the many people who donated meals, money, and/or time to the Thanksgiving host week at Alpha House, a shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Our next host week is February 3-9, 2020. UUA needs 90



volunteers to shop, provide food, serve meals, supervise children's activities, and make reminder calls. Up to \$400 is needed to cover supplies for our host week. Online volunteer sign up can be found at tinyurl.com/AHFeb20 or, if you prefer, you can sign up at our Social Hall table during Social Hour the weeks of 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, and 2/2. For questions about how you can help, contact AlphaHouse@uuaa.org.

Volunteers who contributed are listed below. Without your help, Alpha House would not be able to do all it does for our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. Thanks to:

Ben Allen, Carey Allen, Delphine Benard, Ilene Beninson, Tisha Berg, Jess Bloom, Sandra Breck, Carol Lei Breckenridge, Ann Brennan, Iveta Brigis, Lara Brown, Kate Burkhardt, Marcia Cameron, Rebecca Chamberlain, Carol Cramer, Fran Dew, Elaine Dexter, Constance Dickinson, Dee Dishon, Kathryn Doud, Audra Eddy, Barron Evans, Sandy Eyl, Barb Gales, Candace Gilet, Lora Girata, Lucy Graff, Joe Griffith, Tom Guthrie, Gwen Guthrie, Liz Hartley, Mary Ann Hergenrother, Carli Hildebrandt, Beth Hospadaruk, Hannah Hotchkiss, Kathy Huffnagle, Amyleigh Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Emmanouil Kioupakis, Lisa Kohn, Erin Krajcik, Daniel Lara, Sharon Lo, Molly Mast-Koss, Angela Menegay, Terri Palacios, Gregg Peterson, John Preston, Sally Preston, Susan Randall, Lori Reece, Tansey Rosset, Mark Sanderson, Antonio Saenz, Emily Saenz, Bonnie Sepp, John Sepp, Linda Seyforth Ward, Brandy Sinco, Tricia Smith, Claudette Snow-Schell, Elinore Sommerfeld, Sharon St. Mary, Ryan Tamblyn, Julie Tanguay, Phyllis Tera, Jane Theriault, Lorelle Thomas, Natalie Thorsen, Christina Wall, Bett Weston.

Questions? Contact our coordinators at AlphaHouse@uuaa.org.



UUAU Helps Asylum Seekers * Immigration Action Coalition News

January is a good time to assess accomplishments and plan for the future. Last year UUAU, under the leadership of the Immigration Action Coalition (IAC), helped five individuals who came to the US fleeing violence and seeking asylum. Each individual's story touched our hearts, outraged our sense of injustice, and moved us to take action. "I's" young son was murdered in retribution when "I" refused to join a gang. "K" was kidnapped and tortured for years after she was orphaned. Sochill was persecuted for her trans gender identification. Irma was targeted because of her social activism. Emilio received death threats because of his journalistic reporting of gang violence. All five were placed in detention when they came to the US asking for asylum.

Here's how we helped in 2019 and what we predict the needs will be in 2020:

- Provide bond payment so individuals can leave detention and gather evidence for their asylum cases.
- Provide financial help with housing and living expenses after being released from detention.
- Help locating and furnishing housing. (We kept "I" safe at UUAA in the Marley Room until she could join family members.)
- Accompany to court and ICE appointments. Being a witness for justice.
- Transport to legal, medical, and dental appointments.

IAC also helped form the new organization, Network Supporting Asylum Seekers; we supported a local DACA student whose family breadwinner was deported, and we sent 300 coats to the border to keep asylum seekers warm.

Another urgent need is for Temporary Foster Families to give homes to children who are currently in detention at the border. Watch for more information from Samaritas, a non-profit who will be telling our congregation more about their organization and how UUAA can help these young asylum-seekers.

For more information, contact Cheryl Valentine IAC@uuaa.org.



Annual Auction 2020 at UUAA | An Evening in Paris



The Auction is in March this year!

People have been abuzz - asking "When is the auction this year? What is the theme? How do I volunteer?" To be clear, "people" is a broad term encompassed in its entirety by the author of this article but, so defined, "people" have been buzzing like bees.

So, do we have a theme? Mais oui! Our theme this year is "An Evening in Paris." So dig out that beret!

Do we have a date and location? Bien sur! It is Saturday, March 21, 2020, right here at UUAA.

What more do you need to know? The auction is the congregation's largest fundraiser, and also serves as a community builder. As always, there will be food, music, and lots to bid on. Some call the auction "formidable!"

Why are we bothering you so far ahead of the big day? Because, like Uncle Sam (and Frere Jacques), we need you. The auction is full of big and small jobs - from setup to teardown to bartending. Soon we'll be meeting between services in the Sunderland Library to plan out the event, and we hope you can join us. Check the *Bulletin* for dates and times.

If meetings aren't your thing but you have ideas or would like to help, email us at auktion@uuua.org.

Merci beacoup!



Multicultural Outreach



Reflection from Black Lives of UU Symposium

After returning from the BLUU Symposium that was held in St. Paul Minnesota in late Fall, I asked long term UUAA member Constance Dickinson to reflect on her journey.

Constance: I grew up in the Unitarian Universalist Church, having begun attending with my parents at age 11. My family was either the only Black family or one among a few others. I enjoyed the welcome, acceptance, and love I received when attending church functions, and through my teens and twenties UU was my primary outlet. However, over time, my blackness became more invisible in UU spaces.

When I learned about the Black Lives of UU Symposium, I jumped at the chance to attend. I wanted to connect with fellow Black UUs, something I hadn't been able to do for decades. Even though Unitarianism Universalism is a perfect fit for me spiritually, socially I was a rock in the river around which the waters flowed.

Attending BLUU Symposium was an amazing experience. I have never been in community with so many Black religious liberals in my life. I was overwhelmed. The focus of the Symposium was Black Liberation Theology. We reviewed Black UU history, examined the more recent history of Black UU leadership within the larger Association, and then explored the future of BLUU.

I left the experience with a sense of exhilaration; it was great seeing the real persons who I had been engaging via BLUU worship. I left encouraged, wondering how to extend the feeling of community and connections -- thinking

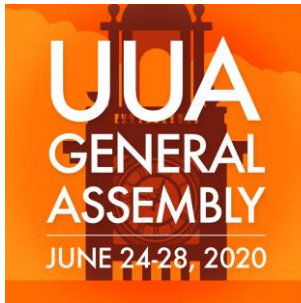
of the role UUA could play in bringing other Black UUs together. This is the work ahead of us: Being a BLUU light for other UUs in the local area.

Thank you Constance for your open and honest sharing!

Questions? Email Quiana@uuaa.org



Denominational Connections Team



What are you doing next June? Are you thinking of attending General Assembly (GA) Wednesday, June 24, through Sunday, June 28, 2020? GA, the annual gathering of 4,000+ Unitarian Universalists from around the world, will be in Providence, RI, with the theme of "Rooted, Inspired, & Ready." As usual, those who attend GA will be able to select from many informative workshops, inspiring worship, and an exhibit hall.

Something new this year is that registration is open months earlier than usual. The early bird registration fee is \$400, and this year you can pay your registration in installments over several months, as long as you pay it in full by February 29, 2020. You can register at uua.org/ga/registration. Registration rates will increase on March 16.

Hotel reservations will be available beginning on March 2 at 9:00am Eastern Time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Denominational Connections Team at denomination@uuaa.org.



Partner Church Transylvania



Since September, we have hosted a Social Hall table on every third Sunday. In January, we will also participate in the January 10 Friday Fun Night. There will be Transylvanian crafts and images to color, songs to listen to and learn, and videos for the adults. The videos will include those taken by our Transylvanian partners and a BBC show presenting Prince Charles' farm in the region. We will have fun and introduce some topics for later discussion. We hope to see you there.

There are many intriguing subjects related to our partners, from religious and

cultural history to current topics of concern. We wonder if there is interest in a new book discussion group? UM-Dearborn history professor Gerry Moran (a 2018 Transylvanian pilgrim) is available to lead a discussion of a history book he found inciteful. Are you interested in joining? Email partnerchurch@uuaa.org.

We've been asking our past college scholarship recipients what they are doing these days. Our very first recipients, Apor and his sister Ilka Kisssgyorgyi are both working in their fields of study, computer science and civil engineering, and pursuing their musical interests as well. Attila Lestyan spent six months in Japan after receiving his degree in Theater Arts, did some freelance acting this past year, and is about to begin doctoral studies. We can feel pride at having helped all three with their room and board expenses in college.



Prison Books Program

The Prison Books Program is in need!

- We need people who can join in on book pick-ups at area public libraries
- We need one or two people who can help handle donations as they accumulate in the SGD donation area
- We need people who can occasionally help unload cars and move boxes of books around in our storage area
- We need people who can occasionally help with deliveries to prisons
- We especially need people who can scour stores for good book boxes and bring them to church

This work isn't a "life sentence"...with a larger group of volunteers, we can get the job done with flexibility as to when you participate.

Let us know if you (or your Chalice Circle or service group) would occasionally be willing and able to do any of these tasks...and we'll contact you when we have need. Specific training will be provided. Email prisonbooks@uuaa.org.



UUA's QUUest Bookstore Celebrates It's 20th Year



Founded in 1999, QUUest has been our congregation's source for new fiction and non-fiction supporting our UU values. The QUUest table displays also serve as a gathering spot in the boisterous Social Hour.

Most of the current staff have been working at this mission for over 10 years.

Many are over 80 years old. To remain open, we need new volunteers soon.

In the meantime, we will try something new at the outset of 2020. We will be open after both services the first Sunday of the month, January through March, but closed the other Sundays. We will also be administering a survey to understand how much this service means to our members.

Watch for updates in the February and March newsletters. To ask questions or volunteer, contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Sharing the Collection



Your contributions make a difference!

The Sharing the Collection committee is happy to share the good news: On December 1, we raised \$2,171 for SOS Community Services (www.soscs.org).

A second December collection to benefit the [Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights \(WICIR\)](#) raised 3,100. At the end of this year, we will have raised over \$30,000 in 2019 to benefit non-profit organizations in Washtenaw County who are serving the needy and the disadvantaged. Mark your calendar for these upcoming collections in the New Year:

- On January 5, to benefit [Growing Hope](#)
- On February 2, to benefit [Peace Neighborhood Center](#)

Are you unable to attend services on the Sunday of Sharing the Collection? You can mail a check to the church, noting "Sharing the Collection" in the memo line.

In early December, we finalized our sharing calendar for 2020. Please check our page at uuaa.org/sharingthecollection to see the list of our 2020 recipients, as well as lists of past recipients going back several years.

Please contact sharecollection@uuaa.org with any questions or suggestions. The Sharing the Collection committee: Bob Dinan, Jan Duncan, Casey Jackson, Glenn Kime, Fran Lyman.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Myanmar

As I write, Aung Sun Suu Kyi, Nobel laureate and de facto civilian leader in Myanmar, is testifying before the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Myanmar is accused of genocide of its minority Rohingya Muslim community. She denies that there is orchestrated persecution of the Rohingya minority even though almost a quarter of a million have fled in fear to neighboring Bangladesh. The service committee has been active in its support of the Rohingya through lobbying in Washington, supporting journalists, religious leaders, and many rights groups, including a partner organization, the Women Peace Network. Founded by Wai Wai Nu, the organization works to uphold the rights of women and minorities, to build solidarity and resilience among women through peace-building education. Wai Wai is one of four women leaders highlighted in UUSC's annual fund drive, Guest at Your Table. Please become a member of UUSC to be part of this work. Questions or comments to Quincy. qnorthrup@gmail.com.



In Gratitude



UUAA thanks Michael Vestergard for the generous donation of gift certificates to UUAA to distribute to families in need. Vestergaard Farms, located at 4408 South Wagner Road (near the intersection of Wagner Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.) sells pasture raised meat, local cheeses, fresh coffee, and dry goods. Stop by Vestergaard Farms to thank Michael in person and support local farmers.



Becoming a Member



Becoming a Member

Stepping Stones

- ✚ Experience being part of the congregation by attending Sunday services and seeking out groups of interest.
- ✚ Learn about UU faith and history by attending an Introduction to Our Faith Class. (For information about registering for an upcoming Introduction to Our Faith class, check the Sunday Bulletin or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.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 Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines * Holiday Schedule

Weekly Bulletin Deadline **Wednesdays at 5:00pm**

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

February Newsletter Deadline **Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00am**

All submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

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



Change of Contact Information?

If you have had a change in name, residence, email address, or phone number over the past year and would like to update your information with UUAA, [use this link](#) or email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Two-Service-Season Hours * Sunday, September 8 - Sunday, May 24

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

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

Holiday Hours:

Closed Wednesday, December 25 through Saturday, December 28..

Open Sunday, December 29 (9:00am-1:00pm).

Closed Monday, December 30-January 4.

Resume regular schedule Sunday, January 5.

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, UUAA will be closed Monday, January 20.



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

See what's happening on our social sites:



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