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June Newsletter

June 1, 2012 - Vol 6, Issue 6

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Worship @ UUAU

**ONE Worship Service at 10:00am,
now through September 02, 2012
with SGD for children K-8, followed by Social Hour**

May 27, 2012

"Cooked Seeds and Cracked Pots"
The Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

A gardeners eye on human finitude and the pointless quest for perfection.

June 03, 2012

Bridging Ceremony for High School Seniors
"Stop, Look and Listen"
The Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

One crossing guard's checklist for safely navigating the intersections of growing our souls and building the Beloved Community.

SPECIAL EVENT: Sunday, June 3rd,
4:00pm "Lift Every Voice: UU Choir Festival"
Admission is Free, 9 Choirs, 160 Voices! All Are Welcome!

June 10, 2012

Coming of Age Sunday
Coming of Age Youth, Mentors, Coming of Age Facilitators, and
Rev. Mark Evens

Our Coming of Age 9th grade youth will share their credos, their current statements of the most important beliefs and commitments that guide and shape their lives. We will recognize and celebrate their accomplishment in completing the year-long Coming of Age program.

June 17, 2012

Flower Communion
Rev. Mark Evens

Bring a flower for each person in your family from home for this celebration of our diverse gifts and mutual acceptance. The first flower communion was celebrated by Unitarian minister Norbert

Capek in Prague. Today we will celebrate the vitality and importance of international Unitarian connections, especially our 15-year partner church relationship with Kézdivásárhely, Transylvania, and our support of Unitarian students in the Khasi Hills of India.

June 24, 2012

"I Am Because We Are"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Pulpit Host

Introducing our 2012 Summer Minister, Ashley Horan, M.Div.

(Please read Ashley's bio introduction printed below in this newsletter.)

Among the Bantu peoples in Southern Africa, the concept of Ubuntu refers to the idea that, in the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "You can't be human all by yourself." Among the Unitarian Universalist peoples of North America, we might translate this as the interdependent web of all existence, or our covenant with one another and the earth.

Join Summer Minister Ashley Horan for a worship of stories, readings and music about what it means to become human in community.

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Water Communion in September and Flower Communion in June are like Unitarian Universalist bookends for the liturgical year. We mark the season of slowing down this year with a Flower Communion on June 17. Please see Rev. Mark's careful description of the theology, purpose and history of Flower Communion in his article in this newsletter.

And we mark the season of speeding up again with Water Communion on September 9 when we return to two Sunday Services (9:30am & 11:30am). The ritual for Water Communion asks that we each bring a tiny sample of water from our summer days. We gather the water in large bowls to symbolize a re-gathering of the community after a time of travel, vacation, or simply staying at home. During the year, we use (purified) bits of the gathered water for Child Dedication Ceremonies, House Blessings, and any time we need a concrete symbol of the "gathered community."

Mid-June will find me in Virginia, preaching the Annual Meeting weekend for the U.U. Congregation of Fairfax, Oakton, Virginia. They offer three services each weekend, one on Saturday evening and two on Sunday morning. I'm eager to learn how they do that. There is much for me to learn from preaching with other congregations. Their minister, The Reverend Mary Katherine Morn, is a dear friend. I look forward to being with her. I will regret, however, being out of Michigan the week our Coming of Age youth offer their credos for worship (June 10). I have found that to be an uncommonly inspiring service in previous years. I will miss hearing it live this year.

In most years, June is a month for attending the General Assembly of the UUA. Indeed, our Congregation is sending a group of delegates. This is a special year for GA. It is a "Justice GA" that will focus on immigration reform in Arizona. And in most years, Rev. Mark and I attend GA. Not so this year as our travel budget was part of what was reduced for balancing the budget. I will certainly miss all the learning, collegiality and public witness of this special General Assembly, but I am grateful we can watch events like the Ware Lecture on-line.

June is always a month for planning and reflection. The new Board has a retreat. Lots of programs

for next fall are set in place during June. This is a good time to write to me and let me know if there are specific worship themes you hope we address in the year ahead. Any particular books you are reading this summer that you want to share?

My love to each, Rev. Gail

Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

A Diverse Bouquet of Flowers



Bring a flower for each family member to our Flower Communion service at 10:00am on June 17.

Our seven Unitarian Universalist principles do not directly include the word "diversity" but we know it is a central value of our congregation's and our UU faith movement. When we read the first principle, which says that we covenant to affirm and promote "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," we know we do this because we are all enriched by sharing our journey through life with people with whom we have important things in common AND with people from whom we are different in important ways.

Our third principle calls us to "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." One of the places where we sometimes get to grow spiritually is where our differences leave us feeling insecure or annoyed, or reminded of past painful experiences. For example, it can be hard to accept that someone else experiences the world as shaped and loved by a being they call God if we have been hurt in the past by a congregation or minister who insisted that we agree that a being called God was angry at us for being gay, created the world in an irrational, literal seven days, or sent innocent people to hell forever for violating arbitrary rules.

We strive to be a congregation where we can slow down and get to know the complexity of each other, to marvel at the beauty of who we each are. We each are the way we are for good and sometimes complicated reasons. When we take the time to build trust, to truly listen to each others' lives, we can appreciate why the flower of this person has grown differently from the flower of that person or ourselves. And together we can make a beautiful diverse bouquet where all are welcome, all are admired for their tenacious skills of surviving and thriving and making meaning of it all along the way.

Bring a flower for each family member to our Flower Communion service at 10:00am on June 17 where we will celebrate our unity in diversity, our tenacious, loving skill at being different and together in the containing vase of our congregational life.

I'm feeling great for having shared this with you.
In faith, Mark

Ashley Horan, M. Div., UUAU 2012 Summer Minister



"Please help me to welcome our 2012 Summer Minister, Ashley Horan. Ashley will be steward of our pulpit for eight weeks, June 24 through August 12. She will be present to us on Sundays, and generally watching over the love, while Rev. Mark and I recharge our batteries with vacation and study leave. Welcome, Ashley!" Rev. Gail Geisenhainer.

Ashley Horan recently graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, where she

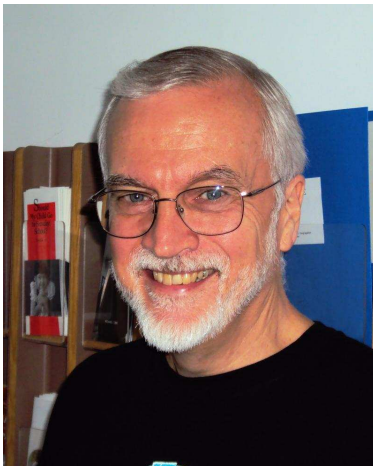
lives with her partner, Rev. Karen Hutt, and their daughter, Elizabeth, who is currently disproving her parents' theories that middle school is a wretched time for all young people.

A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Ashley served as the Intern Minister at the UU Church of Davis, CA, and is a member of Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, MN. Before beginning seminary, Ashley spent several years teaching French and Spanish in a variety of contexts, ranging from urban junior high classrooms to the wilderness of the Boundary Waters. She has a B.A. in Francophone African Cultures, a background in theatre and improv comedy, and experience living in a swath of cities along I-94 from Boston to Seattle.

She is honored and excited to have been invited to spend these eight weeks learning from and ministering with the members of UUAU.

Board Notes

Ed Lynn, UUAU Board Past - President



Sunday's Annual Meeting followed the Founders' Day Picnic, a congregational celebration of the founding of the church in 1865.

With the start of the summer single service schedule, the picnic was also a good time to meet once again all those members who attend a different service during the winter (aka: First Service People and Second Service People).

The congregation gave thanks to Ginny Preuss, Brian Debbink, Joan Burleigh and me for our service on the Board. It then voted to accept the new slate of officers: Elizabeth LaPorte, Vice President and Priscilla Spencer, Secretary. Roberta Allen, Becky Hoort, Tom Darton and Paul Morris were elected as Trustees at Large. Vilma Mesa was elected to the Leadership Development Team. Reflecting last year's election, Dixie Hibner assumed the position of President for the coming year.

The congregation also approved the proposed by-law revisions that had been recommended by a task force. The revisions were primarily editorial updates to correct minor mistakes or improve wording.

Remarks given by the Senior Minister, President, and Incoming President indicate a lot of progress in the past year in realizing our potential as a large covenantal congregation, but much work remains to be done. We are ready to move forward to make the congregation strong for the next 150 years. We have much to be thankful for.

The Business of the Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director



Several staff announcements highlight the current activities in the Church Office.

We are so happy that Debby Casamatta has removed the interim from her job title and joined the Building & Office Team as our full time Office Administrator. Debby's basic responsibilities include: Maintaining an open Congregational Office from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Thursdays; organizing and coordinating office operations and procedures to ensure organizational effectiveness; helping design and implement office policies, procedures and basic standards of practice; and orienting and training paid and volunteer staff to effectively use office support equipment, systems and volunteers. She will also serve as our organization's "expert" on day to day computer hardware, network and software issues, and will remain the lead coordinator of the annual report, monthly newsletter

and weekly bulletin. Debby will also continue to coordinate the operational components for memorials and weddings that utilize our facilities, as well as carry out some basic day to day financial management tasks, including preparing and processing administration-related expense forms, credit card payments, pledge payments and statements and weekly bank deposits.

Debby currently works Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00am to 5:00pm and she can be reached at deborah@uuaa.org or 734- 665-6158, x104.

We also welcome Venus Gregory to the Building & Office Team, as our Weekend Building Attendant. Venus is also employed in the Benefits Department at the University of Michigan and brings a diverse background as event coordinator, publications editor and resident advisor.

As our Weekend Building Attendant Venus will open the building at the appropriate time on Saturdays and Sundays, conduct security check prior to shift closings, monitor facility activity assistance to users, set-up and break down tables/chairs for specific events, as needed. She will also performs various minor maintenance tasks, such as changing light bulbs, removing trash, cleaning tables/chairs or restocking paper towels and toilet paper and assist with any emergency situation should they arise, contacting service providers and/or Executive Director, as needed.

You will find Venus most Saturday and Sunday mornings in the Church Office and she can be reached here at 734-665-6158 or venus@uuaa.org.

We currently are looking to fill the position of Evening Building Attendant at UUAU. This person is responsible for maintaining the church's room use calendar and providing basic office services to members and guests using our building between 5:00 to 9:00pm. The position's work schedule is Sunday through Wednesday evenings, 4:00 to 9:00pm for a total of 20 hours a week. The person in this role will be eligible for health insurance, 401K contribution and paid time off. To obtain the complete job description or inquire further, contact me at 734-665-6158, x106.

Spiritual Growth and Development News

Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development

The Summer Program began with much excitement and energy on Sunday, May 20. This summer we will enjoy a new curriculum, new class groups, some new faces along with some known faces and the regular fun and nurturing environment we strive to provide our youth each and every time they are in our building.

During the summer, the nursery and pre-school classes will continue to provide their consistent, nurturing care for our youngest congregants. The kindergarten through eighth grade classes will meet in two combined classrooms: Kindergarten through third grade in Fahs Chapel; fourth through eighth grades in Jackson Chapel. The kindergarten through eighth grade youth will begin in the service and be sung out to their classes 10 minutes after the service begins.

The summer curriculum is entitled "UU Super Heroes." It will help us explore Unitarian Universalists who have lived out our principles through their actions. These will include, among others, Sophia Fahs, King John Sigismund, Lewis Latimer, Theodore Parker, and Olympia Brown. This program began with each child and adult creating their own super hero character on blue t-shirts, using the template designed by Debra Golden, our SGD Program Assistant. You will likely see these colorful shirts being worn around the building and around town this summer.



The ninth grade Coming of Age group will present our congregation with the gift of the annual Coming of Age service on June 10. During this service, the youth will share with us their credos,

their "what I believe" statements. It is sure to be a memorable and moving experience - mark your calendars now to be sure not to miss it!

The tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade YRUU group will continue to meet during the summer. The seniors will be recognized in our June 3 service.

Thank you to the following congregants who have committed to be part of our summer program: Dan Bair, Jennifer Ellsworth, Eric Ericksen, Tim Farmer, Michelle Ferguson, Gary Hammer, Kate Hutchens, Keely Kaleski, Bridget Laundra, Edward Norton, Christine Pellar-Kosbar, Don Pelz, Gregg Peterson, Sheila Sanders; Leah Tame, Dave Tumbarello, and Mark Van Kempen.

With care,
Sandy

Pastoral Care News News

Meredith Ley, Pastoral Care Coordinator



Senior Potluck Luncheon

We hope you're ready for another great senior lunch on Monday, June 11 from noon to 1:30pm. We provide the bread, basic salad and drinks. The rest will be potluck.

If you're unable to bring food- that's okay. Everyone is welcome to partake of a light lunch and enjoy the company of old time friends.

If you are unable to drive- let us know and we will make every effort to pick you up and take you home.

Barbara Zarat from the University of Michigan Turner Senior Resource Center will be our speaker at the luncheon. She will share information about senior and community resources that are available to seniors.

Some of you may find it easier to park on the lower level and use the entrance to the Religious Education wing to access the elevator. We will have someone at that door between 11:45am and 12:15pm to let you in.

For any questions or to sign up for the luncheon, call me at 734- 665-6158, x118 or stop by the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall. Please join us.

Events and News

Summer One-Time Chalice Circle * June 3

Now that this season's Chalice Circles are coming to an end, we look forward to offering a series of One-Time Chalice Circle sessions over the summer months. The dates and topics are:

- June 3 Beauty
- July 8 Spiritual Growth
- August 5 Gratitude

Each will be held in the Brown Room from 11:30am to 1:00pm.



If you are wondering what Chalice Circles are about or have been unable to attend one due to schedule conflicts, then join us at one or all of these sessions.

For more information or questions, email Roylea Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com. Or talk with us in Social Hall on Sunday after Service for sign-up.

Alpha House News * June 3

Learn more about Alpha House. Twenty years ago, UAAA was one of six congregations that contributed to found the Interfaith Hospitality Network, now operating at Alpha House. We continue to provide meals and other support four times a year for the residents of the shelter-about 5 homeless families at any one time.

Congregants often wonder what is the impact of the work of Alpha House in the lives of their residents and what happens with the families after they leave the shelter.

Please come on June 3 at 11:30am in the Fahs Chapel. Helen Starman, the director of development, will join us to show a short movie and share more information attesting to the work of Alpha House. For more information, please contact Pat Herbst at pg Herbst3665@gmail.com.

UU Choir Festival * June 3

Lift Every Voice

UU Choir Festival

9 Choirs - 160 Voices
Combined Performances & Hymn Sing

Sunday, June 3rd • 4 pm • Free
 First UU of Ann Arbor • 4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.

With special guest
 - **Carolyn McDade** -
 renowned composer of
Spirit of Life &
We'll Build a Land



Participating Choirs:
 First UU Ann Arbor
 Birmingham Unitarian
 First UU Detroit
 UU Farmington
 Grosse Pointe Unitarian
 New Hope UU New Hudson
 UU Church of Olinda, Ontario

Senior Dinner * June 6

The next Senior Dinner will meet on Wednesday, June 6 at 6pm. We'll enjoy a meal at the Gourmet Garden Chinese Restaurant at 2255 W. Stadium, north of Liberty, on the west side of Stadium. Come and join us for good food, lots of conversation and a relaxed atmosphere. Please call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349 for more information.

Habitat for Humanity Free Workshop * June 11

Habitat for Humanity has partnered with GreenPath Debt Solutions, Food Gatherers, and Ypsilanti Library to present a free workshop to the public. Habitat for Humanity will introduce their Homeownership Program, GreenPath Debt Solutions will provide the information and knowledge needed to build, rebuild, and monitor your credit, Food Gatherers will share which nutrient-dense foods to eat throughout the summer, and the Ypsilanti Library will tell about their summer reading programs for all ages.



The workshop is Monday, June 11 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Whittaker District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti. Contact Kiersten Johnson, Family Recruitment Coordinator at 734-677-1558, x106 to register.

Interweave Event * June 16

Klezmer Band



Instead of our regular meeting, Scott and Victor have graciously offered their home for the final event of the Interweave year, a gathering with fun and a Klezmer Band! Please bring finger food to pass and/or a beverage of your choice. The festivities will start at about 5:00pm. Scott and Victor's address is 9569 Horseshoe Bend in Dexter, MI 48130.

If you have any questions or comments about Interweave, please contact Royla Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com or Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.

Denominational Connections Team: Connecting Our Connections

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAA) and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing our congregation and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UU's.

All are welcome to the DCT meetings on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Young room. For further information feel free to contact DCT co-chairs **Roberta Allen** bert71allen@gmail.com or **Celeste DeRoche** celestederoche@gmail.com.

The Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly (GA), a meeting of Congregations, will be in Phoenix, Arizona from June 20 to 24. There is a full slate of delegates and one youth from UUAA attending Justice GA. They will be choosing one Congregational Study / Action Issue (CSAI) of the five we voted on in our January Congregational meeting.



The DCT will hold a pre-GA forum on Sunday, June 10, after service in the Fahs Chapel to review the CSAI's, Doctrine of Discovery and by-law changes. All are invited to attend.

There will be live streaming of Justice GA available. Here is the link to see all sessions that will be covered <http://uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>, so you can watch from home.

The DCT will live stream the Ware Lecture by Maria Hinojosa on Saturday, June 24 at 8:00pm in

the Fahs Chapel. Please come and experience a little of what being at GA is like with fellow UUAU's.

There will be a post-GA debriefing meeting on Thursday, June 28 in the Social Hall. Come share what Justice GA meant to you whether you went to Phoenix, watched live streaming or attended the Ware Lecture.

Please stop by the DCT table in the Social Hall to pick up information on GA and let us know if you plan to go to Phoenix.

Ann Arbor Parade * July 4



Unite with UUAU "Standing On the Side of Love" in the Ann Arbor 4th of July Parade.

Interweave and the Social Justice Council invite UUAU members and friends to participate as an organization in Ann Arbor's 4th of July Parade sponsored by the Ann Arbor Jaycees. Everyone is welcome to partake in the fun. Look for more details during the month of June in the Sunday bulletin and the Social Hall. For more information, please contact Joan Burleigh at 734-369-4992 or joburleigh@aol.com.

2012 Men's Retreat * September 28-30

Save the date for this year's Men's Retreat. It will be September 28 through 30 at the Judson Collins Center in Onsted, MI (about an hour southwest of Ann Arbor). Last year, 53 men participated in fellowship, discussions and recreation. This year's program promises to be another opportunity to make new friends and grow spiritually. Stay tuned for more information.

New Members

Ann Brennan

My husband Karl, our children Joe and Katie and I moved to Ann Arbor in 2006. I started to bring the kids here in 2007 and as the years have gone by I have felt more and more at home here at UUAU.

My professional background is in business and administration. I have worked as a strategy consultant and in various roles in university administration. After three years at the U-M Residential College, I decided to make a radical career change and go back to school to study exercise physiology. I have always loved sports, training, competition, exercise and good health, though I never knew whether or not I would enjoy the science part, so I took several biology and chemistry courses at Washtenaw Community College, and realized that I love studying science.



My husband and kids are an inspiration to me. Karl is a physicist at U-M and helps Joe and Katie develop their curiosities and interests - especially in science. UUAU fits perfectly with my "lifelong learner" lifestyle, and I am grateful for the opportunity to come here and explore life's big questions with this wonderful community.

Marjorie Bogos



I was born in Ontario, Canada but have been an Ann Arbor resident for over 40 years. I am married to Fin Henk and we live in Scio Township. I have 2 adult children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great

grand children. I am a real estate broker with the Charles Reinhart Company Realtors.

My hobbies are running, inline skating, horse riding and travel. I enjoy adventures of any kind...

Founders' Day Picnic Thank You

A Special Thank you to 2012 UAAA Founders' Day Picnic Volunteers

This year's Founders' Day Picnic was a great success. Never have we fed so many, so quickly, with nary a glitch. Thank you to those wonderful helpers who so attentively served lunch and provided activities for the day. If you see our picnic volunteers, give them a hearty thanks: Cathy and Mike Muha, Anne Ramsey, Nancy Harter, John Preston, Lisa Lemble, Sara Mathews, Beverly Fish, Alma King, Ingrid Gunderson and Lori Fithian.



Ways YouUU Can Help

Are you looking for a way to meaningfully contribute to the congregation but have very little time?

The Social Hour Team is looking for coffee makers. This is a once a month commitment and takes place half an hour before Worship Service. This volunteer position doesn't take a lot of time, is easy, and provides a much needed and appreciated service to the congregation.

If you are interested, please contact Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuaa.org or by calling 734-665-6158, x136.

Arts & Aesthetics Committee Looking for artists

The Arts & Aesthetics Committee is looking for artists and craftspeople who would like to display their works in our building. We are now accepting submissions to show in the UAAA hall gallery.



The committee is also in need of additional members. Artists, craftspeople and art lovers will enjoy being a part of our lively group, helping to put together and hang shows and helping ensure the continued high aesthetics of our building's interior spaces.

Please contact Vivian Wilson at 734-434-5581 or Ethel Potts at 734-662-3833 for more information.

Office News

Building and Office Hours:

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm
Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm
Fridays, CLOSED
Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone: 734-665-6158
Fax: 734-665-7895
General Email: office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UAAA:

The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news and program notices for inclusion in UAAA's Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Submissions should be sent to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news and program notices for inclusion in UAAA's Monthly Newsletter is 9:00am on the 21st of each month. Submissions should be sent to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes for the website, www.uuaa.org, to websiteupdate@uuaa.org.

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org
Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org
Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org
Arthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

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