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March Newsletter

March 1, 2012 - Vol 3, Issue 3

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Worship in March

Services and classes for children are at 9:30am and 11:30am.

March 4, 2012

The Reverend Mark Evens
"The Joys of Secularism"

Sociologist Max Weber said early in the last century, "the fate of our times is characterized by rationalization and intellectualization and, above all, by the 'disenchantment of the world.'" William Connolly said in 1991, "Non-theistic reverence for life remains to be cultivated." Wrestling with the recent book "The Joys of Secularism, we will ask, "What does secularism mean in the context of Unitarian Universalism today?"

March 11, 2012

The Reverend Gail R. Geisenhainer,
"Loving the Questions"

Looking for the clear answers? Plagued by judgmental attitudes, blaming others for your suffering and anguish? Wholeness, connection, depth and meaning are all possible benefits of the disciplines of doubt.

March 18, 2012

The Reverend Gail R. Geisenhainer, pulpit host

Guest Preacher, Hanan Watson,
2011 Sermon Contest winner with UU's for Justice in the Middle East.
"Waking up to Shatter the Silence"

The contest topic was: Why are UU congregations reluctant to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and how can they overcome this reluctance to help our faith community contribute more meaningfully to the cause of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians?

BIO: Hanan Watson is a member of All Souls Church in New York City. She currently serves as a Lay Pastoral Associate and a facilitator of Small Group Ministry. Previously she led the Peace and Justice Task Force of All Souls. She is past Chair of, and continues to serve on, the Board of Just Vision -- a nonprofit organization, which works to ensure that Palestinian

and Israeli civic leaders are not only taken seriously as partners in the quest for peace, but are also more visible, valued and influential in their efforts. She has a BA and MA from the American University of Beirut and has been living in New York City since 1966.

March 25, 2012

The Reverend Mark Evens
"Standing at the Edge of the Finite"

Man does not live by bread alone says Deuteronomy 8:3 and Mathew 4:4. Whether one walks the path of life with or without a companionable God, we each need to know we are here for more than breakfast, lunch and dinner. We must find a way to fall in love with the world we live in and the life that leads us onwards.

Gleanings

Reflections from Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



What would you ask the President of the UUA if you had a chance to greet him face to face, shake his hand, and welcome him to Ann Arbor?

Would you ask him about immigration policy and the work of the very unique Social Justice General Assembly this June in Phoenix, AZ? Would you ask him about the UUA's strategic plan for the future, about plans to sell the UUA offices at 25 Beacon Street in Boston? Would you want to hear about his conversations with the President of the UCC's (United Church of Christ) or his plans to merge UUA Districts into larger regions?

Or maybe you have a response to his recent article "Congregations and Beyond." (<http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/officers/president/moralespeter/192145.shtml>) What would you say to the President of the UUA if you could shake his hand and greet him face to face? Or, rather, what WILL you say?

The Reverend Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations will be preaching in our pulpit, here in Ann Arbor, Sunday, May 06, 2012.

There is so much happening in preparation for the 2012 Justice GA, so much going on with the UUA Board of Trustees (http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/192287.shtml?utm_source=n).

I hope many of us will refine our questions and prepare for conversations with President Morales. Keep an eye on notices from our Denominational Connections Team for further info on Rev. Morales' visit. And join us for worship, Sunday, May 06, to hear Peter preaching.

As I write this note, Celeste and I are traveling in California. We are taking time to visit family we haven't seen in over 12 years (fun!) and meeting with colleagues for various coaching and connection conversations. And we are winding our way to Santa Barbara for the Annual Retreat and workshops with the Smoluuc group..., that's not a shell fish, that's Senior Ministers of Large U.U. Congregations. This is my central continuing education and collegial connection event each year. Our workshop is with church consultant, Gary McIntosh, who will focus on leadership development. I'm responsible for one of our worship services. Lots to learn and lots to share.

My love to each, Rev. Gail

A Note from Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister



I shared these same basic thoughts introducing Maria during worship on February 19th, but many of you were away for winter break activities, and this news is important enough that I think it bears presenting twice.

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you Maria Thomas, our newest staff member. But first I want to provide a bit of context.

In the wake of the leave of absence and then departure of Rev. Nancy Shaffer due to health reasons starting in early June of last year, we needed to reconfigure our staffing. Sandy Garges, who had been serving as a program assistant, stepped up to be our Director of Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD). Debbie Golden, who had originally agreed to manage the summer program, was able to stay on as a part-time program assistant. Together with the Children and Youth committee, our other dedicated SGD staff, and our crews of dedicated volunteer teachers, this team, with Rev. Gail's support, kept our Sunday morning classroom program on track and moving forward. They have done great work these past eight months.

This was a great start to the transition, but we knew we needed more. Now, within the same basic program budget, we have been able to add Maria Thomas in a new full-time position, titled Programs Coordinator.

Maria will primarily support our Spiritual Growth and Development program. But we kept her job title broader than that. As the SGD program is placed on a more secure administrative foundation, Maria will also begin to provide some administrative support to other program areas and the ministers. We want to better integrate all the different areas of programming within the church. Maria will help us get started with this.

Maria comes to us with an extensive background in social work. She has significant administrative experience in both business and non-profit settings. She has written a book and a number of grants. She has editing and visual design experience.

Our hiring team (comprised of Gretchen Jackson, Becky Hoort, Sandy Garges, and myself) was impressed with her warmth, poise, centeredness and maturity.

Maria started work on Monday February 13th. She will be with us Sunday mornings, and have regular office hours Monday through Thursday.

We look forward to her contributions supporting the SGD program. And we look forward to the help she will provide to our lay leaders and staff in their work supporting the many groups that connect us to each other and to the life and work of the congregation.

Welcome Maria!

Spiritual Growth and Development News

Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development

First and foremost I would like to welcome Maria Thomas to her new role as Programs Coordinator. Over the coming months Maria will be working closely with the Spiritual Growth and Development program in an administrative role. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Maria when you have a chance and welcome her to UUAU.

This year's Teacher Appreciation Brunch is right around the corner! Please mark your calendars now for Sunday, April 15. If you are a volunteer in the SGD program this year, plan to attend a brunch in your honor between services. Others will be invited to take advantage of this opportunity to thank our many dedicated volunteers. If you would like to help with this event in any way, be it with food preparation, decorations, or by offering to share another talent, your participation is welcome.

With care,

Sandy Garges
 Director of Spiritual Growth and Development



Pastoral Care News

Meredith Ley, Pastoral Care Program Coordinator



The February newsletter highlighted the new service of providing each of you 24 hour 7days a week access to pastoral care. This service is only one way we are providing a connection to a minister or a caring member of the pastoral care team. We want each of you to feel a part of our caring and compassionate community.

When should I call pastoral care?

- When someone is confined at home.
- When there are family or personal problems.
- When drinking, drug use or any compulsive behavior is a problem.
- When a loved one dies.
- When undergoing treatment for cancer or other medical problems.
- When disability is a way of life.
- When experiencing a loss due to death, aging or other issues.
- When someone is hospitalized for surgery or after an accident or illness.
- When you just want to talk to someone.
- When you want to attend a senior lunch or join one our support groups.

Often times I hear "I don't need help" or "I will do it myself". Many of us have difficulty asking for help. Please accept our support by asking!

The Business of Church Thom Bales, Executive Director

Our church raises approximately \$40,000 annually thru rental of our facilities. In addition to numerous one-time events, such as birthday parties, weddings, and meetings, we maintain a number of ongoing partnerships with community organizations. Here is a list of our current partners who routinely use our building:

A2 Russian School offers programming on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings at UUAA to all people who want to keep up or improve their knowledge of the Russian language and literature, as well as those who wish to learn about the Russian history, culture and customs. Classes are held in groups of five to ten, with children who are close in age and Russian language proficiency. While the focus is on teaching the Russian language and literature, they also teach math, sciences and arts, as well as seminars in Russian history, drama workshops and, last but not least, lessons and



conversation groups in Russian as a foreign language for children and adults. You can learn more about the A2 Russian School at <http://www.russianabc.org/TeachersEn.html>.

Alcoholics Anonymous® (AA) is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. Two AA groups meet at UUAU. You can learn more about AA at <http://www.aa.org>.

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havarah hosts its annual High Holiday services and programming at UUAU. For more information, go to - <http://www.aarecon.org>.

BNI is the largest business networking organization in the world, offering members the opportunity to share ideas, contacts and most importantly, business referrals. BNI meets most Tuesday mornings at UUAU. For more information, go to - <http://www.bni.com/>.

Ele's Place is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to creating awareness of and support for grieving children and their families. Through peer support group programs, Ele's Place helps children to cope with the death or life-threatening illness of a parent, sibling or other close family member or friend. Ele's Place meet at UUAU on Mondays and Tuesday evenings. Check them out at <http://www.elsesplace.org/about-us>.

United Nations Association, Huron Valley Chapter is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating, inspiring and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations, strengthening the United Nations system, promoting constructive United States leadership in that system, and achievement of the goals of the UN Charter. They meet monthly at UUAU and sponsor activities and educational projects to support the UN and its programs. To learn more, go to <http://www.unahv.org/>.

Veterans for Peace is a national organization founded in 1985 that seeks to increase public awareness of the costs of war, restrain our government from intervening in the affairs of other nations, and work to reduce the arms race and abolish war as an instrument of international policy. Chapter meetings are held at UUAU. For more information - www.vfpmichigan.org.

If you happen to meet folks from any of these wonderful guests at UUAU, I hope you will thank them for choosing our facilities.

Good Bye

Rev. Andrew Webber, Lead YRUU Advisor

Parting is such sweet sorrow...

Dear members and friends of UUAU! I am writing to you to say "good bye". My path is leading me away from this congregation.

I am in the process of searching for a full-time ministry position. I have been the Lead Youth Advisor for two and a half years now, and I intend on staying on in that role through springtime.

As with many aspects of life, the specifics of my future are not yet known, but what I do know is that you will always be a part of my ministry. This parting is sweet because of fond memories and the opportunity to share new experiences with old friends. We have both touched each other deeply and will bring what we learned and how we grow into the larger community. So I give my thanks to you: thank you for being a great congregation that is able to have loving relationships through all aspects of life; thank you for ordaining a newly "minted" minister into the Unitarian Universalist ministry; thank you for the years of sustaining and challenge; and especially thanks to the YRUU, who are a group of amazing, talented, challenging and rewarding people. My ministry will always be informed by my interactions with the YRUU at UUAU. You'll still see me at church this



spring, continuing my work with the youth and teaching another adult spiritual growth and development course. We have many more opportunities to interact and/or meet!

I remain yours in faith, Rev. Andrew L. Weber.

Events and News

Adult T'ai Chi * March 4

Spiritual Growth and Development Adult Education is offering an adult T'ai Chi as moving meditation class.

This class is an opportunity to explore T'ai Chi as a means of meditation. The slow, continuous, gentle movements of traditional t'ai chi provide a focus for both mental and physical attention.

This class is based on those movements and the principles behind them, with an emphasis on creating one's own quiet, internal, meditative space. As with all forms of meditation, this calls for concentration and patience with oneself, but the movements are gentle and can be adapted to many levels of health and fitness. In addition to serving as a meditative practice, the movements of T'ai Chi may improve balance and strengthen postural muscles.

No special equipment is needed, but please wear comfortable shoes.

Classes will meet on Sundays from 4:00- 5:30pm beginning Sunday, March 4. This is a 12-week course.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Stuart Eddy at saltemail@fastmail.net.

Alpha House Host Week, Thank UU * March 4



We are pleased to have successfully completed our February Host Week at Alpha House. Our volunteers helped provide and serve meals, supervise children activities, and stayed overnight at the shelter. We also purchased close to \$450 in supplies for the shelter.

The volunteers this time included: Angela Barber, Amy Creten, Ann Brennan and family, Beth Hospadaruk, Bev Todd, Bob Hospadaruk, Bob Treadway, Brandy Sinco, Bridget Laundra and Greg Meier, Bruce & Chantelle Shields, Carol Cramer and Thomas Longworth, Carol Girata, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, Cathy and Mike Muha, Cheryl and Vey Valentine, Colleen Crawley, Constance Bridge, David and Holly Tumbarello, Deana Shields, Debbie Kufra, Dee Dishon, Denise

Kearns and James Biller, Diane Fead, Dottie Mueller, Edward and Patrick Norton, Eileen Rogers, Fran Dew, Gregg Peterson, Hal and Cathie Breidenbach, Janet Duncan, JoAnne Diehl, Jonena Jones and Ginny Creasman, Joyce Budai, Joyce Phillips, Judy Slater, Justin and Melissa Villanueva, Karen Spangler, Kate Burkhardt, Katie Graves, Lara Brown and family, Lisa Goodson, Lisa Prosser, Lukas and Audra Eddy, Margaret Flannery, Marilyn Tripp, Mark Van Kempen, Mary Ann Morris, Mary Locey and family, Mary Lynn Stevens, Meaghan Foley, Melanie Dever and family, Michelle and James Dunnum, Monica Cochran, Nanna Fecteau, Pauline Loewenhardt, Rennee and Eric Pesheck, Rheilly Cole, Richard and Amy Telgen, Robyn Schmidt, Ryan Dybdahl, Sandy Breck, Sandy Eyl, Sandy Simon, Sharon St Mary, Shelley and Tom Stoll, Stuart and Ryan Downing, Sue Tons, Syndallas Baughman, Terri and Spencer Wilkerson, Terry Butcher, Tim Richards, Tim Whittemore, Tricia Smith, Varsha Venkatesh, and Vickey Williams. Thanks to all of them!

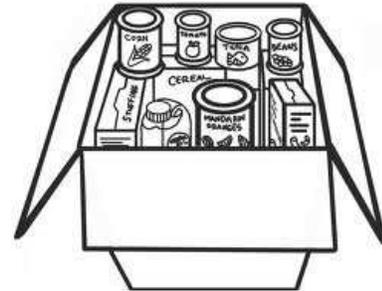
There will be an opportunity to debrief on our host week work on Sunday, March 4 from 10:30-11:15am in the Jackson Chapel. Volunteers and interested congregants are welcome to learn from each other and provide feedback to the committee.

Our mission at Alpha House is to show how we can nurture our spirit while helping heal the world. If you'd like to be involved, please contact one of the members of the Alpha House coordinating committee: Angela Barber, Beverly Fish, Cheryl Valentine, Dee Dishon, Liz Gerber, Sally Preston, Tim Whittemore, Vey Valentine, Vilma Mesa, and Pat Herbst. Or, write to Pat Herbst at pg Herbst@umich.edu.

Food Gatherers Farm Project * March 4

Food Gatherers has challenged UUAU and the Mindful Eating Coalition to help with an important project - providing work assistance on a nearby farm that supplies 1,200 pounds of produce to Food Gatherers annually.

The farmer is ill and can't tend his land and we can't let this critical food supply slip away. There are many opportunities- from ongoing labor to one-time watering assignments. Missy Orge, the Chief Program Officer of Food Gatherers, will explain how you, and perhaps your small group, can participate.



The forum will take place in the Fahs Chapel on Sunday, March 4 from 10:40 to 11:20 am.

Goodie Basket * March 4

Each Spiritual Growth and Development classroom will create a basket of goodies to be auctioned off at the PUUre Michigan goods and services auction on March 24. Collection baskets will be available outside the classrooms each Sunday starting on March 4. Basket themes will be posted in the classrooms and also emailed in the parent SGD weekly letter. Please consider donating items to your children's classroom baskets! Questions? Please contact Susie Dice at dicebauer@gmail.com or Sandy Garges at Sandy@uuuaa.org.

Senior Potluck Lunch and Bingo * March 5

We hope you are ready for another great senior lunch. We meet from noon to 1:30pm. Bread, basic salad and drinks will be provided, the rest will be potluck. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share with others. If you are unable to bring food- that is okay. We are asking that you join us.

There will be Bingo and prizes for the winners. 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. This event will be hosted by the Thursday afternoon chalice circle. Call the church office at 734-665-6158 or stop by the Pastoral Care table in Social Hall. Please join us.

Readers' Theater Class * Starts March 7



William Shakespeare
(1564-1616)

Readers' Theater: *Julius Caesar* (Reading and Acting with a Script).

Come join us for a fun time reading and acting with the script William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in plain English. We will read, perform, and discuss one Act of the play per class session. Parts will change from one Act to the next and will be selected by drawing characters from a hat. No costumes or scenery necessary.

The performance of each act will be by and for the members of the class. Class sessions are from 10:00am to noon on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4. Terry Madden will facilitate the class.

To register, email Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com and sign up at the UUAA Spiritual Growth & Development Adult Education site.

Five Questions Class * Starts March 8

Adult Spiritual Growth and Development is offering a *Five Questions* class. Join fellow seekers in a class facilitated by Rev. Andrew Weber focused on a theological process of discovery and growth.

This class will lead participants through the following questions:

- What does it mean to be human?
- How do I know what I know?
- Who or what is in charge?
- What is the purpose of in life?
- What is the meaning of death?

This class is sure to be filled with discovery and inspiration, and as such requires some work. There will be about 1 hour of "homework" each week and regular attendance is highly recommended.

Members, visitors and friends all welcome. Class will meet for six sessions from March 8 to April 12 at 7:00-9:00pm. Registration is limited to 12 participants. Please contact Andrew at andrew@uuuaa.org for questions or to register.

Land Steward Volunteer Appreciation Dinner * March 8

Help thank our gardeners & woodsy folk at a Land Steward appreciation dinner, catered by the Chalice Circle. Come dish the dirt: Who will garden where? Quick is a no-budget "curb appeal" possible? What are the "paths" to saving \$4000/year?



We will meet at 6:30pm in the Social Hall. Please RSVP to John Erdevig at jerdevig@comcast.net.

Round Robin Dinner * March 9

Join small adult dinner groups for an evening of getting acquainted or reacquainted. Our next Round Robin dinner will be on Friday, March 9. Please let us know by Wednesday, March 2 if you are interested in participating. For more information, contact Sally or John Preston at 734- 475-3812 or dinner@pctraining.net.

Active Dreaming Class * March 11

"Dreaming isn't just what happens during sleep; dreaming is waking up to sources of guidance, healing and creativity beyond the reach of the everyday mind. Our lives become richer and juicier when we learn to become active dreamers", Robert Moss

Active Dreaming, created by Robert Moss, combines the best of modern dream work with powerful shamanic techniques. It provides powerful tools for understanding and exploring dreams, for embarking on conscious dream journeys, and for bringing the energy and insight of dreams into waking life.

It is not only about understanding sleep experiences but the whole spectrum of dreaming and visionary experiences including the symbols of waking life.

For more information or to RSVP contact Julie Tumbarello at jatumbarello@yahoo.com or 734-478-0160. Class meets in the Jackson Chapel from 3:00 to 5:00pm.

Arab and Jewish Youth Book Display * March 18

The Challenging Racism Group and the Sunderland Library Committee will present a display of Arab and Jewish youth books, for ages 3-15, during Social Hour on March 18 at tables near the QUWest Book Store.



A bibliography will be available and a member of the committee will be on hand to discuss how the plots relate to UU principles. If you have questions please contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu.

Interweave Meeting * March 20



Interweave will meet in the Social Hall for a potluck that starts at 6:15pm. Bring a dish or a beverage to share. As we become more aware of the food allergies of folks attending our meetings, we ask everyone to label their contribution with a list of the ingredients. Cooks who prepare a dish that is gluten or lactose free are very much appreciated.

Feel free to join us for the program only.

This month's program includes showing the film *Fences* at 7:00 pm. Affirmations Director, Dave Garcia shares of his own fight against discrimination of LGBT people in Michigan. Dave was fired from Grand Blanc Public Schools because of the lack of protection based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the Michigan Civil Rights law, the Elliot Larsen Act. The LGBT community has been urging an amendment to this law for two decades.

Come to view the film and discuss what we can do to stop this from happening in the future. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Roylea Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com or Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.

Women's Breakfast * March 24

Our women's breakfast provides an opportunity for women of the congregation to gather in a smaller group setting to share a meal and get to know one another. We meet on the 4th Saturday of the month from 8:15am until 10:00. Please join us at our new meeting place: Classic Cup Cafe at 4389 Jackson Road in Ann Arbor, 734-662-4411. It is on the south side of Jackson Road, west of Wagner Road. For questions, contact Diane McCarthy at diane_mccarthy@sbcglobal.net or 734-975-6888. Please join us.

2012 PUUre Michigan Goods and Services Auction * March 24

What is a sure sign of Spring in Michigan? Robins begin migrating north in March. Opening Day at Comerica Park is in April. Apple Blossoms bloom later in May. The Petoskey Stone doesn't do much, but is more pleasant to look for as the weather warms.

You may ask what Robins, Apple Blossoms, Detroit Tigers and Petoskey stones have in common? All are symbols of Michigan.

If you want to celebrate the dawn of Spring early (or, even if you really wish you were in Florida, but want an evening out), please come to the church's annual Goods and Services auction on March 24 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The auction's theme this year is "PUUre Michigan". The evening will be catered by the Moveable Feast, and features a cash bar. Entertainment will be provided by Maggie's Standard Time Band, Jennifer Marshall, Allison Halerz, Brandy Sinco and Jim Morningstar.



The auction features a diverse array of items donated by members and friends of the church. In the past, these donations have included themed dinners, tickets to sports events, stays in cottages, and

delicious foods and desserts prepared by donors. In addition to the food, drink and entertainment described above this year we have door prizes!. There will also be free child care during for the duration of the auction.

Join us wearing your favorite shirt celebrating a Michigan get-a-way or sports team, or just come as you are. Bring a guest. All Michiganders and visitors (i.e. everyone) are welcome.

We have a table in the Social Hall where you can find out more about the auction, sign up to volunteer, or, perhaps, donate an item. If you would like to volunteer, donate or simply learn more, please contact Jim Gallas (jagallas@comcast.net) or Thom Bales (Thom@uuaa.org).

Tickets will again be \$25 at the door and \$20 when purchased ahead of time. Volunteers will receive a \$5 discount this year! Please watch for more information regarding ticket sales and the Auction...at UUAA and on the website (www.uuaa.org ...click on Auction).

One Time Chalice Circle Continuing * April 1

A One Time Chalice Circle is a great opportunity to learn what chalice circles are all about or just a nice way to meet some new people or be with old friends. The session will be start following the second service from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Brown Room. The topic of discussion in April will be "Celebrating Diversity". So come join us. You can email Royla at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com or sign up in social hall beginning March 4. We look forward to seeing you there!



Spring Meditation Class * April 4

What does Emerson have to tell UUs about meditation? Something quite important! Six weeks of introductory classes meet Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm, beginning April 4 through May 9.

The class will enable members to develop and sustain their own practice of meditation. Members experience a process of discovery supported by readings on Buddhist meditation in the 21st century. Each session will include group meditation.

To RSVP or for a syllabus, contact Charley Burleigh at chburleigh@aol.com.

Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, Wear Cows * April 15

Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism.

The Mindful Eating Coalition presents author and social psychologist Dr. Melanie Joy, speaks about her acclaimed book of the same name. The presentation will take place on Sunday, April 15 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary.



In her captivating slide show, Dr. Joy explains carnism, the invisible belief system that shapes our perception of the meat we eat, so that we love some animals and eat others without knowing why. Dr. Joy, a longtime activist for social and environmental justice and animal welfare, explains how carnism, like other unjust ideologies, is sustained by complex, hidden social and psychological mechanisms, and it is most harmful when unrecognized. Using powerful imagery, thought-provoking analyses, and a compelling narrative, Dr. Joy elucidates how, although unjust ideologies (racism, sexism, ableism, carnism, etc.) all are unique, the mentality that enables such interlocking systems is strikingly similar. When unnoticed, these ideologies can cause us to act against our core values, our own interests, and the interests of others.

By illuminating carnism, Dr. Joy helps us become more empowered citizens and more active social witnesses. Audiences appreciate her accessible, engaging and levelheaded approach, regardless of their dietary choices.

Parental/guardian discretion is advised for younger attendees. Dr. Melanie Joy is a Harvard-educated psychologist and professor of psychology and sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Dr. Joy has written articles on psychology, animal protection, and social justice, as well as the acclaimed *Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism, and Strategic Action for Animals*.

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** allenr@ewashtenaw.org or **Celeste DeRoche** celestederoche@gmail.com.

Heartland District Assembly 2012 information:

If you are attending the Heartland District Assembly at Lansing Community College on March 30 - 31, the Denominational Connections Team would like to hear from you. Please send notification to Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed. Below is link for more information on the Heartland District Assembly:

http://www.heartlanduu.org/Annual_Meeting_Pages/assembly_home.html



General Assembly (GA) will be in Phoenix, Arizona on June 20-24. At last year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Minneapolis, delegates overwhelmingly passed a business resolution to dedicate the 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix to "witnessing on immigration, racial, and economic justice." The business resolution was passed in response to Arizona's anti-illegal immigration law SB 1070, which had inspired calls for the UUA to boycott the state. The resolution states also that the 2012 GA will include a minimum of official business. If you would like to provide support for GA with the donation of frequent flyer miles or money please contact Kathy McLean at jdkamclean@comcast.net. If you plan on attending Justice GA please let Roberta Allen know at bert71allen@gmail.com.

Sponsor a Student in the Khasi Hills

Its a brand new school year -- in the Khasi Hills of northeast India. That means, the time has come to sponsor students at the Mawkisyiem Unitarian Primary School, where we have been partnered for over a decade.

The \$50 annual sponsorship helps to supplement teacher salaries, provides a monthly hot meal for the students, underwrites the cost of text books, funds capital improvements to the campus, and delivers a gift to each child and teacher at the end of the school year. In addition, sponsors and students exchange letters once or twice during the year, building bridges of understanding across the globe.

Stop by our table in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings in March to renew your sponsorship or to find out how you can become involved in this transformative project. Watch for an announcement about a spring program about the recent trip several members of the congregation made to the Khasi Hills.

New Members

Hashen Sohtun



I have been coming to this church for about 10 years and I'm excited to be soon an official member.

Michael Hartley

My name is Michael Hartley, and I am a 25-year old graduate from Eastern Michigan University's Earth Science program.

I have been actively involved with the UUAA church during the past year, joining the Chalice Singers and volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and Alpha House. I currently am a volunteer worker with the city of Ann Arbor's Citizen Pruning Program. The program works with the City of Ann Arbor to ensure long-term shape and health of young trees in the city of Ann Arbor, as well as promoting education of proper tree maintenance.



Catherine and David Allen



Catherine: I am a native Michigander. I grew up in Canton and graduated from Salem High School. I studied English at Madonna University. I currently live in Plymouth with my husband David and son, Leif. I like to read, fly kites, and dabble in paper crafts.

David: I also hail from Michigan and I live with Catherine and Leif in Plymouth. I am the Chief Market Analyst for Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and I work out of our Detroit office most days.

Join the Men's Retreat Planning Committee

The 13th Annual Men's Retreat is scheduled for the last weekend in September. And, the planning committee is now forming.

This event is regularly attended by 65 men, ranging from men in their 30's to 80's, affiliated with the UUAA and guests. It's sponsored by the Men's Council.

Ask a man who has attended - he will usually say he had a great time and looks forward to the next one!

Consider joining a dynamic, hard-working, good-time-friendly group of men forming to develop this annual retreat. We will be meeting soon for organizational planning. Our site is secure for the dates of September 28-30. It's at the same location as last year - Judson Collin's Camp on Wampler's lake in the Irish Hills.

We schedule our meetings to accommodate the members of the committee. If you are interested in helping develop our retreat, please send an e-mail message to the chair of the retreat planning committee, Steven Camron at: Steven.Cameron@gmail.com.

Office News

Office Orientation:

Have you ever wondered how the church office team operates? Has the copier had you stumped? Did you know that there is a fax available to the congregation? All are invited to an office orientation on Tuesday, March 13 from 5:30-6:30pm. Learn about the operating of this well oiled machine and see how we can team up to help your small group use the office equipment to it's fullest.

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 UUAA:

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

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news and program notices for inclusion in UUAA's **Monthly Newsletter** is 5:00pm on the 21st of each month. Submissions should be sent to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Updates to UUAA's website are made each Thursday. Lay and staff program leaders may submit editorial updates to website@uuaa.org.

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org
Debby Casamatta, Interim Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org
Pam Gibney, Evening Building Attendant, pam@uuaa.org
Arthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

We currently have an opening on our team for part time Weekend Building Attendant. For details, go to www.uuaa.org.

**Please Note: Daylight Savings begins on Sunday, March 11.
Spring your clock forward one hour.**



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