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March Newsletter

March 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 3

Worship @ UUAA

Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Heartland District](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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

March 3, 2013

"In Nothing We Trust"
Rev. Mark Evens

Our trust in institutions that form the fabric of our society has declined significantly in recent years. How do our Unitarian Universalist heritage and values call us to respond?

March 10, 2013

"Tell Me A Story"
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Whether you prefer "Once Upon A Time," or "Just the Facts, Ma'am," we all make meaning with the stories we tell. Is it possible to break loose from the mesmerizing quality of bad news stories and sing a song of gladness?

March 17, 2013

"The Exodus Story"
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Passover requires that the story of Hebrew liberation from slavery in Egypt be told, "you should tell into the ears of your children and grandchildren," not just read. Why? (Exodus 10:2)

March 24, 2013

"Being Ourselves, Changing the World"

Join the YRUU in exploring social justice issues through personal expression.

(YRUU = Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our High School Youth Group)

March 31, 2013

"The Real Story"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

The resurrection of Jesus, rabbits, and new life. It's Easter! There are stories to tell!



From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



In the tiny patch of wet land that abuts our back yard the deer move north to south, south to north. Their ghostly grey blends synchronously with the reeds and weeds of mid-winter. When it becomes cold enough, they will jump the fence, all guileless grace and muscle, and glide over to suck the seeds hanging for the small birds.

The birds don't seem to mind. They flutter off when the deer approach. They settle back as the deer move away. The small birds do, however, mind terribly the abrupt appearances of the Cooper's Hawk. They scatter in a flash when the hawk comes to feed. How on earth the Cardinals survive in winter eludes me utterly. They are so red! So crisply visible against the grey-brown trees and the white of snow.

The ground is silent and snow covered. Winter seems not to move. But the sun has a different tale to tell. The steady pulsing of sunrise shows us to be in constant motion. The light of mornings may have been covered by clouds, whited out by squalls of snow, or rendered feeble by earth's distance from the sun. But it has been there.

Now we have fewer than 30 days until the first day of spring! The relentless promise remains. The wheel of the year is turning. Held in the gravitational embrace of the sun, source of all light, life and energy, we are in motion. The elegant simplicity of winter will fade. The tumult of spring will enter.

May the rhythms of our own days be strengthened and guided by the steadfast turning of the seasons. May we know when to scatter in a flash, when to just flutter to a higher branch. May we each know the warmth of community in winter and the promise of possibility in spring.

My love to each,
Rev. Gail

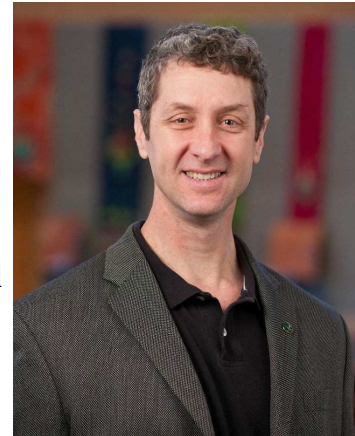


Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

More on Building Trust

You may have noticed that I have a fairly regular habit of offering suggestions in this newsletter column for how groups and individuals in groups can use church experiences to grow and develop. Last month I pointed out some ways that we build trust with each other. Here are some more reminders and an invitation to consider the need for trust in our wider community, which I will explore more fully in my March 3 sermon.



Trust is an essential quality in a healthy community and for a healthy person. We learn and promote trust in a church group when we do simple things like wear our name tags, and have a plan for the meeting whether it's a formal agenda or just a simple routine way of conducting our time together. We promote trust when we listen to each other without interrupting and check with the speaker to be sure we heard accurately what they meant to convey. We promote trust when we make our decisions all together in the open and then follow through on what we decided. We do well often to make a written record of our decisions. We can each review the written record of our decisions and together we can confirm that we are doing what we said we would do, revisit decisions as needed, or make corrections to get back on track when we go astray.

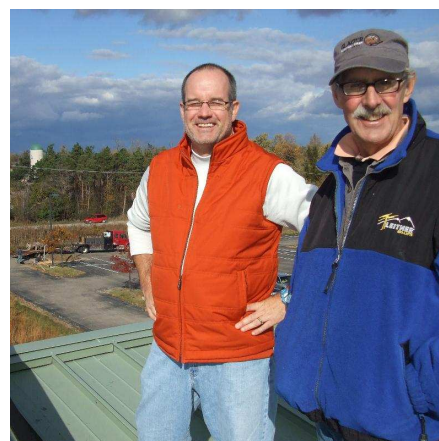
The trust essential to sharing a meaningful life together seems to be growing scarcer in our wider world. A recent Gallup poll shows significant declines in our trust in the Congress, banks, the U. S. Supreme Court, the Presidency, newspapers, public schools, and organized labor. Our life together in this congregation can be a place where we keep alive skills that build trust with each other. Our life together in this congregation can keep alive in our hearts the courage and vision of our forebears so that we can rebuild the many institutions that are now threatened and build new institutions and ways of relating that will meet our needs in future years. How can your participation in our congregational groups help make this so? 🙏

Busines of the Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director

Last year, the Building & Office Team produced a sort of how-to list for the most common member requests we receive in the Church Office. I received a plethora of positive input from UUAA members and friends, who were often unsure how to get things done within our congregation.

With numerous changes afoot, I thought it might be useful to re-publish an updated version of this list for use during the coming year. Please note we maintain this Church Office How-To under "Contact Us" on the uuaa.org home page.



If I want to...	I should first...	And then, if I need help, I should contact this person in the Church Office
Ask a question about my financial pledge or pledge statement.	Note that this year, statements reporting monetary contributions to the church will be emailed to every donor in mid-May and mid-September. A printed contribution record will be mailed to every donor in January 2014.	Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator (734) 665-6158, 104 deborah@uuaa.org
Learn about UUAA's budget and management policies.	Follow this link to the Finance & Policy page on www.uuaa.org : http://uuaa.org/policies . Here you will locate policies related to building & grounds, communications, finance, fundraising, office support and personnel.	Thom Bales, Executive Director (734) 665-6158, 106 thom@uuaa.org
Rent space at UUAA for an event.	Contact the Church Office for details. Plan to provide dates/times/rooms and other needs related to your request. Members receive a once a year discount on a personal rental and nonprofit organizations receive a reduced rate as well.	Church Office (734) 665-6158 office@uuaa.org
Plan a memorial or wedding service at the church	Contact Debby Casamatta in the Church Office for details. Plan to provide dates/times/requested space and other details related to your service.	Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator (734) 665-6158, 104 deborah@uuaa.org
Report a building or maintenance concern.	Email specific details to maintenance@uuaa.org . The Building & Office Team will evaluate reported maintenance issues and act promptly on those posing an immediate health or safety risk. Other issues are handled systematically in accordance with available resources and the current staff and/or strategic plans.	Thom Bales, Executive Director (734) 665-6158, 106 thom@uuaa.org

Request a room for my UUAA group.	Note that there's a new comprehensive room request form that supersedes the previous form. Then, follow this link to complete this revised Congregational Room Request Form: http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e6lj38suh94e0ett/a009hckkp9ez/greeting	Venus Gregory, Building Attendant (734) 665-6158, 101, venus@uuaa.org
Submit a report to be included in this year's annual report.	Email your notice to annualreport@uuaa.org . The deadline to submit program reports for this year's comprehensive report is Monday, April 15, 2013.	Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator (734) 665-6158, 104 deborah@uuaa.org
Submit a notice for the monthly newsletter.	Email your notice to newsletter@uuaa.org . The deadline for each month' edition is the 9:00am on the 21 st of the preceding month.	Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator (734) 665-6158, 104 deborah@uuaa.org
Submit a notice for the weekly bulletin.	Email your notice to bulletin@uuaa.org . The deadline for each week's edition is Wednesday at 5:00pm.	Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator (734) 665-6158, 104 deborah@uuaa.org
Submit an addition, change, deletion or notice for UUAA.org.	Email your notice to webtech@uuaa.org . WebTechs are skilled lay volunteers who work on a rotating schedule to help maintain accurate and relevant content on the church's website.	Thom Bales, Executive Director (734) 665-6158, 106 thom@uuaa.org
Submit an expense payment or reimbursement form.	Pick up a blank Expense/Reimbursement Form located in the Church Office next to the mailboxes. Complete, sign and place in the mailbox of the staff person formally aligned with your activity or group for approval and processing. Attach original receipts to the form.	Thom Bales, Executive Director (734) 665-6158, 106 thom@uuaa.org
View the church's balance sheet and operating fund budget.	Follow this link to the Finance & Policy page on www.uuaa.org : http://uuaa.org/policies .	Thom Bales, Executive Director (734) 665-6158, 106 thom@uuaa.org

Here is the on-duty schedule to use when contacting one of the above named members of the Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director:

Mondays-Thursdays, 8:00am-4:00pm; Sundays, 11:00am-7:00pm

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator:

Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Venus Gregory, Building Attendant:

Thursdays, 5:00-9:00pm; Saturdays-Sundays, 9:00am-2:00pm

[Click here to view or print the Church Office How To](#)



Casting Call

Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development



Sending out a casting call for the April 21 Earth Day play. As part of the multigenerational Earth Day service on Sunday, April 21, the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) program will present *The Gift: a Magical Story about Caring for the Earth* by Isia Osuchowska. The script was adapted by SGD Program Assistant Debra Golden. We are calling on children and youth ages K-8th to participate in this production!

The story focuses on a thank-you gift given by a Queen, which grows into many gifts as cloth and old clothing are made into new and much-needed items. How mindful are we of all we buy and wear? How much do we value our gifts? How do our actions contribute to sustainability?

The play's parts range from large to small speaking roles, to many silent yet active village workers. Cast members will work with props, including quilts and weavings that make this story even more real.

Rehearsals are scheduled as follows:

- Sunday, April 7, 1:15 - 2:15 pm
- Sunday, April 14, 1:15 - 2:15 pm
- Friday, April 19, 4:15 - 5:15 pm
- Sunday, April 21, 8:45 - 9:15 am

Parents and older youth are welcome to join in constructing props, helping with costumes, and being a part of our running crew.

Please contact me via email at sandy@uuua.org if you or a member of your family are interested in participating and describe any desired role. If you wish one of the speaking parts, then Debra would like to read a few lines from the script with you prior to rehearsals in order to best cast the roles.

With care,
Sandy



Growing Together

Debra Golden, Spiritual Growth and Development Program Assistant

This summer we are continuing on last summer's theme of heroes with people from the Bible, some notable UU's including groups from our congregation, and a couple more special religious figures. The program includes plenty of action to keep everyone engaged: play acting, games, as much outdoor time as weather allows, and interactive learning through cooking, building and cartooning. Requirements: must like children, be curious, willing to play, patient, and involved with UUAU for at least one year.



We are looking for teachers for a K-3rd grade group and a 4th -8th grade group. Ideally, we wish to have enough that everyone has the opportunity to lead a class 4 times. We need someone to assist each week, too. Summer schedule runs from May 19 through September 1. Thanks to Tim Farmer who has already tossed his hat in the ring. Patricio Herbst has offered to speak about our heroes in Alpha House.

Guest actors are most welcome, too: biggest hits were lessons with a hero come to life. Could you, would you be our Dr. Seuss? Maybe cook as Fannie Farmer, make tough decisions as wise Solomon, or walk as Buddha? Whatever part you play - teacher, actor, assistant- we welcome you!

In joy and peace and gratitude,
Debra



SGD Classes Collect for Auction



This year each classroom will help create a basket of goodies to be auctioned off on March 16 at the Goods and Services Auction. If you are able, please consider making a contribution to one or more of the baskets. Bring your donations in on Sundays March 3 or March 10. The classroom themes this year are as follows:

Nursery - **Welcome Baby!** - Create a baby shower gift basket including anything baby will need.

Preschool -- **Family Games and Puzzles** - Games and puzzles for the whole family.

K/1 - **Fun In The Garden** - Garden-themed donations, such as garden gloves or seeds.

2/3 - **Fun In The Sun** - Things to do in the sun - for example: sand toys or bubbles.

4/5 - **Things To Do On A Rainy Day** - Crafts and activities to keep children busy on a rainy day.

6th grade - **Everything Ann Arbor** - All things Ann Arbor: such as a book by a local author.

7th grade - **Ethical Eating** - Things related to ethical eating: such as recipes, market basket, food items, or gift cards.

8th grade - **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** - Anything related to the reduce, reuse, recycle theme.

9th grade - **Relaxation** - Anything that makes you relax, for example: yoga supplies, cool music, bubble bath or a good book.

YRUU - **Community** - Anything related to community be it tangible or service, store bought, made, or found.

Donations will be accepted in collection bins located near the entrance to each classroom on Sundays March 3 and March 10. If you have any questions, e-mail Sandy Garges at sandy@uuua.org.

We are also collecting nice baskets or boxes for each classroom's donated items. If you have a basket or box to donate which could be used to collect the items and then auctioned off with the items, please let Sandy know that, too.



Activities and Events

Game Day for Everyone * March 3

We will play between 1:00 to 4:00pm on Sunday, March 3 in the Fahs Chapel. Join us for a potluck lunch and bring a dish to share - or just come join us if you forget.

Stop by for a friendly board or card game. We plan to have fun for all ages and stages. There will be many games to choose from. You are welcome to bring a favorite to be sure it is there or to introduce it to others.

If you have any questions contact Robin Hawman at 734-207-1762 or robin_n_alex@yahoo.com.



Senior Luncheon * March 4

We are looking forward to another great Senior Luncheon. Join us in the Social Hall from noon to 1:30pm on Monday, March 4. We will provide the drinks; lunch will be delicious potluck dishes. We'll then enjoy an open-table discussion of our most treasured moments as UUs.

If you can't bring a dish to share, that's okay. Everyone is welcome to partake of the meal and enjoy the company of long-time friends. If you are unable to drive, please let us know and we will make every effort to arrange transportation.



This event is hosted by the Thursday afternoon Chalice Circle. For questions, call the Church Office at 734-665-6158, ext. 118, or stop by the Pastoral Care table in the Social Hall. 

Senior Dinner Out * March 6

Come join us for Senior Dinner on the first Wednesday of every month. We will meet at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 6 at the Gourmet Garden Chinese restaurant on Stadium, in Ann Arbor. Good food, lots of conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere.


Call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349, if you have any questions. 

Introduction to OUUr Faith * March 9

This class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for both newcomers and long-time members. The class will be held from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Taught by UUAA ministers with assistance from lay members of the congregation, topics include: history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, how this congregation is governed, how to get involved at UUAA, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.



Sign up by Sunday, March 3. A minimum of 8 participants is needed to run the class and there is a maximum of 20. Registration forms are available at the Involvement table in the Social Hall and in the front entrance literature rack. You can also register at [www.uuaa.org/FindingCommunity/Becoming a member](http://www.uuaa.org/FindingCommunity/Becoming%20a%20member). If you are not able to make this date, the next Intro to Our Faith will be held on April 27.

Childcare is provided if we have sufficient numbers interested. Childcare requests must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the class. If you have any questions or need help registering, contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 734- 665-6158 or at hannah@uuaa.org. 

Folk Song Jam Along * March 9

Come join us for this month's Folk Song Jam Along from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Jackson Chapel. Bring your voices and your acoustic instruments and come sing and play. Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski will be leading this family-friendly circle with fun and familiar tunes...folk, pop, hymns, chants, rounds, and more.

Lyrics will be put up on screen with chords for the strummers, too. Come play. If you have any favorites you like to sing - send your suggestions to jeanca2@mac.com and lorifithian@mac.com.



Invite your friends to come and join in the fun - it's open to the whole community. Help spread the word.

Need more info? Contact lorifithian@mac.com or 734-426-7818.



Our Land for Worship Forum * March 10

The Our Land for Worship team would like to invite you to a forum on land stewarding between the Worship Services on Sunday, March 10, from 10:45 to 11:15am. We will discuss what land stewarding is and why it is important, what we do, and how we are organized and supported. We will also address how you can become involved.

Those who have been or are stewarding will be at the forum for discussion. If you are interested in finding out more about stewarding, but are unable to attend, please contact John Seeley at jaseeley@aol.com or signup at the Our Land for Worship table in the Social Hall.



Book Discussion * March 10 & 17



Challenging Racism invites you to discuss Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* from a theological perspective with Reverend Mark. We will meet for two sequential discussions on Sundays, March 10 and March 17 from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Jackson Chapel. Register at the Social Justice or QUUest Bookstore tables, or contact Lucia Heinold at Heinoldcia@aol.com.



2013 Goods and Services Auction * March 16

The UUAU Goods and Services Auction is set for St. Patrick's Day eve, March 16, at the Church. Our theme will be "Irish Blessings".

Originally scheduled from 4:00 to 7:00pm, this year we have decided to reward early birds by opening the doors a bit early - at 3:30pm. So, come early and catch a worm (or perhaps a more desirable item).



There are already a number of donated items that will be up for bid on March 16. These include: dinner parties hosted by congregation members, "Up North" cottage stays, and tickets to a Broadway show. Some of these items are highlighted on the Auction banner. Others will soon be listed on the website at www.uuaa.org/auction.

The Goods and Services Auction itself will be an evening filled with fun and joviality. Small plates will be catered by the Moveable Feast. Wine, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks will be available at cash bars. The musical entertainment will be provided by singer Marsha Gayle, pianists Allison Halerz and Brandy Sinco, and the Iridescent Flute Trio. Announcements and



perhaps a few jokes, will be provided by Ken Clein. In addition, the Goods and Services Auction will feature free child care, a 50/50 raffle, and \$400 in door prizes.

Stop by the Goods and Services Auction table in the Social Hall as we sell tickets, take donations, recruit volunteers, and chat about the event. If you'd like to learn more or research your options virtually - stop by our section of church's website at www.uuaa.org/auction.

"May the sound of happy music, And the lilt of Irish laughter, fill your heart with gladness, that stays forever after."



End of Life Care Forum * March 17

Pastoral Care presents: *Living Our Values at the UUAU - End of Life Care* on Sunday, March 17 from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel.

Come hear the poignant stories of how members Russ Blaesing and fellow UUAU men provided care to Kevin Sullivan, how Pat Kuessner and friends helped Brenda Casher, how Tim Richards and Mens' Circle members cared for Louie Leedle, and how Priscilla Spencer and other UUAU women provided end of life care for Meg Lynch.

At this forum, these four presenters will share their experiences of participating in this end of life process that is an untold story of caring within the UUAU community. For more information contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Interweave * March 19

All members and friends are welcome to our meeting on Tuesday, March 19 in the Social Hall. Potluck begins at 6:30pm and the program starts at 7:15pm. Our topic is *Dedicating Ourselves to Changing Minds in Michigan*.



Come view Dustin Lance Black's inspiring, entertaining, and thought provoking speech to ACLU Michigan in November, 2012. Black is the screen writer and director of the film *Milk* and a powerful, effective pro-equality advocate. Introducing his talk and sharing how Black gives her hope will be Micah Johnson Levy, Pioneer High School freshman. Micah is the daughter of UUAU members J. J. Johnson and Judy Levy. For information contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.



Social Justice Council Workshop * March 23

On Saturday, March 23 from 10:00am to noon Doug Muder will present the *Class, Classism, and the Unitarian Universalist* workshop. He is a journalist and blogger for anduworld.org author of the article *Not My Father's Religion* which you can read at <http://uuworld.org/ideas/articles/36467.shtml>. Muder's biography is online at <http://www.uuworld.org/about/authors/dougmuder.shtml>.



Our Ququest bookstore offers two books on the subject of this workshop. Those concerned about the divide classism creates can find *Elite* by Mark W. Harris and *Reading Classes* by Barbara Jenson at the Ququest bookstore.

This workshop is being presented by the Social Justice Council, Challenging Racism Group, Denominational Connections Team, the Men's Council, and the Humanist Group.

Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com or Carol Acitelli at carol.acitelli@gmail.com with any questions.



Annual Men's Dinner * March 23

The annual Men's Dinner, organized by the UUAA Men's Council, will take place on Saturday, March 23 at 6:00pm. Come enjoy a delicious meal catered by The Moveable Feast, enjoy the company of your fellow UUAA Men, and listen to our keynote speaker Doug Muder who will speak about "The web of privilege." Tickets will be on sale for \$25 in the Social Hall on Sundays in March. For more information, contact Pat Herbst, pgherbst3665@gmail.com.



Social Justice Forum * March 24



The Justice in the Middle East (JME) and Challenging Racism groups will be co-sponsoring the film *Roadmap to Apartheid* on Sunday, March 24 at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel.

"In this award-winning documentary, the first-time directors take a detailed look at the apartheid analogy commonly used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Narrated by Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*, *Roadmap to Apartheid* is as much a historical document of the rise and fall of apartheid in South Africa, as it is a film about why many Palestinians feel they are living in an apartheid system today, and why an increasing number of people around the world agree with them,"

from the film website.

The screening will be followed by small group discussions facilitated by JME and Challenging Racism members. Discussions will continue on Saturday, March 30 at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel.



If you would like to explore the possibility of getting involved, consider attending a JME or Challenging Racism meeting. For more information contact JME co-chairs Jill Baker at bakersusannah@yahoo.com or George Garcia at gagarcia325@gmail.com. Or, contact the Challenging Racism's Lucia Heinhold at HeinoldCia@aol.com.



Women's Seder * March 27



We will be celebrating Passover with a Women's Seder. The event will be open to all women of all ages and will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 27.

This seder will use the story of Passover to look at women's issues and will be quite fun. We will also have a potluck dinner. Please sign up at the Involvement table. If you have any questions contact Katie Pelz-Davis at 734-663-4039 or kpelzdavis@comcast.net or Arlene Huff at 734

-769-2172.



All - Church Retreat * April 20



Widening our embrace. Deepening our connections at the **All - Church Retreat**. Interweave and Pastoral Care are co-hosting this All Church Retreat on Saturday, April 20 from 1:00 to 9:00pm. Children will be admitted for free and childcare will be available. Contact Leigh Robertson at

leighrobe@umich.edu for more information.



Announcements and Notices

Denominational Connections Team News

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 UUs.

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 more information contact DCT chair, Roberta Allen, at bert71allen@gmail.com.

Note The March meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 20 in the David room. .



The 2013 Heartland District Assembly is April 12 to 13 at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana. If you are interested in being a delegate to District Assembly or just want information, stop by our table during Social Hour and sign up. Or, you can contact Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com. Delegates to the Heartland's District Assembly will be voting on the change to a MidAmerica Region.

Thinking about attending General Assembly from June 19 to 23? It is so close this year, only a six hour road trip to Louisville, Kentucky. So far, 41 people have indicated they are interested