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## First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

# May Newsletter

May 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 5

## Worship @ UUA

### Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)  
[Standing on the Side of Love](#)  
[UUA.org](#)  
[UAAA.org](#)  
[MidAmericauua.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

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

#### May 4, 2014

#### "What is "right-relationship?"

**Rev. Mark Evens**

Let's begin to de-jargonize the phrase "right relationship" a bit. It's about learning to love.

#### May 11, 2014

#### "Revisiting, Revisioning, Revising: Mother's Day 2014"

**Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer**

Unitarian Julia Ward Howe proposed a Mother's Day Proclamation for world peace. Congress voted for the Jarvis Plan. After 100 more years of war..., could we vote on that again?

#### May 18, 2014

#### "The Individual In Community"

**Rev. Mark Evens**

Right relationship is best learned in community.

#### May 25, 2014 (Memorial Day - ONE Service 10:00 am) "Compass 2014"

**Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer**

Our Annual Meeting is next Sunday, June 1, right after the Worship Service. How are we doing on directions we aimed for in the past? What directions will we choose for the coming years?



## From Our Staff

### Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



"We have wintered enough, mourned enough, oppressed ourselves enough..." so began a recent cold morning as I struggled to greet the day and find warm socks. I found myself quoting responsive reading #510 that we read together in worship on March 9 when we were



wearing our hopeful T-Shirts and savoring the bright flowers and hoping to push back against the long and the cold of winter.

Then the heart of my mind felt the echo of Reading #543. "Let us not wish away the winter...," I've been wrestling with that reading for months now. So hard to live into the opportunity of winter this year when we've had such deep opportunity!

I am grateful for the disciplines of Unitarian Universalism. Our faith tradition helps me to live into paradox. Instead of insisting that life fit neatly into ancient plans and understandings, our religion helps me to live in the struggles and the paradoxes of life: real life, lived now. And our religion prepares me for the challenges of doubt. Reading #650 actually teaches that we "cherish our doubts." Teaches that we embrace "doubt is the attendant of truth."

Unitarian Universalism equips us to turn away from the shortsightedness of our time. Reading #549 sings to a science that "dissolves our narrow standards of measurement." This allows us not to fall into triumphalist rationalism that claims an evolved state of being, way past all religious thinking. And it helps us not to fall for scientism. Much like the frog after dissection, scientism claims everything is knowable through science. Where scientism falls short is when we think it means everything is KNOWN through science.

Unitarian Universalism equips us to live with paradox, to embrace doubt, and to know many ways of knowing, to embrace that there is mystery out beyond the bounds of knowing. This religion teaches us that personal salvation is never enough. Through lives lived in religious community we are commissioned to "act for justice." (Reading #580).

Unitarian Universalist religion is both familiar and distinct. Most religions offer readings to guide, to teach, to accompany, to challenge, and to encourage. And in our UU hymnal, the hymns, the words, the wholeness of the book is gathered not from any one branch of the human religion tree. Unitarian Universalism gathers light and wisdom and challenge from many, many sources.

In the long and cold and dark of the winter now past, I found companionship and challenge, hope and comfort, in the readings of our Unitarian Universalist hymnal. In the emergence of spring I find guidance and thoughtful reflection in the same place.

Where do you turn for words to guide, words to soothe, words to challenge your inner life? Where do you seek clarity of thought to guide your outer life, your actions, your presence?

I find it in church. I hope to see you there,

My love to each,  
Rev Gail

**SAVE THE DATES:**

June 1: Annual Meeting after 10:00am Service. All are welcome!

June 8: Coming of Age CREDO Service. Don't miss this one!



**Musings**

**Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister**

Talking to the Future

Out of wood and stone,  
Out of dreams and sacrifice,  
The People build a home.  
Out of the work of  
Their hands and hearts and minds  
The People fashion a symbol and a reality.

From "A Place of Meeting" by Eileen B. Karpeles,  
#733 in *Singing the Living Tradition*



Saturday, April 12, our Ann Arbor congregation served as one of four sites for the first meeting of our new MidAmerica Region. The MidAmerica Region gathers Unitarian Universalist congregations from Kansas to Michigan, from Kentucky to North Dakota, to share resources, support one another, and build Unitarian Universalism in the heartland of North America.

Merging three former districts into one larger region brings us into contact with UU's from a wider swath of geography. We are sharing staff and resources such as summer camps and leadership schools.

We have built a wonderful home for Unitarian Universalism here in Ann Arbor and it felt good to welcome in UU's from across Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio to meet here face to face. Our new regional structure meant all four meeting sites heard and watched and got to ask questions of the same distinguished keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor, live streamed from Topeka, Kansas.

Thanks to all here in Ann Arbor who helped make real our value of hospitality and helped make this event a success. Special thanks to Lisa Lemble who led the food hospitality effort with Robert Gordon, Nancy Harter, Fran Lyman, Marie Duke, Sandy Breck, and Margaret Pekarek. Thanks also to Rich Child and Dick Barber for their work in the audio control booth.

In the months and years ahead, I look forward to sharing more quality programming with other UUs in our region. I look forward to being inspired and challenged by each other's social action projects. I look forward to bonding and relaxing with other UU families at camps and events. If you are curious to experience a broader view of UUism here in the Midwest, I recommend checking out the MidAmerica region web site at [www.midamericauua.org](http://www.midamericauua.org). 

**Business of the Church****Thom Bales, Executive Director**

I follow @JerrySeinfeld on Twitter. The comedian tweets about 2-3 times *a week*. His tweets are usually broadcast to self-promote his own web series "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" or to pass along something snarky from another comedian or to share perspective on his beloved New York Mets.

I think two tweets a week from most folks would be just about right.

Twitter is called the cocktail party of social media. (Facebook, on the other hand, is the family reunion.) Most cocktail parties I've



attended started off with some buzz, "Oh look. There's so and so...Very nice to meet you...What great appetizers...I love your new suit...Did you try that...", then tend to wither away as the night winds on and the bottles run dry. Maybe there's someone of note in attendance, but such folks are never really accessible to the rank and file. It might be fun to know a little bit about certain folks - celebrities, professional athletes, politicians - thru Twitter, but like most cocktail parties, stay there too long and you will almost certainly become bored or wonder why you don't have a life.

I also follow @RabbiWolpe on Twitter. Rabbi David Wolpe tweets quite often, several times a day in fact. To contrast, @JerrySeinfeld has 2.37 million people following him, while @RabbiWolpe has a mere 3,896. Yet, the rebbe has out-tweeted the comedian, 1,616 to 1,053 in a shorter period of time. (Perhaps, it is a good thing when our clergy have more to say than our entertainers.)

Although he had written a bestselling book, *Why Faith Matters*, I first learned about @RabbiWolpe from reading a 2013 NYT article ([goo.gl/ooi97U](http://goo.gl/ooi97U)) that reported the controversy he stirred at his very large and more traditional California congregation, Temple Sinai, when he shared thru an open letter to congregants his own commitment to start performing same sex marriages in the synagogue. His letter predated by three weeks the California Supreme Court decision that cleared the way for same sex marriages and angered about one half of his congregants. Most of us find it easier to stand on our convictions in the safe company of other like-minded folks. I found Rabbi Wolpe's action in a divided congregation quite daring and courageous.

More recently, I saw a post from @RabbiWolpe about some inspiring work being led by Detroit journalist Mitch Albom in a *Jewish Journal* piece entitled, "Christian Charity in Haiti is the Jewish Thing to Do" and thought some of you might like this story as well: [goo.gl/ZoZgAu](http://goo.gl/ZoZgAu).

I like Twitter and find a bit of good news there that I probably wouldn't know about otherwise. Occasionally, I like a good cocktail party, too.

What do you think about Twitter? Who do you follow? Stop by my office some Sunday to chat or you can just tweet me, @thomaslynnbales.

My door is open to you.



## **Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action** **Sandy Garges, Director of Spiritual Growth and Development**

The Spiritual Growth and Development Program offers almost daily opportunities for change, reflection, adaptation. One recent change in the program is the creation of the Youth Ministry Team. Up to this point, the Children and Youth Committee has served as the lay leadership of the entire Children and Youth Program. Because of the unique and broad needs and goals surveyed by this age group, we have divided the leadership responsibilities between two groups: the Children's Ministry Team (covers nursery through 5th grade) and the newly-formed Youth Ministry Team (covers 6th through 12th grades). The Children's Ministry Team will be comprised of the members of the former Children and Youth Committee. The Youth Ministry Team is being created out of whole cloth. The members of the Children's Ministry Team are: Lisa Kohn, Gregg Peterson, and David Tumbarello. The members of the Youth Ministry Team are: Stephanie Surfus, chair, Christine Pellar-Kosbar, and Craig Van Kempen. This new structure will enable



more personalized ministry to be offered to our youngest congregants.

In addition to the formation of a new leadership structure, we are solidifying other areas of the program as well. The Children's Welcoming Counsel was created in the fall of 2012 to support the welcoming of all children and to facilitate communication between volunteer teachers and families with children with unique or special needs. If there is an accommodation or communication which can help a child or youth better participate in the Sunday morning program, this group's mission is to facilitate the teamwork needed to make it happen. We are blessed with engaged families and volunteers who seek to work together to support the inclusion of all. What better way to engage our first and third Principles? Our first Principle recognizes "the inherent worth and dignity of every person." Our third Principle is the "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

The Accessibility Project, recently undertaken by our Congregation, underscores the need of many congregations for programs such as our Children's Welcoming Counsel. The Counsel is working to document and in other ways solidify what we are doing so that the program can be shared with other UU congregations.

The current members of the Children's Ministry Counsel are: Michelle Ferguson, chair, Sandy Garges, and Debra Golden. We are recruiting additional members so please speak up if you are interested!

With care,  
Sandy



## Board of Trustees

### Annual Meeting \* Sunday, June 1

All are warmly invited to attend the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 1, from 11:15am to 12:45pm in the Sanctuary.

The agenda includes a "Questions for the Board" period and the following topics:

- Election of Board Officers, Trustees, and Leadership Development Team members.
- State of the Congregation.
- President's Report.
- Announcement of General Assembly Delegates.
- UUAA's 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Questions? Contact Board secretary Priscilla Spencer at [paspencer44@yahoo.com](mailto:paspencer44@yahoo.com).



### Board of Trustee and Leadership Development Team Nominations

Listed below are the biographical sketches of the nominees for positions on the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development Team.

#### Nominees for Board of Trustees - Officers

##### Vice President to President: Beth Hospadaruk

"My husband Bob and I have been members of this Congregation since 1992. We started attending in 1990, when our children were 3yrs and 4yrs, and wanted a religious home for us all. Bob grew up UU in the Detroit area, so he "converted" me from my long ago abandoned Catholic faith. Over the years I have been very active and involved, mostly in Religious Education (RE), teaching 2nd, 5th, 6th grades, two years in the Coming of Age program

(several years as a mentor) and five years in the high school YRUU program. I have also served this congregation in various other capacities: taught adult RE, Women's Retreat committee, Auction Committee, Annual Pledge Drive Committee, Caring Committee, and spent four years on the Board prior to Policy Governance as the Fundraising Liaison. In 2004, I decided to go back to school and spent the next five years earning a special education teaching degree while working full time. In 2009, I was hired by AAPS and currently teach at Wines Elementary School in a self-contained classroom and love it! In 2011, I started a Master's program and just finished this spring. During those years, I took a necessary hiatus from any church committees or commitments, so when I received the call to serve again, I felt the time was right to say yes. I am humbled and honored to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees."

### **Secretary (second 2 year term): Priscilla Spencer**

Priscilla has been active with the Congregation since 1989 and became a member in 2001. She has served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees since May 2012. Over the years, she has been very involved with the Congregation, including as a 4th grade Religious Education teacher, member of the Religious Education Advisory Committee, Coming of Age mentor, and was a "Leading with Love" program participant. She is active with the Accessibility Initiative and is a member of the Lotus Circle women's group. She is married to Rajeev Batra. Their two sons, Neale and Ray, both enjoyed the religious education program from early childhood through high school. Priscilla has worked professionally for fifteen years with Formative Evaluation Research Associates, Inc. (FERA) as a program evaluator for non-profit organizations. She has earlier professional experience in the areas of nutrition and adult/higher education administration. She loves her volunteer activity at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, loves outdoor activities, and is an avid news reader.

### **Nominees for Board of Trustees - At Large (2 year Term)**

#### **Tricia Mooney**

Tricia is a life-long Michigander. She attended the University of Michigan, where she majored in mathematics and met her husband Pete. Trish currently works as an actuary/computer programmer, specializing in software used in calculating employee benefits.

Trish and Pete have been attending the Church regularly since 2001 after going on a several month long "church crawl". Trish has taken various adult classes at the Church. She began teaching Sunday School around 2005 and enjoys spending time with the children (ages 7 - 10) in her classes. She has also been on the Webtech committee since 2003, which involves helping to maintain and design the Church's website. Most recently, she has served as entertainment chair for the Church's annual auction fundraiser.

Outside of work and the Church, Tricia loves music-both playing the piano and attending performances of various styles of music. She creates stained glass and mosaic artwork, and enjoys old-fashioned wood jigsaw puzzles. She's a fervent animal lover, supporting the Humane Society and other animal charities. Her greatest passion, however, is for the Michigan's men's basketball team. She attends every home game and watches every away game. Go Blue!

#### **Allen Duncan**

"My wife Janet and I were married in the Unitarian Fellowship of College Station, Texas in 1991. After stints in College Station, Chicago and Milwaukee, we moved to Ann Arbor in 2001, began attending UUAA in 2003, and joined in 2005. I have been an active member of the Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student Committee since 2006 and had the privilege of representing our Congregation in India with fellow team members. I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve our Congregation on the Board of Trustees."

#### **Ginny Creasman**

Since 2009, Ginny has been the Assistant Medical Center Director at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Prior to her arrival in Ann Arbor, Ginny was the Chief of Pharmacy for the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Ginny and her family, Jonena (partner) and her two sons, Joseph and Jonah have attended for four years, however recently joining in 2011. While in Cincinnati, she attended St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church (member since 1992) and was significantly involved in the lay leadership and social activities of the church where she served in numerous leadership roles, including being a member of the Ministerial Search Committee that called the Rev. Barbara Edgecombe; a Board member in the roles of trustee, secretary, and president; chair of the Sabbatical, Bylaws, Personnel, Stewardship, Leadership Development, and Strategic Planning Committees. In addition, she was a co-founder of the Lavender Ladies Activities Club (LiLACs), a social group for LGBT women that attend the church. "I have enjoyed my short sabbatical from these roles, but I just cannot help myself. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Congregation of First Unitarian Universalist of Ann Arbor as a Trustee At Large."

### **Nominees for the Leadership Development Team**

#### **Appointed by Board (2 year Term)- Kathy Friedrichs**

"My family joined the UUAU in 1982. In the next 30 years, I worked with religious education, the Personnel Committee, served on the Board of Trustees, and have a long-time involvement with Social Justice. Currently, I work on the Pastoral Care Leadership Team and co-chair the Challenging Racism group. I retired from U of M in December 2013 and am now busy with creative writing, our two grandchildren, gardening, meditation, Restorative Justice, and keeping physically fit. UUAU has been an important part of my family's lives and we are very grateful for the opportunities and wonderful people we have met there."

#### **Elected by Congregation (2 year Term)- Dee Dishon**

"I started attending UUAU in February 2011 after moving back to Michigan from the DC area. I joined the Church in May of that year and was a member of the Chalice Singers for two years. I have been on the Alpha House planning committee as well as the Auction Planning Team. I grew up in the Baptist and Methodist churches. My experience in leadership in the Unity and the UU Congregation of Fairfax included the choir, Board of Directors, as well as leadership roles in auctions, fellowship, and welcoming of new members.

I bring skills of communication, cooperation, group process, and presentation skills not only from my career as a teacher and an educational consultant but also from my 13 years of living in cohousing. I am now retired and devote a great deal of my time to various areas of leadership within the Touchstone community.

I am honored to be asked to be a member of the Leadership Development Team and hope that my participation can strengthen my own and others' leadership skills."



## **Spiritual Growth and Development News**

### **Program Notes**

**Maria Thomas, Programs Coordinator**

As I write this, a surprise spring snowfall covers the ground outside my window. Yet summer is just around the corner and the regular SGD program year is heading into the home stretch.

Sunday, May 18 is the last day of classes for the regular year. The SGD Summer Program will officially begin on June 15 and will run through August 31.



On the three intervening Sundays (May 25, June 1, and June 8) SGD will offer special transitional programming for children and youth. The theme for the Summer Transition period is "Service, Song, and Story". One of these three Sundays will be devoted to the topic of song, one to service, and one to story. More details will be available as those dates approach.



The Summer Transition activities will interweave with other Congregational events. On May 25, UUAA returns to a single service (10:00am) schedule, and SGD activities will be offered during the single service.

On June 1, all children and youth are invited to attend a multigenerational music service (incorporating the Song portion of the transitional period). This service will also include the annual Senior Bridging ceremony, honoring UUAA's graduating seniors.

On June 8, transitional programming will be offered for children and youth grades K-7. Older youth are invited to attend the Coming of Age (9th grade) Credo Service in the Sanctuary.

Please note that the Nursery and Pre-School classrooms are open every Sunday, regardless of other SGD activities.

And again, the Summer Program begins on June 15. This summer's skit-based curriculum, "S-UU-Per Plays", promises to be a lot of fun. Two classes will be offered each Sunday during the 10:00am service, one for K-3 students and one for 4-8 students. All are invited to join the fun.

For any questions about SGD programming, please don't hesitate to contact me at [maria@uuaa.org](mailto:maria@uuaa.org).



## **Growing Together**

### **Debra Golden, SGD Program Assistant**

It may only (finally!) be spring, but our summer planning is almost complete. This year it features twelve "SUUPer Plays" written by Richard Kimball. This lively curriculum includes a different script each week to be read as a staged reading. It will be combined with related theater games and exercises as well as question and answer section.

This year the summer session begins on June 15 and runs through August 31. Children will be split into two age groups (K-3 and 4-8). We need two teachers for each group every Sunday and welcome those of you who (a) enjoy working with children, (b) enjoy telling and hearing stories, and (c) believe we can be a bit silly as we talk about serious topics.



Scripts include "At the Potluck" where the cast includes famous characters from the land of make believe. The Easter Bunny, Cinderella, and others discuss their beliefs. I will lead the first and last sessions: (1) "Tomorrow is Sunday" - about going someplace new and concluding with "Work and Play" just before Labor Day, and (2) "Dizzy's Tale" - about a UU family cat arguing in court for more freedom and questioning how well owners honor our principles. Related games include 'Kitty wants a corner' and the gibberish game. These build in some fun, movement, and connections with those involved: they also relate to acting skills such as focus and

portraying a character.

We hope to hold many lessons outside and enjoy the weather. "SUUper Plays" welcome those who enjoy acting as well as those who prefer to listen. Interested? We have a few spots available for teachers. No acting experience required. Plus, I will be teaching you some theater games, so this might be the most playful teacher training yet!

In joy,  
Debra Golden



## Activities and Events

### Annual Reports \* Thursday, May 1

Individual recognized congregational groups are asked prepare an annual report that will be shared with the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1. Below are elements to include in each report:



- The recognized ministry name.
- The author of the report.
- A brief description of the group.
- A description of how UUA core values were met by the group.
- Highlights of activities that took place.
- Goals reached.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Describe future ideas, plans, and goals.

Send each report to [annualreport@uuaa.org](mailto:annualreport@uuaa.org) by 5:00pm on Thursday, May 1.



### Accessibility Team Panel Discussion \* Saturday, May 3

The Accessibility Team will present a panel discussion from 2:00-4:00pm in the Jackson Chapel on "The Dream of Inclusion for All: Taking Steps to Strengthen Accessibility."

Featured are six panelists with disabilities with a goal to increase awareness on how those with disabilities experience and participate in congregational life. They will offer suggestions on how to strengthen accessibility and inclusion. Everyone is welcome. [Click here](#) for a flyer.

This presentation is part of a project of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to pilot test a Disability/Ability Action Certification Program for UU Congregations. Sponsored by the Accessibility Team and Pastoral Care Education team. Questions? Contact Pauline Loewenhardt at [loewenhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loewenhardt@sbcglobal.net) or 734-769-0903.



### LDT Forum \* Sunday, May 4

The Leadership Development Team (LDT) has invited Terry Madden to present his views on the question "Does size matter, in regards to churches and congregations?" Based on his long term experience at UUA and his site visit to the Unitarian Church of Dallas, Terry will argue that there are many benefits to becoming a large-sized congregation. Come to the Jackson Chapel from 1:00-2:30pm to hear Terry's point of view and to express one, as well. Questions? Contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com).



### Senior Dinner \* Wednesday, May 7

Join for dinner at the Gourmet Garden on Stadium at 6:00pm. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month, so mark those calendars. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



### Round Robin Dinner \* Friday, May 9

Join others in small groups of adults for an evening of food, conversation, and congeniality. This will be the last Round Robin dinner of the season. If new to the Church, this is a wonderful way to get to know a few UUs at a time and to recognize more people at Social Hour. Interested or have questions? Contact Sally Preston at [sally@pctraining.net](mailto:sally@pctraining.net) by Thursday, May 1.



### Adult SGD \* Saturday, May 10

"Dreaming A World With Heart: Actively Dreaming a Vision of Our Future" will be presented by Julie Tumbarello from 1:00-3:00pm.

While popular media often portray the future as a dim, dark place, it's just one of many possible futures. On Saturday, May 10, groups all over the world will gather to actively dream together as part of "The World Day of Active Dreaming". At UUAU, Julie will guide a group to help grow a positive future vision. Using the ancient shamanic technique of drumming, tapping into gratitude and sources of guidance, Julie will lead on journeys of personal past and potential futures. Come ready to play and explore. Questions? Contact Charlie Burleigh at [chburleigh@aol.com](mailto:chburleigh@aol.com).



### Interweave Circle \* Sunday, May 11

All are welcome to attend the last Interweave Circle for this calendar year at 10:45am or 12:45pm in Fahs Chapel.

On Mother's Day, join co-facilitators, Margaret Pekarek and Leigh Robertson in conversations about mothers, motherhood, and mothering. This is particularly for those who do not have mothers in their lives because of TBLGQI identities. Discuss the many ways to mother in this world. Listen, share, and find support. Children are welcome.



Interweave is a spiritual home to TBLGQI people and allies. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at [leigrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leigrobe@umich.edu) or 734-687-2805.



### Men's Breakfast \* Saturday, May 17

There is a new location for the men's monthly breakfast gathering: Holidays Restaurant located at 2080 W Stadium Blvd across from the Post Office. All men are invited to attend at 8:30am. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904.



### Woman's Breakfast \* Saturday, May 24

Meet at 8:15am on the fourth Saturday of every month at the Classic Cup Café located at 4389 Jackson Avenue. Join for relaxation, conversation, and friendship. Questions? Contact Judy Slater at 734-679-3497.



## Announcements and Notices

### Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. GA 2014 will be in Providence, Rhode Island from Wednesday-Sunday, June 25-29. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. The theme for GA 2014 is *Love Reaches Out*. Delegates will be selecting the next Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2014 to 2018. If interested in learning about GA, there will be a forum on Sunday, June 8 at 11:15am. If interested in going to GA, sign up during Social Hour at the DCT table or contact Roberta Allen at [bert71allen@gmail.com](mailto:bert71allen@gmail.com).



DCT serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between UUA 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. 

### 150th Anniversary Celebration



Plans for the 150th Anniversary Celebration are moving along. Here are a few of the dates:

#### 2014

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|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, September 28 | Gala Beginning of Our Celebratory Year  |
| Sunday, October 12   | Klein Lecture with Rev. William Schulz, President Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) |
| Saturday, October 25 | Mindful Eating Harvest Festival   |
| Sunday, November 16  | 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the SGD Wing  |
| Thanksgiving Week    | 150 UUA Volunteers for Alpha House  |

#### 2015

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| Thursday, May 14 | Twilight Service (Anniversary Date: May 14, 1865) |
| Saturday, May 16 | UU/UUA Dawning Future Panel Discussion            |
| Sunday, May 17   | Commemoration Sunday                              |

Questions? Contact Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at [birthday150@uuua.org](mailto:birthday150@uuua.org). 

### Treasurer's Assistant Team

There is an active group in this Congregation that meets for a few of hours weekly, works furiously but meticulously, and hides under the radar so most members of the Congregation don't even know they exist. This is the Treasurer's Assistant Team (TAT): Roberta Allen (treasurer), Carolyn Barber, Marie Duke, Roylea Furniss, and Phyllis Valentine, at times assisted by Debra Golden, Gretchen Jackson, and Betsy Price.

Every week, usually on Monday mornings, the Congregation's income is counted for the week, including checks that come in the mail, the Sunday collection funds, and Social Hour receipts.

One of the initiatives this year, has been to develop a universal form to be used for all groups each Sunday that need to record receipts and donors. "Personally, as Scrip program coordinator, I find this form to be an extra step, but very useful if I have a problem reconciling inventory. It definitely helps TAT sort things out," says congregant Carolyn Barber. Questions? Contact Carolyn Barber at [cmponyclub@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmponyclub@sbcglobal.net).



From left to right: Marie Duke, Carolyn Barber, Phyllis Valentine, Roberta Allen, and Roylea Furniss. The team was celebrating multiple birthdays with this St. Patrick's Day photo.

## Challenging Racism Events



May is an exciting month for Challenging Racism. On Saturday, May 3 from 9:30am-12:00pm the "School to Prison Pipeline" program will present at the Turner Center. A panel discussion will include: Sheriff Jerry Clayton, Belinda Dulin, and UUA's own Keely Kalesky. Keely will share her work with the Dispute Resolution Center to keep kids out of the pipeline in the Ypsilanti schools. There will also be a speaker from Ann Arbor Concerned Citizens for Justice, the group that supported the Pioneer Three last year. This event will be free.

The same day, Saturday, May 3, several Congregational members will participate in the first of two African-American History and Culture Tours of Detroit. Another tour will be held on July 10. Stops include: Negro Baseball Site, Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project, Elmwood Cemetery, Black Bottom, Paradise Valley, the Tuskegee Airmen's Museum, and more. Lunch will be on your own at Steve's Soul Food on Franklin Street. Advance reservations are required. For tour information go to: [mcmillintours.com/](http://mcmillintours.com/). If a ride is needed or can be provided contact Lucia Heinold at [Heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:Heinoldcia@aol.com) or 734-996-2796.

On Saturday, May 17 from 1:00-4:00pm view *Inequality for All* in the Fah's Chapel. This is a joint project of the Social Justice Council, Challenging Racism, the League of Women Voters, and ICPJ. After the film, the audience will form reflective circles on four major topics. An expert in each field will facilitate: Education (Cathy Reischl and Debi Khasnabis from U-M School of Education), Politics (Susan Smith, President LWV Michigan and Nancy Schewe, Ann Arbor LWV President), Work and Wages (Jim McAsey, union organizer, with the Graduate Employees Organization) and Taxes and Wealth (Stu Dowty, Chair of Reclaim Our American Democracy (ROAD) From Big Money).

Challenging Racism leaders are helping to form a new Community Restorative Justice Group along with Social Justice chairs. The May meeting will be at UUA on Monday, May 19 from 6:30-8:30pm. New members and visitors are welcome.

Matt Friedrichs, a member of the Detroit UU Church, has invited Challenging Racism to a UU Picnic and Service Project on Belle Isle, May 24 from 10:00am-3:00pm. Several have already signed up. Questions? Contact Bob Haspadaruk at [hospadaruk@gmail.com](mailto:hospadaruk@gmail.com) or 734-994-3774.





## Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student Program

Khasi Hills students are eager for school sponsors. Consider being a sponsor for a child in India? New and renewing sponsorship forms can be found at Khasi Hills table during Social Hour through mid-May.

Sponsorship helps to educate a child at the Mawkisiem Lower Primary School. This rural area in northeast India can really stretch \$50 for a full year. For over a decade, UUA has sponsored children. An added benefit? They write a letter with pictures.

Questions? Contact chair Allen Duncan at [aduncan85@gmail.com](mailto:aduncan85@gmail.com).



 The 2006 campus of the Unitarian Primary School at Mawkisiem. The current church building is above the white bench. The larger building houses the classrooms and office.

## UUSC Coffee Project

Meet Julia Najarro La Rosa from Peru, one of the small farmers, who benefits from the selling of products at the Sunday morning Coffee Project table. How does she benefit? First, because Equal Exchange guarantees she'll receive fair prices for the cocoa she grows. Second, because Equal Exchange donates 20 cents for every pound of product to the UU Service Committee's small farmer fund which partners with other cooperatives to build sustainable livelihoods for small farmers, like Julia.

That's consumption with a conscience. Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at [cathie@breidenbach.net](mailto:cathie@breidenbach.net).



 Small farmer Julia Najarro from Peru

## Road Construction

Road work has begun on the \$2.2 million reconstruction project on Ann Arbor-Saline Road between Eisenhower and Oak Valley Drive. Construction is scheduled to last through August and may affect the routes chosen to drive to Church on Sunday. Here are links with information on detour maps from the [Washtenaw County Road Commission](#), on [construction phases](#), and more [detour details](#). Happy driving.



## New Members

### Margaret Morgan Cohn



"I discovered UU religion in a 1960's *Newsweek* article. My husband and I both joined in California, and later left for congregations in Bethesda, Maryland, New York State Fellowship, then Albuquerque Fellowship, and finally, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Last year was unbearably sad; after my husband, David, died, I sold our home in Santa Fe and moved to Ann Arbor to be near my family. We had been very active in various congregations, joining many different committees, especially social action, Central American refugee and



Partner Church, membership, and lastly hunger and homeless task force in Santa Fe. I love music, literature, poetry, walking, gardening, and nature." 

## Drake Meadow

"I am a long-time Unitarian Universalist, formerly a member of Birmingham Unitarian Church. I have the joy of being married to my wife, Nancy, and the delight of being father to my four-year old children, Isaac and Mollie. I call traditional dances and serve as the assistant leader of the Ann Arbor Circle of Dances of Universal Peace. I am very happy finally to be officially joining the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor." 



## Justin and Melissa Villanueva

Justin and Melissa were married in 2000, when they began a spiritual journey together. They, along with their two children, Creed and Annika, are glad to have finally found a congregation that they can call home at UUAA.

Justin is a student who funds his love of learning by working in the sprinkler fitter industry. Melissa is a substitute teacher who takes part-time classes toward an education degree.



They are pleased to have recently moved from Taylor to Ann Arbor, where they can regularly be involved in UU activities and are surrounded by people who value education and open-mindedness as much as they do. 

## Membership

Many people take part in many aspects of congregational life without being a member through worship, supporting the efforts of Social Justice groups, making connections through social events, and enrolling children in the Spiritual Growth and Development program. So what does it mean to join the Congregation? Becoming a member is a commitment to the principles of Unitarian Universalism; validates the importance of exploring human nature and spiritual questions, and enters a covenant to support a congregation that fosters religious tolerance, compassion, social justice, and community. Signing the Membership Book declares that these things are important.

New members are welcomed to the congregation throughout the year. The stepping stones to membership are:

- Attend the Introduction to Our Faith workshop (next class will be offered Saturday, June 21 from 10:00am -2:30pm).
- Understand and be in accord with UU Principles and the Mission and By-laws of UUAA.
- Complete the Enrollment Packet, which includes a Pledge Form and Talents and Interests Survey.
- Make arrangements with the Welcome Ministries Coordinator, Hannah Hotchkiss, to sign the Membership Book in the presence of a Minister and Board member.
- Attend a Recognition Ceremony to be welcomed into the Congregation.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org) or 734-665-6158. 



## Church Office News

### Building Hours:

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

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone: 734-665-6158  
Fax: 734-665-7895  
General Email: [office@uuaa.org](mailto:office@uuaa.org)

Note: The UUAA building will be closed on Monday, May 26 to honor Memorial Day.  
The building will be closed from  
9:00pm on Sunday, May 25 to 9:00am on Tuesday, May 27.

### 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. Send submissions to [bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org).

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAA's June Newsletter is 9:00am on Wednesday, May 21.  
Send your submissions to [newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:newsletter@uuaa.org).

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions, or updates for the website ([www.uuaa.org](http://www.uuaa.org)) to [webtech@uuaa.org](mailto:webtech@uuaa.org).

For more information about how to get things done at UUAA, refer to the Lay Leader Administrative Guide. ([click here](#)).

### Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, [thom@uuaa.org](mailto:thom@uuaa.org)  
Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org)  
Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Attendant, [venus@uuaa.org](mailto:venus@uuaa.org)  
Arthur Whigham, Custodian, [arthur@uuaa.org](mailto:arthur@uuaa.org)  
Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, [dewon@uuaa.org](mailto:dewon@uuaa.org).



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