

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

August Newsletter

August 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 8

Worship @ UUAA

Congregational Links

UUAA Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAA](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

One Worship Service at 10:00am each Sunday through August, 31
with classes for children K-8 followed by Social Hour.

August 3, 2014

"Actually.., it IS about the T-Shirts!"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister with
Sandy Simon and Terry Madden, 150th Celebration
Co-Chairs

One hundred and forty-nine years ago, three dozen Ann Arborites gathered to form a church: our church. As we move toward a whole year of celebration and learning to mark this sesquicentennial milestone, we will offer a prequel celebration to highlight 150 years of Reason and Compassion in Action.

August 10, 2014

"Is Silence Weird?"

Rev. Fran Dew, Retired

Some years ago someone felt so strongly that silence IS weird that they paid for a billboard proclaiming their belief. I've been thinking about it since then, so this morning we'll be exploring the role silence can play in our lives and worship.

August 17, 2014

"Freeing the Hostages"

Rev. Gregory Martin, UU Community Church of Southwest Michigan (Portage)

Gun violence, tragically, is a growing concern in all of our communities across America. It's time to change the culture and the law and make us all safer.

August 24, 2014

"Deep Universalism"

Rev. Tom Schade, Retired

Universalism started as a particular Protestant doctrine. It then became a theology of religious pluralism. Might it become a spiritual practice and a way of being human?

**August 31, 2014 - CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE
"Perfectionism and Work: Labor Day 2014"**

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister

With a look at Christian Scripture, Matthew 5:48, today's theme is a quick run around the bases of cultural proof-testing, Biblical literalism, Perfectionism and a UU theology of work. The Service will include a Child Dedication Ceremony.

(Dedication will happen pending confirmation by families. For more information contact Maria Thomas, programs coordinator, at maria@uuaa.org.)



Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All:

CONGRATULATIONS! You did it! Woo Hoo! And thank you: everyone. In mid-July the principle balance on our mortgage dipped below the One Million mark. Our Treasurer, Roberta Allen, reports that our principle balance due is \$988,895.77.

This is wonderful, energizing, delightful, and humbling news. You all did this! Ten years ago this Congregation took a big, big leap. We built a beautiful building for the ministries we provide for children and families. It cost a lot of money. The decision to borrow required faith in the future. Questions were asked, "If we build it..., will they come?" And decisions were made.

We would invest in the future and the deep well-being of our Congregation. We would reach out past our immediate comfort limits and build a beautiful, state-of-the-art building to house our ministries and programs that are mostly for children. In the lean times of the recession some of us wondered..., "Would we ever pay that mortgage down?"

You all have answered robustly: "Yes!" Through your generosity, your vision, and your Comprehensive Campaign giving, that mortgage is now down below the One Million Dollar mark.

Congratulations! You all have proven once again that this Congregation is strong and resolute and focused. And Thank You..., each one of you, for making this milestone a reality.

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail

REMINDERS:

Water Communion is September 7, 2014. Bring a wee bit of water to add to the common bowl.

Water Communion + Ingathering Sunday is where we each add a wee bit of water to the common bowl as a ritual act of regathering the community to enter into the program year. Bring a bit from places you travel in the summer. Bring a bit from your kitchen tap. All are invited to bring a bit of water as we restart two services and our full fall programming.



Board of Trustees

President's Message Ken Klein, Board President

June and July are the beginning of the long anticipated summer vacation season. When we northern Midwesterners get outside and bask in the long summer days, warm nights, and fresh waters around us. It is also the beginning of a new church year for your Board of Trustees. We say thanks to outgoing Board members and welcome our new members.

Please take time to notice the names of your Trustees in the Sunday Order of Service or on the website and don't be shy about sharing your thoughts with any of us. We may not always know the answer to a question or concern, but we can usually pass it along to the appropriate person and follow up with you.

In June, I attended my first General Assembly (GA) in Providence, Rhode Island. While not a perk, GA was a very exciting, informative, and inspiring experience, and I commend it to anyone interested in growing spiritually and connecting with our larger UU movement. There were many great sessions, lots of comradery (including a protest/witness march for fair wages), wonderful worship and many enthusiastic UU's to meet.

But for me the highlight happened on Saturday evening after a fantastic Ware Lecture, by Sister Simone Campbell (Nuns on the Bus), when several thousand UUs, many wearing yellow Standing on the Side of Love shirts walked together to the Water Fire Festival (waterfire.org/) and gathered with the community to enjoy the music and bonfires. This was a wonderful occasion of *Love Reaching Out*. The next morning I was stopped by some locals who asked, "Who were all those people in yellow shirts?" The folks in Providence were friendly and warm and welcoming and this was a great opportunity to share our UU values. May we all be as friendly and welcoming to those around us every day. Happy Summer!

Ken



UUA President Rev. Peter Morales and UUA Moderator Jim Key hold torches at Water Fire Providence.

150th Anniversary Celebration

150th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration

Terry Madden and Sandy Simon, Co-Chairs



The kick-off celebration starts on September 28. Circle this date on the calendar. Special events are planned to launch the 150th Anniversary "season" of celebration.

Starting Sunday, September 28 and ending Sunday, May 17, there will be lots to do and see as we remember our past, celebrate, and look forward to our future.

There will be special kick-off event activities. The launch events are planned for both Services. Pick the best one for you and your family:

- Special Remembrance Sermon and Service.
- Mayoral Proclamation.
- Congregational group picture taken after each Service (Wear your 150th anniversary tee-shirt or wear black, gold, or red shirts)
- Birthday cake and refreshments for all. Bring the children.
- Group sing-along.

Plan to attend. It will be exciting to have everyone, of all ages, in one of the 150th celebration photos. More information will be announced in coming weeks.

Continue to check-out www.uuaa.org for upcoming events and plans for the 150th Anniversary celebrations. There will be lots to do and see.

Questions? Contact team leader Dixie Hibner at dixiehibner@comcast.com.



150th Anniversary Shirts & Hats Terry Madden and Sandy Simon, Co-Chairs



Sunday, September 28 is the big kick-off day for the 150th Birthday Celebration. Come look fabulous in 150th t-shirts and hats when an all-Congregation photo is taken that day.

How to order: Black is the new black. All items come

in black only. That's okay, though, because you wear it well. Not sure of a size? There are samples in all sizes available at the 150th table in the Social Hall. Price: \$12 for a basic t-shirt (additional charge for larger sizes or performance fabric).

Orders can be placed online at

www.agpestores.com/sunrisewebstores/groups.php (then click on UUAA) or by using a paper order form available from the office, the Social Hall, or at www.uuaa.org/150



Pick up orders in the Social Hall. A notification will come by way of email or phone when the order is ready. Order items no later than Friday, September 12 to have them in time for the Sunday, September 28 group photo.

Questions? Contact Lisa Lemble at lisaemble@gretchenshouse.com.



Activities and Events

Mindful Eating Potluck * Saturday, August 2



Come to a vegan family potluck in the Fahs Chapel from 12:00-2:00pm. Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, share information, and eat delicious food. Bring table service and serving tools. Questions? Contact Donna Estry at 734-484-0913 or estry@umich.edu or Jenny McKillop at finnabar@gmail.com.



Snow Bird's Chalice Circle * August 3

In response to requests, the Chalice Circle Ministry will pilot a shorter, earlier Snowbirds Chalice Circle this fall if there is sufficient interest.

Chalice Circles are a small group ministry. Groups follow a structured format and a prepared curriculum, using deep listening skills which will be developed over time. This is not a study group, but offers opportunity for participants to share their own experiences and thoughts. It is not a support group, but does provide opportunity to become acquainted with others from the UUAU community. Many people form lasting friendships within their Chalice Circle, feel a greater connection to the UUAU community, and find support from these friends.

The Circle will meet in the evening on the first and third Wednesdays, beginning September 3 and ending on December 17. Facilitators will be Barbara Pickett and Margaret Pekarek, both experienced Chalice Circle facilitators.

It is not a requirement to be a "snowbird" to participate. There are many reasons why some are not able to commit to a longer term, while there is deep value in having a consistent group that meets to discuss important aspects of life, drawing on our own experience, over an extended period of time.

Important is a commitment to attend all meetings. If transportation poses a barrier, contact Margaret at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com or 734-998-3522.

Like all other Chalice Circles, this group will do a service project for the Congregation during this 4 month period.

Contact Margaret or sign up at the One Time Chalice Circle table in the Social Hall. Registration for the Snowbird Short-term Chalice Circle will begin on Sunday, August 3 and end on Sunday, August 31. Registration for the regular Chalice Circles (meeting October through May 2015) will begin in September.

Questions? Contact Margaret at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com or 734-998-3522.



Senior Dinner * Wednesday, August 6

All seniors are welcome to a monthly dinner at 6:00pm at the Gourmet Garden Restaurant located on 2255 N. Stadium Blvd. Join for good food and good conversation. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or at omaduke7@gmail.com.



Bridge * Sunday, August 10

Come play bridge on Sunday, August 10 at 12:30pm in the Emerson Room. Gather in the Wright Room prior to the game to eat lunch. Intermediate to advanced players are welcome to join. Questions? Contact Karen Bourdon at kbourdon1@sbcglobal.net.



Adult SGD Proposal Deadlines * Monday, August 18

There are six ways to help Adult Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) enrich the community. Help members and friends do one or more of the following things:

- Develop an integrated sense of their own UU and UUAU identity,
- Find resources for negotiating the various stages of their life journey,
- Be empowered to live their beliefs through their actions,
- Cultivate spiritual deepening and develop spiritual practices,
- Enrich their understanding of the world around us,
- Build connections with others.

These are the goals of the Adult SGD program, to be advanced by members and friends who

undertake to present courses or workshops during the Fall 2014 Adult SGD Term.

It's all about community - getting together to talk about meaningful topics without competing with the noise level in the Social Hall. A rich array of courses and workshops are expected to be offered in the Fall Catalog which will be published on September 20 (classes start October 6). All are invited to join in this offering by submitting a proposal to teach a course or workshop to Sandy Garges at sandy@uuua.org by Monday, August 18. For questions or a Proposal Form contact Charley Burleigh at chburleigh@aol.com.



Announcements and Notices

Challenging Racism



Be sure to vote in the August primary, Tuesday, August 5.

Join other UU's on Sunday, August 10 from 2:00-5:00pm at the Ann Arbor Underground Railroad tour led by the African American Cultural Heritage Museum. Tours leave from WCC. Cost \$20 per person. Contact Deborah Meadows at deborahmeadows2@msn.com or 734-819-8182 or Lucia Heinold at Heinoldcia@aol.com.



These stones honor the black Civil War soldiers of Ypsilanti.

Save the date of Tuesday, September 16 from 7:00-8:30pm for the first Challenging Racism planning meeting for 2014-2015. Learn about the exciting events that are planned and help design others. Newcomers are always welcome.



Social Justice Rally

Continue the long history of Social Witness at UUA and attend the Justice Rally - "Blessing of all Families" in Lansing on Tuesday, August 5 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Lansing First Presbyterian Church. After our Congregation's vote to support Marriage Equality, it's time to "Walk Our Talk!"

This is an excellent opportunity to be part of a liberal faith response in support of all families. On August 6, the DeBoer Case (asking for marriage equality in Michigan) will be heard in the Sixth Circuit Court in Cincinnati, OH. The rally in Lansing will prove there are faiths that want Marriage Equality in Michigan. Sign-up at the Social Justice or Interweave tables during Social Hour on Sundays through August 3.

There are plans for carpooling to allow all those who want a chance to come. For any questions or to sign-up contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com. Come join in Lansing and continue the UUAAs Social Justice tradition. Sponsored by the SJC and Interweave.



Citizens Climate Lobby

A new group that has been formed under the Social Justice Committee is the UUA affiliate of the Citizens Climate Lobby - Ann Arbor Chapter. The first event will be a forum on Sunday, August 10 at 11:30am in the Fahs Chapel. Elizabeth (Lisa) Del Buono, MD, a former UU attendee and SGD teacher, now Citizens Climate Lobby co-leader in Traverse City, will speak on "Climate Change: How Individuals Can Make a Difference". Questions? Contact Larry Junck at lrjunck@gmail.com or 734-649-7945.



Denominational Connections Team (DCT)



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. GA 2014 was held in Providence, Rhode Island from Wednesday-Sunday, June 25-29. UUA had nine Delegates and two Ministers who helped select the next Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2014- 2018, *Escalating Inequality*. The UUA will be creating a study guide for Congregations to use to educate themselves about this issue in November.

The DCT facilitated a debrief of GA attendees and there were several great experiences presented, one of the popular ones was the unique to Providence, RI: "Waterfire". There were also several ideas that the delegates would like to "bring back" to the UUA. Some of these were developing a Disaster Plan; to begin discussing Islam to counter the discrimination against these people of faith; and to support justice in the Middle East through study groups that explore the issues of the area.

Questions? Contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com.

DCT serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between UUA and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing the Congregation and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs. 

Scrip

It's already time to think about back-to-school shopping. Why not take advantage of [Great Lakes Scrip's](#) special bonus rebates?



The following retailers offer these bonuses through August 1 (special rebate amounts in parentheses): Applebee's (3), Bath and Body Works (5), CVS (2), Dell (2), IHOP (2), Kohl's (1), L.L. Bean (1), Logan's Roadhouse (2), Lowe's (1), REI (2), TGI Fridays (2), Walgreens (1). Order online until August 1 or place an order at the Scrip table on Sundays in the Social Hall before the deadline. Lands' End cards (16) purchased at the table are still good for Sears and Kmart.

Questions? Contact Carloyn Barber at 734-665-0884 or cmbponyclub@sbcglobal.net. 

Road Construction

The road work on Ann Arbor-Saline Road between Eisenhower and Oak Valley Drive is scheduled to last to the end of this month. Check out these links for detour maps from the [Washtenaw County Road Commission](#), on [construction phases](#), and more [detour details](#). 

Church Office News

New Content Guide

All recognized Congregational groups who share activities and events in the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin can now access a Content Guide for writing entries. Find deadlines and details as to the accepted number of words, where to email each article, how to provide a Congregant contact, and more. [Click here](#) for a copy. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org. 

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

Communicating at UUAU:

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's September Newsletter is 9:00am on Thursday, August 21. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

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

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

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, dewon@uuaa.org.



Find us on Facebook 

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to deborah@uuaa.org by newsletter@uuaa.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103