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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

January Newsletter

January 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 1

Worship @ UUAU

Quick Links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Standing on the Side of](#)

[Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

[UUAU.org](#)

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

January 5, 2014

"Letting Go and Bringing In"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

At the turning of the year, let's take time for personal reflection. Looking backwards, what needs to be left behind, do we need atonement, forgiveness? Looking forward, what needs to be brought in, is what are our aspirations?

January 12, 2014

"Madiba"

Annual Service of Remembrance

The Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Rev. Mark Evens, assisted by Jim Lee.

Each year we take time to reflect on those we love who have died in the previous year. In addition to our annual reading of the names we will reflect on the life of "Madiba," Nelson Mandela.

January 19, 2014

*** Congregational Meeting at 1:00 pm***

"Spread Like the Squash Plant"

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Guest Preacher, Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Pulpit Host.

"Connections are made slowly" the poet Marge Piercy tells us. In this age when many churches in our movement and others are declining in membership, how is it that churches need to change, adapt, connect, to succeed in this new religious landscape?

Bio: The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum has served for almost a decade as the minister of the Universalist

Unitarian Church of East Liberty, which is in the Jackson, Michigan area, where she lives with her husband, daughter, and two cats. She is a Michigan native, having grown up in Pleasant Ridge and attending the Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills, and is a U of M grad. She also currently serves as a trustee on the MidAmerica Region board.

January 26, 2014

"Justice for Every Body"

Rev. Mark Evens

We can pursue a larger, more holistic vision that reaches beyond the decades-long pro-choice/pro-life struggle. "Reproductive Justice" provides a new conceptual framework within which everything that affects a woman's right to have children, not have children, and to parent the children she has in a safe healthy environment must be considered. This framework invites us into partnerships that can transform us and our world. Rev. Mark Evens in collaboration with the Reproductive Justice Study and Action Group.



From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



From writer, Anne Lamott, "Note to self: If you want to have loving feelings, do loving things." Bears repeating.

Now and again, often by chance, loving feelings are triggered by the actions of others. Always, we have at the ready all the ingredients needed to trigger the experience of loving feelings. When we initiate love and kindness into the world, there is love and kindness in our world.

Feeling left out of the festivities at the neighborhood, work, or family gathering this holiday season? Waiting for rescue by others is a sad, ineffective postponement of possibility. I was taught to balance times of feeling unconnected by initiating connection.

Isolated? Reach out and greet, shake hands, welcome someone else. Got a fragile sense of connection? Offer to help someone less mobile than yourself. Teach someone else's kid how to walk your dog, or how to bake bread, or anything you know and can do. Adrift from a clarity of purpose or direction? Volunteer at church. Take risks among people with whom you have a covenant of service and caring.

"Note to self: If you want to have loving feelings, do loving things."

May the New Year bring Peace and Goodwill to All. May we each be a part of bringing Peace and Goodwill to all whom we encounter. May all our decisions generate Peace and Goodwill.

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail



Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Enough and Not Enough

...

*Each new night
turns endings into beginnings,
holds its splendor
in the awe of silence,
in wordless, voiceless, reverence.*

...

From *Nighttime, January* by Bill Neely, in *With or Without Candlelight - A meditation Anthology* from Skinner House.
Edited by Victoria Safford.



Each new night turns endings into beginnings, and each New Year turns endings into beginnings.

It is important to remember that we are each "enough." We each have inner resources with which to meet the challenges and opportunities we face in our lives. We each have decisions to make and habits to sculpt that can make our lives richer and more closely aligned with our values and our dreams in the coming year.

It is important to remember that we are each "not" enough. None of us is truly independent, not even for a moment, nor should we strive to be. We each are connected to all that we care about, every one we love, or have ever loved. We each are connected to everyone who loves us or has ever loved us. There is a love available to each of us that can hold us when we need holding.

We are held in relation to all that surrounds us. We are held by the cosmos, by the force of life. We are held within the web of all life on earth, and perhaps elsewhere, emerging out of the mute swirl of matter that is our universe, blessed or unblessed. May we give voice to the love we feel in the New Year.



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

Each new year offers a fresh beginning. At UUAA we enjoy an influx of visitors. Most of the visitors are new to Unitarian Universalism. Those with children often ask about our SGD Children and Youth Program, specifically, "what do you teach the children?" The SGD program strives to provide community and a supportive environment for families - parents and guardians remain the primary religious educators of their children, UUAA programming does not usurp this role. During this season of exploration, I offer this abridged list of resources available to parents and guardians as they engage their role as primary religious educator and spiritual guide for their children.



The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) provides many resources easily found on its website: [uua.org](http://www.uua.org). For example, the UUA Families site (<http://www.uua.org/re/families/index.shtml>) discusses how to support children in the face of disaster or tragedy, such as a tornado or school violence. Similarly, there are resources on adoption, death and parenting, among others.

The UUA Bookstore offers many books about parenting with a UU lens. My current favorite is *Don't Fix Me, I'm Not Broken* by Sally Patton. This book probes the spiritual practice of parenting a child with different needs, including the labels of disability, disorder or disease. The UUA also provides sexual orientation and gender identity resources, including book titles for youth and adults on LGBTQ topics (<http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/discuss/25458.shtml>). I can also recommend *The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuvejaar, and *About Death: A Unitarian Universalist Book for Kids*.

What are your beliefs? Practices? Do you meditate? Do you read the Bible? Is a walk in the "Back 40" a spiritual practice for you? Do you identify as a Humanist? Atheist? Christian? None of these? Do you have a chalice in the home? A copy of the hymnal? Do you teach in the Children and Youth Program? Have you discussed with your children WHY you teach? Not only does sharing your experiences and beliefs with your child provide her/him with information about you, it models how to discuss spirituality without judgment and with conviction.

In our home, we have a hymnal and a chalice. Both of our children pledge to the UUAA, one to the annual fund, one to the capital campaign. We take the opportunity to discuss why we are Unitarian Universalists, what it means to support our congregation, and why we do it. We also learn about other faith traditions. Videos of Bible stories are the current favorite. We are able to discuss differences in a respectful manner. It is never too early! My son and his friends had a heated debate about different faith traditions over the second-grade lunch table. Here was arguing among many and confusion as to why everyone couldn't just get along. Like so many life experiences, it provided opportunity for discussion and sharing.



Board News

January 19 Congregational Meeting Notice



A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19 from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are warmly encouraged to attend.

The agenda includes a report on the 2014 Operational Budget and ongoing Comprehensive Campaign, presentations on the Board of Trustees Goals, information about UUAU's 150th Anniversary, and a vote of the Congregational Study Action Issues coming before the General Assembly in June.



Stewardship

Annual Operating Fund Campaign

George Garcia and Dixie Hibner, Co-Chairs



Have you "Renewed Your Covenant" with our Congregation? Have you returned your pledge form? On November 12, 2013, the official phase of the Annual Operating Fund Pledge Drive ended. Approximately 285 pledge forms have been returned, with about another 140 forms still outstanding. The total amount pledged is about \$720,000. We still have a ways to go to fully fund our values.

We, here at UUAU, have high aspirations and goals. We have core values that are important to each other and to the larger community. We want to make the world a better place. Thank you if you have returned your pledge form. If you've lost your pledge form you can pick up a new one in the office or on the stewardship table outside the office. Please return your form to the office or complete your pledge online at www.uuaa.org/support-our-congregation/make-a-pledge-online.



Thank you so much for your support of our Covenantal Community. Thank you for all the time and talent you devote to building our foundations and core values. And thank you for the treasure you contribute to making it work.

Contact co-chairs Dixie Hibner or George Garcia at annualcampaign@uuaa.org.



Comprehensively Speaking

Margaret Dawson Pekarek and Tim Richards Co-Chairs



The Comprehensive Campaign is gearing up again this month of January, extending the opportunity to participate in establishing a



legacy to all who are presently or previously connected to First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. As we begin to reach out to former Members and Friends and to those who have found our Congregation an important way station on their spiritual journeys, we seek your help in finding addresses and other contact information for them.

We will be sending letters of invitation to these groups: new Members, former Members and Friends who have moved away from Michigan or moved on in their spiritual journeys, graduates of our Religious Education/Spiritual Growth and Development programs. We will seek ways to involve our children and youth in the Comprehensive Campaign, too, creating a legacy to benefit future members of this congregation and to benefit the wider community.

We hope that a few current Members and Friends will step forward and work with us as we extend invitations to participate in the campaign as we approach our 150th anniversary in May, 2015.

Would you be up for doing a little research? Do you have skills, that attitude of persistence, a creative mind that you would be willing to lend to our effort? We can promise a sense of purpose and some good measure of fun to those who volunteer.



Please contact either of us to talk about how you might like to help. Happy New Year! We hope it brings peace, growth, laughter and wellbeing to each of you.

Margaret Dawson Pekarek and Tim Richards
mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com and tfrichards@gamil.com.



SGD Program

Childcare

Erin Dixon, Childcare Coordinator

Childcare Provider Positions Available

Hello, all. My name is Erin Dixon, and I have been the Lead Teacher for the UUAA Pre-School classroom since 2008. Your children may know me as Miss Erin. I also coordinate the Childcare Providers program. When you see "Child care is available" on a UUAA flyer or in a notice, that is the Childcare Providers program at work.



The Childcare Providers program is separate from the Spiritual Growth and Development Program. SGD is offered every Sunday, while Congregational groups who want childcare for their events must contact me at erin@uuaa.org as well as Programs Coordinator Maria Thomas at maria@uuaa.org in advance to arrange for childcare. Maria and I are happy to answer any questions you may have about arranging child care. You can also access the UUAA Childcare Policy. ([childcare policy](#))

The Childcare Providers program is now hiring childcare providers. These are part-time positions offering one to six hours employment per month. Providers always work on-site here at UUAA. My ideal candidate is at least 14 years old and possesses a genuine love for and interest in children (providers under age 18 are always paired with at least one other provider age 18 or older). Applicants must have completed child CPR and first aid training within the last year, and will undergo a background check.

If you love seeing children's enthusiasm for life and their wonder at the world, if you enjoy being with them during their magical, "aha" moments of learning and growth, then please consider joining us as a part-time child care provider. Contact me at erin@uuaa.org.

Erin Dixon
Child Care Coordinator



Activities and Events

ICE-T Potluck * Wednesday, January 8

Potluck events are hosted by the Intergenerational Community Events Team (ICE-T) on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome and bringing a dish is appreciated but not required.

In January: Breakfast Dinner. Join on Wednesday January 8 for a potluck focused on breakfast. Waffles and syrup will be provided. Come share your favorite breakfast related food: bacon, sausage, fruit salad, whole fruit, potato pancakes, the sky is the limit. There will be a volunteer and special kids' toys at the event. Share the ages of the children by email to Sandy Eyl at sandy.eyl@gmail.com.

In February: Challenging Racism and Classism. On Wednesday, February 12 there will be a co-sponsored potluck with Challenging Racism. A discussion will be at 7:00pm after the meal on the topic of Social Class. If childcare is needed, contact sandy.eyl@gmail.com by Sunday, January 26.

Volunteers are needed to setup or cleanup, cook or play with kids, and to host or co-sponsor future events. Contact Sandy Eyl at sandy.eyl@gmail.com or 313-213-5559 to participate in a planning meeting in January.



Round Robin * Friday, January 10

Join groups of 6 to 10 adults for an evening of food, conversation, and congeniality. This is a wonderful way for new members to get acquainted with Congregants. The next Round Robin dinner will be on Friday, January 10. Notices to participants will go out by December 26. Confirmation of participation needs to be received by Thursday, January 2.

Interested in participating in the next dinner? Contact Sally Preston at sally@pctraining.net.



Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC) * Sundays, January 12 & 26



Meet Your Farmer will be on Sundays, January 12 and 26 from 1:00 to 2:15pm in the Jackson Chapel. Two more farmers are lined up to talk as part of the MEC's continuing *Meet Your Farmer* series.

On Sunday, January 12, UUAU's own Jennifer Kangas will talk about Capella Farm, her thriving CSA, and how she got the farm to where it is. Then on Sunday, January 26, Alex Cacciari and Mark Nowak of Seeley Farm will discuss how they went from a test farm at Tillian Farm Development Center to a full-fledged, 30-acre farm specializing in greens.

Questions? Ask Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net or 734-475-9805.



Intro to OUUr Faith * Saturday, January 18

The Intro to OUUr Faith class will be on Saturday, January 18 from 10:00am to 2:30pm.

This prerequisite class for members will be taught by Rev. Mark Evens with the assistance of a Board Member. Topics include the history of Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, how this Congregation is governed, how to get involved at UUAU, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.



Registration deadline will be Sunday, January 12. Childcare registration deadline will be Friday, January 3. Registration forms are located on the front literature rack, in the newcomer welcome room, and on the Involvement table. For questions or to register contact welcome ministries coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa or 734-665-6158, ext 136.



Leadership Development * Saturday-Sunday, January 25 & 26

The Leadership Development Team and Chalice Circle Committee have joined together to offer a special leadership development opportunity for current leaders in the

Congregation, leveraging the chalice circle format.

On Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, January, 26 there will be four One-Time Chalice Circles on the topic of Servant Leadership. This One-Time Chalice circle topic was used in a Chalice Circle facilitators' meeting last year, and received very positive feedback.

Scheduled are:

- two parallel sessions on Saturday, January 25 from 2:30 to 4:30pm;
- two parallel sessions on Sunday, January 26 from 1:15 to 3:15pm.

Each Chalice Circle session will be limited to 10 participants and 2 facilitators. If interested in attending, reply to ymmesa@comcast.net by January 10, indicating which day you would like to attend. You will receive materials that you will need to prepare in advance of the circle. This preparation will require between 15 and 30 minutes.

Questions? Contact Vilma Mesa at ymmesa@comcast.net.



Announcements and Notices

150th Anniversary Celebration Planning Terry Madden and Sandy Simon, Co-Chairs

From the kickoff on September 28, 2014 to the grand finale on May, 17, 2015, plans to incorporate the ideas expressed at the October 2013 brainstorming event are underway for the celebration of our 150th Anniversary. A complete update of *plans in progress* will be given by Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 19.

To share ideas for celebrating UUAA's 150th Anniversary contact birthday150.org.



Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

At the January 19 Congregational Meeting vote for five out of six proposed Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) for 2014 - 2018. The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) will offer a forum on January 12 after the second service. Here are six issues for consideration:

1. Proposed CSAI: *Empowerment: Age and Ability Reconsidered*: The personal is political. Young people and older people know what it's like to be abused, marginalized, and discriminated against because of their age and ability. How can congregations best empower young and old? How can people with different abilities, in different age groups, create the Beloved Community? uua.org/statements/current/290504.shtml.



2. Proposed CSAI: *Ending the War on Terror*: Since September 11, 2001, the United States has been engaged in a "war on terror," with the doctrine that "the world is a battlefield." Torture, extraordinary rendition, detention without trial, extrajudicial assassination by drone strike, dragnet surveillance of phone and internet communications, and military intervention have been conducted in the name of combating terrorism. The military consumes a vast share of the discretionary Federal budget. Yet, because much of this war is conducted in secret and constitutes killing by remote control, it is often virtually invisible in Americans' daily lives, despite our collective responsibility for it. Making the invisible visible as the basis for moral choice is central to the religious practice. uua.org/statements/current/290505.shtml
3. Proposed CSAI: *Escalating Inequality*: Upward mobility-the American Dream-has become a myth. Concentration of wealth and power has skyrocketed. King's dream of justice and equality has fractured. Half of all Americans are impoverished or struggling, as the middle class shrinks and billionaires take the profits. Where's our commitment to the Common Good? uua.org/statements/current/290506.shtml
4. Proposed CSAI: *Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue*: We are in the midst of an epidemic of violence fueled by the gun industry. The problem of gun violence is a public health issue. We can approach the situation the same way we challenged the tobacco industry, namely by exposing the facts. Because of the facts we have learned to wear seat belts, we have safer highways. We have learned the dangers of smoking, and that foods and drugs need to be regulated. It is our right as citizens to have access to this data and to all facts regarding consumer products. It is how we make informed decisions. It is unbelievable to me that guns and firearms are not regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Act. The gun industry has strategically protected itself from the consequences of its very harmful products. I believe the industry will not be able to stand up to the scrutiny of an informed public. Lets learn the facts and take on the national gun industry. uua.org/statements/current/290502.shtml
5. Proposed CSAI: *Renewing and Securing Our American Democracy*. Negative campaigning, voter suppression efforts, huge infusions of cash from super-rich donors and narrow special interests into the election and political processes, hyper-partisan politics, the alienation of ordinary citizens, decreasing voter turnout, and the erosion of civil liberties-all contribute to a growing fear that the American democracy and government of, by, and for the people are in jeopardy. What can Unitarian Universalists, with commitment to justice, equity, and the use of the democratic process in society at large, do to protect, renew, secure, and further democracy in America. uua.org/statements/current/290503.shtml
6. Proposed CSAI: *UU Values & the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis & Palestinians*. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, now in its seventh decade, has caused great suffering and injustice, with effects extending far beyond the local region. Palestinians continue to endure violence, occupation, and dispossession, while Israelis are threatened by the specter of violent attacks and growing international isolation. uua.org/statements/current/290499.shtml

The Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) for 2012 - 2016, *Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling* will be in full swing at UUA during the 2013 -

2014 program year. There will be a series of monthly discussions with topics from the UUA's Commission on Social Witness's recommended CSAI curriculum.

Session 3: Jan 22 - Inherent Worth and Dignity

Session 4: Feb 19 - Reverence for Life

Session 5: Mar 19 - Right of Conscience

Session 6: Apr 16 - Conclusion: Moving Forward

Questions? Contact Angelina Zaytsev at angelina.zaytsev@gmail.com.

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



Accessibility Team

Nearly 30 members/friends have joined the Accessibility Team effort and any are very actively involved. Four taskforces are planning to conduct a accessibility needs assessment targeting the following focus areas: the building environment, communication, attitudes, and policies. The results will be presented in an action plan at the May 2014 Congregational meeting.

The planning committee of Pauline Loewenhardt and Carolyn Roberts is organizing a panel session about disabilities and accessibility in the Congregation for May 2014.

Questions? Contact Els Nieuwenhuijsen at elsni@comcast.net or 734- 995-1817 or Priscilla Spencer at paspencer44@yahoo.com or 734-223-7286.



Pastoral Care Education

Pastoral Care Education presented a series of informational workshops in October, November, and December 2013: *Adapting Our Exercise As We Age*, *Protecting Our Assets*, and *Five Wishes - Advanced Directives*.

All three were positively received. Pastoral Care Education looks forward to hosting three presentations in March, April, and May. The March presentation will feature Barbara Zaret from the Turner Wellness Clinic speaking about *Community Health Resources for Seniors*.



Questions? Contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Partner Church News



Plans for the Thursday, June 5 through Monday, June 16 pilgrimage to the Partner Church congregation in Transylvania are underway. About a dozen people have expressed an interest, picked up a brochure, or sent an email about the trip. January will be the month to talk together about the trip and make reservations. Look for more information about meetings in the weekly bulletins.

This is a pilgrimage to historic Unitarian sites and home visits with the Partner Church congregants in their home town of Kézdivásárhely...and not a typical 'tour'. The trip is 12 days/10 nights and is offered by the UU Partner Church Pilgrimage Service. Land package costs are as follows:

- Land package per person for adults: \$1525 + \$150 registration fee for double occupancy.
- Additional \$140 for single supplement in hotels.
- Additional cost of \$110 to upgrade from the Unitarian dorm to the hotel in Kolozsvár and from home-stays to the B&B in the village of Székelyderzs.
- Land package per/person for youth is \$1225 + 150 registration fee for double occupancy.

The land package does not include airfare or other transportation to Budapest or from Bucharest. Travelers will make their own flight arrangements. Those wishing to travel with the group will be provided with the specific flight details by the group leaders once they are available so that they can make similar reservations.

If interested contact Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu.



Social Justice Council (SJC)

The Social Media workshop, FB 101, has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 25 at 10:00am. The workshop will be a two-part event. The first hour will be *101* where the basics of *Facebook* will be covered, along with time for discussion, and questions. After a break, the second hour will be dedicated to a more in-depth look into how *Facebook* can work for Congregational groups. You may take a look at the [Social Justice Council's FB page](#) by clicking on the link.

The SJC has purchased a new projector for congregational use. For questions on the equipment, contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com

The SJC meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm. Interesting in attending a meeting in the new year? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com or Carol Acitelli at carol.acitelli@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 19 each will have an opportunity to vote for a Congregational Study/Action Issue



(CSAI) proposal that addresses a major human rights issue; one that Americans are complicit in perpetuating. *Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians* has been endorsed by several nationally prominent leaders and is designed to provide a constructive framework to learn about, discuss, and take action consistent with UU values on this critical justice issue.



Unresolved and greatly misunderstood, this human rights tragedy also draws billions of dollars away from pressing domestic needs such as education, health, and infrastructure. For a brief introduction into the realities of this issue and the similarities with apartheid South Africa, pick up a DVD of the film *Roadmap to Apartheid* at the UUJME table in the Social Hall. Take it home for a week and watch it at your convenience. Additional information is readily available at www.uujme.org. Limited information will be provided at the Sunday, January 12 CSAI forum following the second service.

Questions? Contact interim co-chairs Larry or Diane Cooper at cooperdiane@wowway.com or larrycooper@wowway.com.



Sharing the Collection

The UUAA "Sharing the Collection" committee consisting of David Allen, Lynn Ayres, James Johnson, Terry Madden, and Theresa Rohlck are pleased to announce the 2014 recipients of the first Sunday of the month collections:



- January Packard Health
- February Corner Health Center
- March Friends In Deed
- April UU Service Committee
- May Habitat for Humanity
- June House By the Side of the Road

The 2013 recipients and the generous contributions from our UUAA family are:

January	Washtenaw Prisoner Reentry	\$1710	July	Children's Literacy Network	\$1153
February	Avalon Housing	\$1,193	August	Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition	\$943

March	Michigan UU Social Justice Network	\$1,136	September	UU Service Committee	\$1,162
April	Habitat for Humanity	\$1,214	October	Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor	\$1954
May	HIV/AIDS Resource Center	\$927	November	IHN Alpha House	\$1638
June	Community Action Network	\$931.50	December	Growing Hope	\$1686.7



Guest At Your Table



This Month continues the Annual Guest At Your Table (GAYT) fundraiser. Funds raised will directly support the operation of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The UUSC is independent, membership-based, and receives no funding from the UUA or the US government. The Funds raised are essential to the operation of the UUSC.

UUSC works toward a world free from oppression and injustice through partnerships, including with those featured in the Stories of Hope booklet. The UUSC reaches people around the world on behalf of their supporting congregations. The deadline for donations for GAYT is Sunday, January 5, 2014.

Place donations in the GAYT envelope to the UUSC table during Social Hour until Sunday, January 5, 2014. Make checks to "UUSC". Support the UUSC directly at www.uusc.org. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cmadeen@gmail.com.



Thank You to Alpha House Volunteers



Highlights of the service week at Alpha House included Thanksgiving Dinner and a birthday party for a little girl who turned four. Eighty UU volunteers cooked, served, cleaned up, played with the children, and spent the night at Alpha House in support of homeless families.

Gretchen Ridenour has cooked dishes for Alpha House for the past ten years and this time she



also served as a day host reminding other volunteers of their commitments. She says she'll be back at the next service week.

Sandy Eyl made a complicated breakfast casserole for Sunday morning. She also fried up the extra sausage and eggs and found the residents loved the plain eggs and sausage. Sandy's advice is to keep the cooking simple. Sandy also recalls how happy residents were with pizza on Friday night.

Carol Cramer and Thomas Longworth served lunch on Saturday and saw first hand how much everyone enjoyed the goulash made from an old family favorite recipe. (The secret ingredient is a hint of cinnamon.)

Special thanks goes out to who volunteered on Thanksgiving Day. Kathy Shay cooked a turkey breast and dressing and was happy she could contribute. Katlyn Cameron, who served and cleaned up along with Diane Scarpace, said Thanksgiving dinner was really busy with around twenty residents gathered around the tables. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would love to do it again.

Delphine Bernard and Kathy Edgren both volunteered to interact with the children and reported a wide range in the children's ages from toddlers to teenagers, which made for challenging group dynamics. One of the volunteers offered to make a bench press to give the older boys something to do.

Other UUAU volunteers who gave their time and talents to Alpha House during the busy Thanksgiving week were: Brandy Sinco, Mary Locey, Sally Preston, JoAnne Diehl, Rennee and Eric Persheck with Rainey and Aspen, Kristen and Johannah Mogbo, Kate Hutchens, Mark van Kempen, Dee Dishon, Brian Love, Quincy Northrup, Lisa Kohn, Pat King, Constance Bridge, Kathy Leonard, Kim Clugston, Bethany Ramirez, Denise and Bob Leffler, Lynn Mead, Ginger Luke, Edie Hough, David Bates, Cathy and Mike Muha, Sharon Guyton, Suzanne Benloucif, Melanie Dever, Yves Le Pottier, Cathy Kattula-Klink, Sophie Le Pottier, Violet Edens, Anna Edgren, Hal and Cathie Breidenbach, Diane Fead, Madeline Goodson, Cathy Reischl, Tricia Smith, Sue Tons, Gina Boldman, Liz Hartley, Michelle Dunnum, James Champagne, Ana Sofia Moreno, Andrew McKinnon, Doug and Marg Kelley, Denise Kearns, James Biller, Karen Spangler, Lisa Lemble, Kathy Friedrichs, Carol and Lou Maccini, Ann Brennan with Joe and Katie Krushelnick, Lara Brown with Sophia and Mateo Wakeman, Alissa Ruelle, Roen Montalva with Sabina, Anya, and Ezra, Margaret Flannery. Many thanks to all.

The next Alpha House service week will be Monday, February 10 through Sunday, February 16. Watch for the signup table in the Social Hall during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at cheryl.natzmervvalentine@gmail.com.



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, 9:00am-5:00pm

***Note:** The building will be closed for New Years from 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 30 until 9:00am on Thursday, January 2.

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 in January. Send your submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's February Newsletter is 9:00am on January 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 UUAU Lay Leader Administrative Guide. ([click here](#)).

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