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## First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

# March Newsletter

March, 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 3

## 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.

### March 2, 2014

#### "Hope. Again."

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Hope is not the same thing as Optimism. One can get us through almost anything. The other can leave us bereft in our time of need. I preached on this a year ago and am still receiving requests to repeat, revisit, revise, and re-present my thoughts. Request granted!

### March 9, 2014 \* TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR\*

#### "The Chalice Cup"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

UUA President Morales has challenged all UU's to think "beyond congregations." MidAmerica Region Board member Cynthia Landrum has called our congregation out to be a "Great Pumpkin" as we grow our faith in the winding ways of squash plants. And, now, the UUA has re-branded, changed, again, their presentation of the Flaming Chalice symbol of our religion. It is time for me to respond.

### March 16, 2014

#### "Modern Myths of the Self"

Rev. Mark Evens

What are the right approaches and the best assumptions to help us understand ourselves? ..., those of science? ..., of art and literature? ..., of religion? Inspired by Marilyn Robinson's 2010 book *Absence of Mind* we will consider where scientific reductionism might overplay its hand.

### March 23, 2014

#### "Atheism and the Origins of the Modern World"

Rev. Mark Evens

This service continues our exploration of the history of Humanism. A central source will be the recently published book *Imagine There's No Heaven: How Atheism Helped Create the Modern World* by Mitchell Stephens.

**March 30, 2014**

**"Finding Fulfillment"**

Youth Led Service: 2014

(gently encouraged by Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer)

Each year we invite our High School group: YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) to offer a service of worship.



## From Our Staff

### Gleanings

#### Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Neither away nor toward..., like slack tides of the ocean..., intermission., neither this nor that.

Vernal Equinox. Wikipedia tells it this way: "An equinox occurs twice a year, when the plane of Earth's equator passes the center of the Sun. At this time the tilt of the Earth's axis is inclined neither away from nor towards the Sun." [Wikipedia](#)

March 20th brings us to the Vernal Equinox. Neither away nor toward the source of all light, all energy. Away nor toward the gravitational center of our solar system.

No wonder I tend toward feeling a bit out of rhythm come the Vernal Equinox. I get a bit off balance from the intensities of weather, holidays, and expectations of the busy months past. We are neither pushing hard toward the longest night of the year, nor are we racing fast to the shortest nights. We are in the slack tide, in the intermission, the intersection between winter and spring.

At the Vernal Equinox, we often use the language of seasons and offer hope in the certain knowledge that spring will come. Flowers. Soft air. Warm rain. Time for planning the planting.

By mid-March, church life is brimming with the changing of the seasons of our programs. This is an overlapping time, a time of writing and collecting Annual Reports: a summary view to welcome others into the activities of our ministries, programs for the past year. And by mid-March, many of us are fully immersed in calendars: planning, dreaming, aspiring, creating the programs, classes, services and ministries we will offer in the year ahead. New groups of volunteers are stepping up to lead our ministries in every area.

Vernal Equinox, our earth is neither away nor toward the sun, the source of light and energy. In the Vernal Equinox of the turning of our planet church, we are both away and toward. We are away from the learning and engaging of the months past, collecting those experiences in Annual Reports, and toward all the possibility of an emerging new program year.

May this liminal time bring respite from the extremes of a cold winter, satisfaction as we write reports of reflection on past months learning and doing, and hope for new possibility ahead.

I suspect it will be awhile, still, before crocuses come. But I have no doubt that we move closer to warm air and soft rain every single day. May all hope and joy be present as we plan for the year ahead.

My Love to Each,  
Rev. Gail

**Engagement Alert:**

Do you regularly use Enneagram or Meyers-Briggs in the course of your work life? Are you comfortable as a presenter of those tools? Would you be interested in offering your skills to strengthen the life of our Congregation's staff team or other small groups? If you are interested, please send me a written note at [gail@uuaa.org](mailto:gail@uuaa.org).

Gratefully Yours,  
Rev. Gail

**Musings****Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister****Taking the Long but Finite Perspective**

Growing up as a Boy Scout our motto was "Be Prepared." You can get a lot of good mileage out of that phrase throughout your life. It can even be taken as encouragement to face up to our own mortality, now. Next month, on April 6 in the afternoon our Adult Spiritual Growth and Development and Pastoral Care programs are sponsoring a class called "End of Life Resources at Your Service here at UUAA (First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor)." Tom Darnton and John Erdevig will discuss end of life estate planning and "planned giving" as ways to live your values all the way through life. I will describe what goes into the planning of a memorial service at UUAA and give "homework" for those who would like to get started. Kim Clugston will describe her vision of the Memorial Gardens here at UUAA where members can choose to have their cremains scattered. Whatever your current age, I encourage you to consider taking advantage of this opportunity.



Each spring our Coming of Age Youth each have a three-minute opportunity to articulate how they currently make sense of the world in front of the congregation in a worship service. At any age each of us can take an opportunity to write and share something about what is important to us about living and about how we make sense and meaning on our path. Considering how you might like your life celebrated at its end can be a similar opportunity for reflecting and considering what is most important to you.

Here are the kinds of questions I use in discussing how we might celebrate a person's life: Who do you love? Who are your family and closest connections? How do you name God, ultimate reality, mystery, the largest level of meaning in your life now, today? Who might you need to forgive, or be forgiven by?

Planning for one's own memorial invites one into a process of what we could call "preemptive" or hypothetical remembering. We ask ourselves the question "what do I want to be remembered for?" What songs and poems or other readings reflect your values and understanding of life, your way of moving in the world?

Consider joining us for this rich conversation on April 6. You can even get started on these example discussion questions as homework now.

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

## Spoon-Fed Communication

Cleve Persinger is a consultant based in Nashville who specializes in helping churches communicate better with their members and the larger community. He says one of the most common questions he receives is "How many different ways should we be communicating with our folks?" Its an understandable question about communication *quantity* because congregations want to make sure all of their bases are covered. It is also an old communication strategy called the "shotgun approach" whereby you spray all of your communication in as many directions as you can and hopefully some of it will hit. We should be familiar with this approach as we have largely used that method at UUAU. Frankly, I've never gotten any sense that many folks at UUAU think our communications tactics are all that dandy.



Cleve thinks there's a better question for congregations to ask..."What are the fewest avenues of communication that we can pour our all into and keep updated, so that folks can keep up with what's going on?" Cleve thinks "less = more". His experience is that a less is more approach has greater impact, reduces noise, and provides distinct and assessable ways to find important information. Why is this so?

When information comes at us from all angles, we are more likely to become passive about listening and retaining it. Cleve likens it to being spoon-fed or riding a bike with training wheels - why be proactive when we don't have to be? However, when I have to navigate by myself, I am more likely to take some ownership of the information. Remember the relevant adage - communication is a two-way street. He recommends pouring our resources into one communication avenue and a few secondary ones.

We've taken the shotgun approach, for goodness knows how long, with a repertoire that includes a monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin, pastoral news, organizational website, multiple Facebook pages, annual report, dozens of handouts/leaflets/program guides, form letters, electronic messages, and much more. What would it look like for us to go a different direction? What would be our focal point for communicating both the enormity and subtlety of who we are? Would we need more or perhaps less resources to do so?

I'm interested in your answers to these questions. So, let's converse with one another soon.

My door is open to you .



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

Our Children and Youth Program is vibrant, welcoming, and growing because of the congregants who offer the gift of their presence to our children each Sunday. To say "thank you" to the classroom teachers, assistants, and other Sunday morning volunteers, we have planned a Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Saturday, March 8. I invite all congregants to also offer a "thank you" to our volunteers. An offering of gratitude can take many forms. It can be as simple as a "thank you" the next time you pick up a child from the classroom or walk through the SGD wing. Write a thank you note to a teacher. Offer to help in a classroom. Create a family



tradition of expressing gratitude in your own fun and unique way.



I offer this reading in the spirit of volunteer appreciation:

### BLESSED ARE THOSE

"Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

*Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community; who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered unto.*

Blessed are those who bring their children; who invite their friends to come along, to join in fellowship, service, learning, and growth.

*Blessed are those who support the church and its work by their regular, sustained, and generous giving; and who give of themselves no less than their money.*

Blessed are those who know that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to the attention of the church leaders.

*Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do it gladly; who realize that change is brought about through human meeting, who do the work of committees, and stay till the end*

Blessed are those who speak their minds in meetings, who can take and give criticism; who keep alive their sense of humor.

*Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of society; who have a vision of Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change.*

Blessed are they indeed."

John Buehrens, *Singing the Living Tradition*, Reading 728.

With care,  
Sandy Garges



## Program Notes

### Maria Thomas, Programs Coordinator



As the staff contact for the UUAU Childcare Program, I've received a number of questions about the UUAU Childcare Policy. Group leaders and event coordinators within the Congregation have asked, how do I arrange childcare for my next meeting? What steps do I take and what information do I need in order to request childcare?

I'm happy to offer this brief overview of the policy (to view it in its entirety, [click here](#)). I hope that these "highlights" will be helpful to congregants who are not yet familiar with how to arrange childcare.

Group leaders or event coordinators are asked to request childcare at least two weeks in advance of their meeting or event (more notice is always welcome!). Requests should be made in writing to me and to Erin Dixon ([maria@uuaa.org](mailto:maria@uuaa.org); [erin@uuaa.org](mailto:erin@uuaa.org)).

Childcare will be provided if at least two families will use the care.

Care can be provided for a maximum of 12 children, ages infant through 12 years.

Finally, in order to provide safe care, leaders and coordinators are asked to provide the following information along with their request for care: the name, age, and special concerns or needs of each child, including allergies, medical conditions, and any other information necessary for the proper care of each child; and names and contact information for parents and caregivers requesting care.

Group leaders and event coordinators might consider soliciting interest in childcare as soon as they begin to publicize an event. For example, leaders and event coordinators might say that they would like to offer childcare, explain that two or more families are required, and encourage interested families to contact them as soon as possible in order to begin the process.

Childcare provides a safe place for our children to be while their adults engage in on-site UUAU adult programming. If you have questions or are interested in providing childcare for an upcoming meeting or event, I would be happy to talk with you.

With care,  
Maria Thomas



## Pastoral Care News

**Meredith Ley, Pastoral Care Program Coordinator**

We hope you are ready for another senior lunch on Monday, March 10. We will begin at noon and end at 1:30pm. Share your favorite dish with new and long time friends. Everyone is welcome to partake of a light lunch and enjoy the company of fellow UUers. If you are unable to drive, let us know and we will make every effort to pick you up and take you home. Register during Social Hour, call 734-665-6158 Ext. 118, or email [meredith@uuaa.org](mailto:meredith@uuaa.org). Look forward to seeing you!



Join us after the lunch for a discussion with Barbara Zaret, assistant director of the Turner Senior Resource Center. Barbara is a specialist in the Ann Arbor resources needed for the independence and wellness of our senior citizens. This session will be helpful for those seeking services or those caring for relatives in need of support. We will meet in the Jackson Chapel at 1:15pm. Everyone welcome! Questions? Contact Meredith Ley at [meredith@uuaa.org](mailto:meredith@uuaa.org).



## Stewardship

### Comprehensively Speaking

**Margaret Pekarek, Co-Chair Comprehensive Campaign**

**Tim Richards, Co-Chair Comprehensive Campaign**



When Marion Franklin Ham wrote the hymn that we know as "As Tranquil Streams" in 1933, he was writing about how two religious traditions - Unitarianism and Universalism - were merging together to form one new faith.

The hymn, which appears as Hymn #145 in our hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition* includes these words: "Our kindred fellowships unite to build a church that shall be free.... "A freedom that



reveres the past, But trusts the dawning future more."

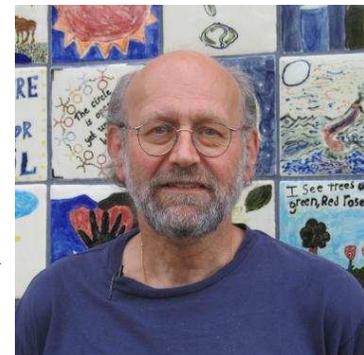
Our Senior Minister, the Reverend Gail Geisenhainer, captured the essence of the powerful idea expressed in this hymn in her October 2011 sermon "Faith in Our Future, Whence, How and Whither," when she said, "We need innovation and progress. And we need conservation of enduring truth, a nurturing of the best of the past. That is the sacred trust of religious community, to heed the voices of prophecy while we respect the wisdom of our ancestors."

Our Congregation was established in 1865 "for the purpose of maintaining religious worship and conducting the temporal interests of a religious society." From our earliest days, we have worked to make a difference in people's lives. Today, we are the beneficiaries of a legacy of action in support of social justice that started in 1865. While we revere this past, it is up to us to build on this legacy by continuing the work that our "fore-founders" began.

As we approach our 150th anniversary on May 14, 2015, an important way to ensure that we both revere the past and trust the dawning future more is to strengthen our financial resource base. By meeting this responsibility, this congregation can continue to flourish so that 150 years from now, members of our congregation will look back and be as grateful to us as we are to our founding members. Today we have an opportunity to give new energy to our legacy and thereby propel it forward.

We moved into our current home (our fourth) in 1999 after a five-year Capital Campaign that raised \$1.6 million. This move was followed by unprecedented growth to over 650 members and the opportunity to strengthen our voice for social justice and environmental action. Shortly after we moved, Lodi Township required us to remove several modular buildings that served as classrooms, making it necessary to add the Religious Education Wing much sooner than we had planned. The RE Wing was completed in 2004 after a three-year Capital Campaign that raised \$1.8 million.

This amount was not sufficient to fully cover construction costs; consequently the Congregation voted to authorize taking out a mortgage, which we are still paying. The goal of the Comprehensive Campaign is to claim our future by developing a strong financial base that will provide the resources necessary for serving the needs of members, for conducting effective social justice outreach, and for advocating for transforming environmental action.



Our Congregation conducts many important ministries to the community and to our members: Chalice Circles, Alpha House, Prison Books program, Mindful Eating, and Pastoral Care are a few examples. To date, the funds generated by the Comprehensive Campaign have enabled us reduce the mortgage principal by approximately \$720,000 and to reduce our monthly mortgage payments from nearly \$12,000 to approximately \$9,400. By redirecting the funds that we currently expend on the mortgage, we have increased the funds that we can make available to support our programs and ministries.

We are tantalizingly close to achieving the Comprehensive Campaign goal of raising \$1.5 million. To date, we have received pledges for over \$1.1 million and another \$200,000 in the form of bequests to bring our total to \$1.3 million. We invite you to share in providing a strong, viable financial base to support the work of this congregation by making a financial contribution of whatever amount is within your capacity to the Comprehensive Campaign.



## Activities and Events

### Sharing the Collection \* March 2

The first Sunday of the month collection on Sunday, March 2 will go to Ypsilanti-based Friends In Deed.

Friends In Deed ([www.friendsindeed.info](http://www.friendsindeed.info)) was founded in 1983 and is celebrating its 30th year of helping the most vulnerable citizens of Washtenaw County. Executive director Sarah Thornburg says, "We provide financial assistance to families in crisis. We also provide free furniture to those in need. Last year we launched a new Crib Drive program that has provided about 30 new cribs to families in need. We also distributed over \$40,000 in emergency assistance, as well as more than 2500 pieces of furniture."



For more information about the Sharing the Collection program, contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com).



### Adult SGD Classes \* Thursday, March 6

Register for Adult Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) Spring term classes and workshops. The Adult SGD catalog for the Spring term is now available at [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org). Register during Social Hour through March 2. Register by email at the addresses in the Catalog until the day before each respective class and workshop begins. Spring Term classes will begin on Thursday, March 6.

Questions about dates and activities? Contact Charley Burleigh at [chburleigh@aol.com](mailto:chburleigh@aol.com).

### Intro to OUUr Faith \* Saturday, March 8

An introduction to Unitarian Universalism for newcomers and long-time members: Taught by Rev. Mark Evens and a board member, topics include the history of UU and this Congregation, governance at UUAA, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.

This class will be held from 10:00am-2:30pm. Sign up by March 2. Space is limited to 20 participants. Registration forms are available at the Involvement Table during Social Hour, in the Newcomer Welcome Room, and in the front entrance literature rack. Or, register by emailing Hannah Hotchkiss directly at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

For questions or help to register, contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 665-6158 or [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org).

### Interweave Circle \* Sunday, March 9

All are welcome to attend an Interweave Circle at 10:45am or 12:45pm in Fahs Chapel. Join co-facilitators, Mark Jagner and Joan Burleigh, in an update on the case challenging Michigan's anti-same-sex marriage amendment. The discussion will lead into questions like: How has marriage changed over the last 200 years? Is marriage still important or is it outdated? Why do some couples choose not to marry?



Interweave is the UUA spiritual home to TBLGQI people and allies. Questions? Contact Leigh Roberson at [leigrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leigrobe@umich.edu).



## Clocks Spring Forward \* Sunday, March 9



Daylight savings time begins on the second Sunday in March when clocks are set ahead one hour at 2:00am (which becomes 3:00am) and ends on the first Sunday in November when clocks are set back an hour.



## Potluck Senior Lunch \* Monday, March 10

A potluck lunch will be from at 12:00-1:30pm in the Social Hall. Share a favorite dish with new and long time friends. Everyone is welcome. If you are unable to drive, let Meredith know and every effort will be made to pick you up and take you home. Register during Social Hour, or contact Meredith Ley at 734-665-6158 Ext. 118 or [meredith@uuaa.org](mailto:meredith@uuaa.org).



## Pastoral Care Education \* Monday, March 10

The Pastoral Care-Education Team will host informational workshops in the "As We Age" series from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Jackson Chapel, Barbara Zaret will present "Community Health Resources for Seniors." Barbara, LMSW, is assistant director of UM's Turner Senior Wellness Program at the Turner Senior Resource Center, and a specialist on resources needed for the independence and wellness of the elderly. She will focus on resources available in Ann Arbor for our senior citizens.



Everyone is welcome. Questions? Contact Sandra Breck at [sbreck@umich.edu](mailto:sbreck@umich.edu) or Carolyn Roberts at [carolynr@asu.edu](mailto:carolynr@asu.edu).



## Men's Breakfast \* Saturday, March 15

All men are invited to attend the Men's Breakfast at 8:15am at the Classic Cup Cafe. The Cafe is located at 4389 Jackson Road, about one mile west of Wagner Road. Enjoy good food and make new friends. Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904.



## Game Day \* Sunday, March 16

Join the fun from 1:00 to 4:00pm in Fahs Chapel for a multi-generational day of board and card games. Many games will be available, but feel free to bring a favorite and introduce it to others. Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even without a dish. Questions? Email Arthur Prokosch and Bethany Ramirez at [bethanyramirez@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyramirez@gmail.com).



## Goods & Services Auction \* Saturday, March 22

Don't Miss the Boat.

*The Love Boat soon will be making another run.  
The Love Boat promises something for everyone.*

Like the venerable '70s television series, this year's Annual Goods & Services Auction soon will be making another run, promising something for everyone. Our theme is the *Love Boat*, and the event is set for Saturday, March 22 from 4:00-7:00pm.



Just as cruisers on the Pacific Princess danced the night away on ship's Promenade Deck, the church will feature music from stem to stern. This year's auction will feature a cornucopia of talent from inside and outside the congregation. Ken Clein will once again serve as Master of Ceremonies. Congregation members Allison Halerz, Vivian Dettbarn-Slaughter, and Brandy Sinco will be tickling the ivories, and Hayley Boyse's duo will serenade us with flute selections. The "Renaissance Quintessentially" quintet will be playing music from, you guessed it, the Renaissance. Finally, our outside entertainment will come from the renowned Community High School Jazz Band under the direction of Jack Wagner. You'll think you're on an actual cruise ship as you limbo from one melodious performance to the next! Sadly, though she is known to be an expert performer of Spanish guitar music, we don't expect Charo to appear for this year's auction.

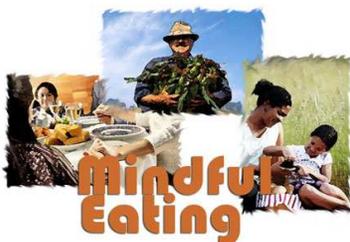


On every "deck", we'll have dinners, recreational outings, and all manner of "goods and services" to bid on. There will be a variety of food from the Moveable Feast, drink and friendly folks to share good cheer with. There will be raffles and door prizes.

All we need is you. That means the help of your hands to volunteer, your checkbook to buy tickets, and your generosity to donate a weekend in your cottage, a dinner, a sailboat ride, an object made with your own hands, or whatever else "floats your boat." You do all of these things at the auction table during Social Hour, or online [www.uuaa.org/auction](http://www.uuaa.org/auction).



### MEC Discussion Panel \* Sunday, March 23



The Mindful Eating Coalition (MEC) will host a panel discussion from 1:00-3:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. The topic will be: *Genetically Modified (GM) Foods: Saving the World, Endangering it, or Somewhere In Between?*

MEC will welcome Dr. Catherine Badgley, Assoc. Professor at U of M Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Dr. Rebecca Grumet, Professor at MSU Dept. of Horticulture; Jennifer Kangas, Farmer: Capella Farms; Ken Siler, Farmer: Siler Farms, Inc.; and Dr. Paul Thompson, Professor, MSU, W.K. Kellogg Chair in Agriculture, Food, and Community Ethics.

This highly knowledgeable group, with a wide range of opinions on the topic, will address the growing debate about GM foods. Questions from the audience are encouraged. [Click here](#) for an event flier. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at [cmuha@att.net](mailto:cmuha@att.net) or 734-475-9805.



### Leadership Development Team \* Sunday, March 23

The Leadership Development Team 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 UUAU and his site visit to the Unitarian Church of Dallas, Terry will argue that there are many benefits to becoming a large-sized congregation. Do you agree? Come from 1:00-2:30pm in the Jackson Chapel to hear Terry's point of view as well as to express your own. Questions? Contact Terry Madden at [terence.madden@gmail.com](mailto:terence.madden@gmail.com).



### Folk Song Jam Along \* Monday, March 24



Come sing for Spring at 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Join for a fun night of community singing to say good-bye to winter blues and welcome back warmth and sunshine.

Sing and harmonize to familiar folk and pop songs and some Spring favorites. Lyrics and chords will be projected on a screen for singers and strummers, so bring guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments to jam along. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazycewski.

Grab a friend and come sing. No singing experience required. If you have some songs that remind you of Spring- let us know at [folksong.jam.along@gmail.com](mailto:folksong.jam.along@gmail.com).



## Leadership Development Team \* Saturday, April 5

All are invited to explore the topic of discernment, through discussion and practice, in a three-hour experiential workshop in the Jackson Chapel. There will be coffee and a light breakfast at 9:00am. The workshop begins promptly at 9:30 am.

Leadership Development Team is sponsoring *What's Discernment Got to Do With It? A Tool and Spiritual Practice for Covenantal Communities*. Discernment is a process through which individuals assist each other in developing spiritual direction and understanding. The process is different from and contributes to good decision making. How can and should discernment be used in our covenantal religious community?

*What's Discernment Got to Do With It?* will be led by Tom Darnton, Becky Hoort, and Janella James. To register, contact Vilma Mesa at [ymmesa@comcast.net](mailto:ymmesa@comcast.net). Space is limited.



## Announcements and Notices

### Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

The Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) for 2012-2016, *Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling*, is in full swing at UUAU 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 5: March 19 - Right of Conscience

Session 6: April 16 - Conclusion: Moving Forward

Contact Angelina Zaytsev at [angelina.zaytsev@gmail.com](mailto:angelina.zaytsev@gmail.com) for more information.



*Hunger For Justice* is the theme for the 2014 MidAmerica Regional Assembly (RA). UUAU is one of the four host sites on Saturday, April 12. It will be a day of coming together for enriching fellowship, inspiring lectures and workshops, and deepening worship. Keynote speaker Paul Razor will deliver the [Arthur M. Judy Memorial Lecture](#) live from Topeka (streamed to UUAU). Register by March 15. The fees are early bird adult \$60, early bird youth/young adults \$50, and children \$40 (no childcare or children's programming will be available). Anyone may attend. If you are interested in being a delegate or going, sign up during Social Hour at the DCT table or contact Roberta Allen at [bert71allen@gmail.com](mailto:bert71allen@gmail.com).

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. GA 2014 will be in Providence, Rhode Island from Wednesday-Sunday, June

25-29. Attendees will 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 CSAI for 2014 to 2018. If you are interested in being a delegate or going, sign up during Social Hour at the DCT table or contact Roberta Allen at [bert71allen@gmail.com](mailto:bert71allen@gmail.com).

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAU) 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.



## Challenging Racism Events



Sunday, March 2 from 1:00-3:00pm in the David Room: Second Class Conversation. The session format will be based on the format used by Chalice Circles. People who attended the February conversation about class are welcome to attend this one, too. There will be different participants and different questions. Sign up at the Social Justice Table during Social Hour or simply come. Contact Lucia Heinold at [Heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:Heinoldcia@aol.com) or Kathy Friedrichs at [kamf@umich.edu](mailto:kamf@umich.edu)

Monday, March 3 from 7:00-8:30pm: Monthly Planning Meeting. New people and suggestions are always welcome.

Sunday, March 23 from 1:00-2:30pm. *The Hidden Authenticity of Nonstandard English*, a workshop led by Edie Croake. In Edie's words, "In the late 60's, William Labov--a respected Professor of Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania, published the monograph *The Logic of Nonstandard English*."

"It launched new focus on the linguistic patterns of nonstandard American English. The purpose of this workshop will be to introduce why Labov and his colleagues claimed nonstandard English is logical and has authenticity as a linguistic system. The work of these sociolinguists challenge us to reflect on the judgments we make about those who use nonstandard English, especially for someone like myself who taught English at Washtenaw Community College for many decades."

Questions? Contact: Lucia Heinold at [Heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:Heinoldcia@aol.com) or Kathy Friedrichs at [mailto:kamf@umich.edu](mailto:mailto:kamf@umich.edu).



## UUSC Coffee Project Thank You

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to Hal Breidenbach for his generous gift of making a much-needed Storage-Display cabinet. Hal's fine craftsmanship and design are greatly appreciated by the Coffee Project group.

The cabinet supports our work of selling Fair Trade products thus raising funds for our church and UUSC Small Farmer Fund. Come and admire our cabinet during Social Hour while selecting coffee and chocolate!



Thank you from Connie, Shireen, Lynn, Nancy, Cathy, Sharon, Cathie, and Jenny.



Questions? Contact Jenny Kropf at [jfk48103@gmail.com](mailto:jfk48103@gmail.com).



## Social Justice Volunteer Opportunities

The Social Justice Council will be including social justice volunteer opportunities in the monthly newsletter. A job board will be provided at the Social Justice/Denominational Connections table during Social Hour with information about these opportunities:

- Crop Walk Coordinator - This is an opportunity to have a great impact working with this Congregation and other faith communities in Ann Arbor. This is a yearly commitment but short term. Contact Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com).
- Interested in working with the Washtenaw Prisoner Re-Entry Program for 2-3 hours a week, meeting and greeting parolees? Contact Sarah Ross, WPR Site Coordinator to fill out a volunteer application and set up a screening interview at 734-327-9717.

Information about these opportunities will be on the Social Justice table during Social Hour or contact Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com).



## Restorative Justice Committee

The Social Justice Council approved the application for a Restorative Justice Committee including: Carolyn Madden, Kate Warner, Joy Shannon, Lucia Heinold, Kathy Friedrichs, and Johanna Courteau. Contact Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.

There will be reports on the efforts in the community working on alternative responses to the traditional criminal-justice approach including Victim Offender Conferencing, Peacekeeping Court, and initiatives throughout the state. These events will be coming up:

- Monday, March 17: The Steering Committee on Victim Offender Conferencing will meet at the Church to present a one-hour readers theater play about Victim Offender Conferencing. Meetings will be held once a month.
- Saturday, March 29: There will be a meeting at the Restorative Justice Center at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Detroit from 10:00am-4:00pm. Participants from different counties will learn how to increase alternative justice approaches which "argues that crime destroys people and relationships. Justice, then, must repair and rebuild people and relationships... builds instead of blames," *Restorative Justice for People in Prison* by Barb Toews ([GoodBooks.com](http://GoodBooks.com))
- Sunday, March 30: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice will hold their annual meeting at the Church and highlight restorative justice approaches within our school and course. 7:00pm: Dessert Reception, 7:30pm: business meeting and cultural program, 8:00pm: panel on "From Retribution to Healing: Advancing Restorative Approaches to Justice in Washtenaw County." Open to the public. Details at [info@icpj.org](mailto:info@icpj.org) or 734-663-1870.



## Accessibility Team

UUAA joins with nine other UU churches across the country to examine the accessibility of the Church to people with disabilities. Join us in May to hear six members who have a disability, describe their experience with accessibility in the Church. They will share the ways in which Church Policies, Church structure and environment, communications, and attitudes support or

hinder accessibility in all Church activities. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 2:00-4:00pm. Questions? Contact Pauline Loewenhardt, Disability Panel discussion co-coordinator at [loewenhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loewenhardt@sbcglobal.net).



## Annual Reports

Annual Reports will be shared with the Congregation on June 1. Individual recognized congregational groups will need to include the elements listed below in each annual report:



- The recognized ministry name.
- The author of the report.
- A brief description of the group.
- A description of how UUAA 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@uuua.org](mailto:annualreport@uuua.org). Early submissions are welcome.

Contact your group's lay leader or staff liaison with any questions.



## Alpha House Position Open



Volunteer Coordinator for the IHN@Alpha House Ministry

A church member in good standing is sought to coordinate our Alpha House work for the period September 2014-August 2016. The coordinator will work with a coordinating committee currently composed of 8 other members (Angela Barber, Dee Dishon, Sandy Eyl, Vilma Mesa, Sally Preston, Cheryl Valentine, Vey Valentine, and Tim Whittemore) taking responsibility for the following tasks:

- Recruiting about 90 volunteers per week for 3 or 4 service weeks per year at the shelter, usually in February, April, and November and overseeing the operations for those service weeks.
- Fundraising for and purchasing shelter supplies for the same service weeks,
- Collecting and delivering donations for shelter families,
- Working with volunteers to debrief their experiences,
- Communicating with shelter staff about family needs and shelter needs,
- Communicating with ministers and church staff about IHN@Alpha House ministry needs and activities, advocating for IHN@Alpha House with the Sharing the Collection Committee, and maintaining presence in the Social Justice cluster.
- Chairing the coordinating committee, recruiting new members for the committee, and organizing tasks for the committee.

The following are desired characteristics of the individual sought:

- Prior experience with this or another church ministry.
- Good organization and management skills.
- Computer literacy, capability to rapidly start using excel, e-mail, and online signup software (training on specifics will be provided).

- Good oral and written communication skills, capacity to work with people.
- Prior experience as volunteer at IHN@Alpha House.
- A commitment to social justice and its role in spiritual development.

To apply, write a letter addressed to the search committee indicating your interest to take on the position, providing information about yourself (how many years a UUAA member, how to contact you), describing your qualifications for the job, and naming two church members who can provide a verbal recommendation of your character, experience, and skills. Send your letter to Pat Herbst at [pgherbst3665@gmail.com](mailto:pgherbst3665@gmail.com). An interview may follow. The successful candidate will be mentored into the position by the outgoing coordinator (Pat Herbst), who will remain for a year as a member of the coordinating committee .



## Family Camp

It's hard to imagine the heat of summer with snow and cold still around. But summer vacation plans are already being made. Make Family Camp part of them. Mark your calendar for a great getaway with UU friends at West Michigan's beautiful YMCA Camp Pinewood ([camppinewood.com](http://camppinewood.com)). This long weekend of fun is not just for children, but for all members and friends. Come with family, with friends, or by yourself - there's something for you at Camp from Friday-Monday, August 22-August 25. Registration details coming soon.

Relax or rev up for fun activities from sun up until late at night: swimming, sailing, canoeing, paddle boats, fishing, building sand castles, hiking, mountain biking, wall climbing, ropes courses, archery, singing and dancing, bonfires, stargazing, great conversation, and more. There will be counselor-led activities for kids, including nursery care for ages 4 and under. Lodging is in group cabins, or in your tent or small camper.

Look for us soon at a table during Social Hour to get more information. We'll also be hosting an information-sharing session about Camp so you can learn more about it.

Get on the list. Send an email to [familycamp@uuaa.org](mailto:familycamp@uuaa.org) for updates and information about Family Camp. Come hang out at Camp this summer.

Family Camp Team: Jon Thomas-Palmer, Edward Norton, Lori Fithian, Jean Chorazyczewski, and Cristy Cardinal.



## All Church Retreat

Interweave and the Social Justice Council will sponsor an All-Church Retreat on Saturday, April 26 from 1:00-9:00pm at the Church. Enjoy workshops, small group sessions, catered supper, book exchange, and more. Come and refresh, connect, grow.

Registration will be soon during Social Hour. Watch for more details in the April Newsletter. Questions? Contact Margaret Pekarek at [mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com](mailto:mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com) or Leigh Robertson at [leigrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leigrobe@umich.edu).



## New Members

### Glen Kimme



I was raised Catholic but left in college. I have two sons, ages 22 and 18, and a daughter age 5. I had the great joy and privilege of



marrying Laura Bauman right here in August 2013. I am an Information Technology manager in the pharmaceutical industry.

I love to read, bicycle, cross country ski, and play tennis. I hope to find out how to fill in my spiritual gaps with the aid of the UUAU community. I plan to offer my skills to the UUAU community as I am able.



## Edie Hough

I am a retired nursing professor and family researcher; I studied how families cope and adjust to stressors such as cancer, HIV, and immigration. I recently moved to Ann Arbor to be closer to family and to enjoy the activities and ambience of a university environment. In retirement, I found my voice, literally, and I study and perform vocally in a variety of settings. I am drawn to UUAU because of the opportunities it provides for one to lead a purposeful life and its community of loving individuals, many of whom have already befriended me.



## Terry Adams and Barbara Lamar

Barbara, a graduate of Swarthmore College in psychology, has lived in Ann Arbor since 1963. During that time she raised three children, earned a Ph.D. in educational and developmental psychology at the University of Michigan, and had a 30-year research career at the Institute for Social Research. Now in retirement, she reads avidly, with special love for good fiction, natural history, cognitive psychology, and social justice topics. She loves music as varied as New Orleans jazz and opera, collects glacial and fossil rocks from the shores of Lake Michigan, and dotes on their six grandchildren.



Terry studied political science at Michigan State and obtained a law degree and an MA in political science from the University of Michigan. He practiced poverty law for 10 years, and then worked on research on income and poverty at the Institute for Social Research. He also studied the careers of lawyers at the UM Law School and with the American Bar Foundation. In retirement, Terry continues some research on those topics on a volunteer basis. He reads on politics, law, and social justice and enjoys jazz, blues, and good movies.



## In the Community

### Fundraiser \* March 8

Rev. Peggy Garrigues, a former acting assistant minister at UUAU, is currently pastor of Clawson United Methodist Church in Clawson, Michigan. In August, she came out, with support from her bishop, as a non-practicing lesbian. Her church leadership is working to create an expanded and more welcoming vision of ministry that will include being welcoming to all, regardless of sexual orientation. However, in the process, a number of members have stopped worshipping and contributing, so they need to make up a difference of \$50,000 for 2014.

On Saturday, March 8 at 7:00 pm, they are holding a concert fundraiser, *Singing for Love and Justice* at Clawson United Methodist Church, 205 N. Main, Clawson, Michigan. It will include music by One Voice Chorus (metro Detroit LGBT choir), Spectrum Singers (a new interfaith choir), along with her sons, Jeremiah and Isaac, and the Clawson UMC church choir. You are

invited to attend. For more information contact: Joan Burleigh at [joburleigh@aol.com](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com) or 248-219-7583. [Click here](#) for an event flier.



## Places of Faith

The Interfaith Round Table presents *Places of Faith-V*. Have you been inside other sacred spaces in town? Would you like to hear a religious leader from another faith tradition speak about his/her beliefs or practices? If either of these interests you, why not take advantage of our spring session that will take us to four such "places of faith"? Come and visit. Ask questions. Meet people from other traditions and learn how other people practice.

The March/April sessions: 7:00-9:00pm

- Thursday, March 20 - Crossroads Tabernacle Church (Wiccan)
- Thursday, March 27 - Canterbury House (Episcopal/Anglican)
- Thursday, April 3 - Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (Jewish)
- Thursday, April 10 - St. Vladimir Orthodox Church (Russian Orthodox)

Cost: \$50 for all four visits, including a course pack and refreshments. Limit 25 people. For reservations contact George Lambrides at 734-424-1535 or email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).



## 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**

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

**The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's April Newsletter is 9:00am on Friday, March 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 UUAU, refer to the Lay Leader Administrative Guide. ([click here](#)).**

### Building & Office Team:

**Thom Bales, Executive Director, [thom@uuaa.org](mailto:thom@uuaa.org)**  
**Debbie 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)



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