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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

November Newsletter

November 1, 2014 - Vol 10, Issue 11

Worship @ UUAU

Congregational Links

UUAU Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAU](#)

[UUAU.org](#)

Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Worship Services begin
at 9:30 & 11:30am with classes for children K-8
followed by Social Hour.

November 2, 2014 - *TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR*
COMMITMENT SUNDAY! Bring Pledge Forms and
Celebrate!

"When Words Lose Their Meaning"

Rev. Barry Lynn, Preaching. Rev Gail Geisenhainer, hosting
We begin with harvesting pledge forms for our Annual
Budget Campaign. Let's make 2015 a year of abundance and
outreach and caring.

Rev. Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for
Separation of Church and State, an organization dedicated to
the preservation of the Constitution's religious liberty
provisions.

November 9, 2014

"Are You Saved?"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister

We live in a country where we are shooting black boys in the
street, incarcerating black men in near genocidal numbers,
our climate is changing and the political discourse is
polarized past the point of dysfunction. In that context,
many of us will have to trek to family gatherings and kinship
circle events to sit next to folks who gather their news and
form their theologies from sources different from ours.
What to do? How to answer, "are you saved?"

Special 150th Anniversary event: our ALPHA House Team
will be working to recruit 150 volunteers for our
Thanksgiving week service time at Alpha House. Will you
join in?

November 16, 2014

"We Dedicate Our Lives"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Our Story Sunday. Multi-generational service.

Everyone is welcome to start the day in the Sanctuary, both

services. (Nursery and Pre-School will be open as usual.) We celebrate today the 10th anniversary of the Dedication of the RE wing of our building., we now call it the SGD wing. We have changed our language from Religious Education to Spiritual Growth and Development. But we have NOT changed our devotion to the growth, nurture and well-being of the children and youth entrusted to our care. After a service of celebration and re-dedication we will adjourn to the SGD wing for tours and refreshments. Come! Learn more about the ins and outs of our beautiful SGD facilities.

November 23, 2014

"A Cornucopia of Gratitude"

Rev. Mark Evens

Congregational voices from across the generations, pre-teen through elder, will share personal perspectives on what makes life good.

November 30, 2014

"Perfectionism and Forgiveness"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Katherine Hepburn said, "Without discipline, there's no life at all." Can we push back the cultural pressures of perfectionism, resentment, and revenge?



Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Dear Ones, All:

Sunday, November 2nd, we are all invited to bring our Annual Budget Campaign pledge forms into the worship hours. We will process, each coming forward to add our form to the bowls and baskets at the front of the hall. Whatever for? Why bother? What if I pledged on-line?

Allow me a well-intended digression: Years ago, when I was a kid, my family took long car trips throughout New England. Along with natural beauty, road food of widely varying quality, and lots of sing-alongs to pass the time, I remember small, rural, roadside gift shops. It seems the farther we got from Boston, the more those gift shops held all home made wooden objects. Not the ubiquitous plastic gimmicks of today. Big slabs of local pine, carved, shaped, and varnished into any sort of thing that might sell.

There were salt and pepper shakers that would have earned a place of honor on the shelves at Zingerman's Roadhouse today. There were toy trains, sling-shots, and plaques with funny sayings. Most lasting in memory is the one big slab of pine with an old fashioned outhouse carved in by a wood burning tool. The outhouse was rickety, tilted, missing a few roof shingles, and had the obligatory half-moon carved into the door. Just inside the door a Sears catalog could be seen hanging from a loop of string., in lieu of store-bought toilet paper. The graphics were whimsical. But the stinger was the text.

Under that drawing were these words: "No job is finished until the paperwork is done." I have

been in critical and creative conversation with that maxim all of my life. For our purposes here, I will say I think it is completely true., and a tad incomplete.

It is not enough that we all pledge financial support of this Congregation. We each need to offer financial support..., that is true. And it is not enough. Too often we click in the form, mail it to the office, and that's it. But the paperwork is not enough.

I need to amend the maxim about paperwork. In church life, I would like to say..., no job is finished until the paperwork is done and the celebration party has been enjoyed. THAT is why we are all being asked to bring our pledge forms into worship services on November 2nd. (FYI: if you have already pledged on-line, please bring a blank form, or bring a handwritten note of appreciation for Jim Lee, the ABC Chair, or just a note that says "Hi" to the folks who will read the forms and log our pledges into the database.)

We need to celebrate. We need to appreciate one another. We need to party and be glad together.

So please do come! Bring a pledge form or a note of greeting or gratitude, and join the procession. And, after the service? Cake! See you there.

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail



Musings Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Hope and Gratitude

As we head into fall I find myself thinking of Thanksgiving and the opportunity it affords us to reflect the texture of our lives. Today when I ask myself "What am I grateful for? What gives me hope?" I find these responses emerge:

I'm grateful that several million more in the United States have health insurance this year than last year. I'm grateful for the thousands of brave health care professionals who are engaging the Ebola epidemic, caring for people while putting themselves at risk.



New battery technology emerging from a laboratory in China which may offer quick charging long lasting power for cars, and also progress toward clean fusion power Lockheed Martin Corporation give me hope that technology may provide part of the answer to our climate challenge.

Participation by people like member Larry Junck and four hundred thousand others at the climate rally in New York City in September gives me hope that the political will to make the necessary changes may yet be mustered to deal with the critical issue of human-caused climate change.

I give thanks for the continued and growing influence of Michelle Alexander's book "The New Jim Crow" in our public policy debates on issues of racial justice and our misaligned criminal justice system. I'm thankful for our continuing Challenging Racism group that helps all of us in the congregation connect with opportunities for learning, spiritual growth and advocacy engagement on this issue.

I'm grateful for neighbors planning to attend a pedestrian advisory council meeting to help

our city of Ann Arbor be a safer more enjoyable place for walking.

I'm thankful for trees that glow with their own vibrant light as bright yellow and orange as the sun even on a cloudy day.

When I notice what gives me hope and name facets of gratitude as they flash by then my days are blessed. What do you notice as Thanksgiving approaches?

With hope and gratitude,
Mark



The Business of the Church

Thom Bales, Executive Director



What is the Future of the Goods & Services Auction?

Recently, UUAU hosted the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation for High Holiday activities, including Rosh Hashanah - the Jewish New Year. We are only a few weeks away from a more secular January 1 celebration. Whether deeply reflective or not, many people choose the marking of the start of another 365 days (more or less) to imagine - however briefly - how the year will play out.

Whatever we imagine the future has in store, the fact remains that we do not *know* what it has in store. A new year will probably bring some joys, some sorrows, some celebrations and some challenges, but we don't really *know* what these will be.

And so it is with the church's auction. Will there be one - or not - in 2015?

About seven years ago, the Goods & Services Auction was in great flux. Long time leaders were weary and needing to step away. For sure, there was an operational infrastructure, but it existed in large part within the experience and memory of committed volunteers. There was no manual on "how to put on the UUAU auction". Perhaps, it would have been good timing to celebrate all that the auction had given the church, but part ways with its requirements. All ministries end at some point.

Nevertheless, in 2008 new volunteers stepped forward to keep this annual fundraiser going. Volunteer job descriptions were created. A different event schedule was designed. A special database was deployed to help manage the complexity of activities. Staff pitched in to help. And for seven more years, the auction has continued. In spite of lower ticket prices, lower ticket sales, fewer donations and less than optimal volunteer counts to lessen the stress of this complex event, the auction has consistently raised \$18,000 (net) every year for the past seven years.

The Goods & Services Auction has reached a similar juncture as it did seven years ago. Long time leaders are again weary and needing to step away. While there's more infrastructure in place now, we know now that without 10 caring, team-oriented volunteers, who can devote a few hours every week for about 4 months to plan and coordinate this event, the auction will now start to fade away into the church's memory banks...."Ahhh... remember that time Ken Clein dressed up as Capt. Stubing..."

In order for an auction to take place in 2015, the following volunteer planning team positions will need to be filled soon - Decorations, Donations, Entertainment, Food & Drink, Publicity,

Set-up, Ticket Sales and Volunteers. There also needs to be preferably two volunteers acting as team coordinators/facilitators. Certainly, several planning team volunteers from last year have "re-upped" to help again, and their experience will be invaluable to new folks who offer their help. But the team needs at least 6 more planning team volunteers, including team coordinators.

On Sunday, November 23 at 10:45am (between worship services), I will be available in the Brown Room with coffee and donuts to chat with anyone interesting in helping plan an auction in 2015. I will answer any questions, provide volunteers job descriptions and offer any encouragement to anyone interested in helping. If you can't attend that informal gathering, but would like to volunteer on the planning team, by all means let me know ASAP. I can be reached at thom@uuaa.org. 

Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action

Sandy Garges, Director of SGD



Everyone is invited to our SGD open house on November 16 in celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the SGD wing. The SGD portion of the building was originally dedicated on Sunday, November 14, 2004, an event we will celebrate on November 16 of this year. A very special invitation is extended to those who do not have occasion to visit the wing frequently. There will be opportunity to investigate the nooks of the wing, to see the chalice created to celebrate the dedication a decade ago, and to learn more about the history of the wing. Pat Kuessner will be collecting stories for the 150th Celebration Story Catchers project. There will also be cake!

We are blessed with a wonderful area for youth and adults to gather together in community so let's do just that, join together in community in celebration of one of our many blessings.

With care,
Sandy



News From the Harper Room

Julie Dybdhal, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)



"What's that yummy smell?"

In a few weeks, at the end of each service you may experience the luscious smell of hot apple dumplings wafting through the halls of our church. Just follow your nose to the social hall, and you, too, will have the chance to experience this long-standing tradition of the YRUU.

Each year our youth group spends a full evening creating several hundred delicious apple dumplings, which they then sell - hot or frozen - in coffee hours for the next few weeks. Funds raised from apple dumpling sales are then used to purchase gifts for needy children at the Peace Neighborhood Center. YRUU receives a list of 20-25 children, along with three requested gifts per child, and our youth proceed to make these Christmas dreams come true. It's a great experience all around: youth have fun and also help others; you get to eat yummy goodies while supporting a good cause. YUM! 

Thank You

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Phifer, Minister Emeritus



From Our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Phifer

Tawnya's family and I are deeply grateful to the members and friends of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor for all that you did to comfort and care for Tawnya and us during her illness, and for all you have done since she died to offer sympathy and support.

I have referred before to being bathed in a sea of love by your open arms and generous hearts, but even more so do I and the family feel appreciation and gratitude for your continuing kindness.

I have tried to thank all those who helped with the memorial service but surely did not learn the names of all who helped, so may I say Thank You now for helping to make the memorial service a wonderful celebration of the life of Tawnya, a kind, gentle, witty, intelligent, loving woman. She would have appreciated every sweet gesture, as do we.

At the time of the service, daughter April was in labor at UM Hospital, and gave birth around 1:00 p.m. to Adalyn Tawnya, a precious addition to our family even as we were saying goodbye to another precious member of our clan.

Life goes on, and so does love, and Tawnya's loving afterglow remains with us, shining through our tears, giving us courage as we remember the grace and courage of her life.

Thank you!

Ken Phifer and the members of Tawnya's family



150th Anniversary Celebration

Commitment Sunday, November 2

Jim Lee, Annual Budget Campaign (ABC) Chair



The path of generously giving of ourselves to others adds lasting value to our own lives. Unitarian Universalists have always valued "Deeds not Creeds." Your time, talent and treasure keep this congregation thriving.

We are striving for all of our UUAA members and friends to make a commitment to the 2015 Annual Budget Campaign, with 75% of us making a Fair Share commitment.

Join UUAA members, friends and special guest Barry Lynn on [Commitment Sunday](#), November 2. Please complete and bring your 2015 ABC Commitment form. Your fair share commitment is a catalyst to enhance our ministries and create the abundant future we envision for our UUAA, neighboring and world communities.

Cannot join us in person on Commitment Sunday, November 2? Then please join in spirit and make a 2015 Annual Budget Commitment online or by mailing a completed commitment form to UUAA, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Questions? Contact ABC Chair Jim

Lee at annualcampaign@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary Benefit Concert Jim Lee, ABC Chair



On Saturday, November 1, Catie Curtis will present a community concert to celebrate the continuation of UUAA's generosity to Americans United, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution's religious liberty provisions. Dubbed a "folk-rock goddess" by the New Yorker magazine, Catie produces concerts in support of Voices United for Separation of

Church and State and is ordained by the Universal Life Church so she can officiate at her fans' same-sex weddings. Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://au.org/vu-catie-aa>.

Find out more about her and her music at: www.catiecurtis.com. Questions? Contact Jim Lee at leej_48103@yahoo.com.



150th Anniversary Honoring Members



As our congregation celebrates 150th years of continued presence in Ann Arbor, we want to honor all members who have served this congregation over the years.

For 150 years, our name, our location, and our ministers have all changed. What has endured for 150 years is the congregation -- a tapestry of diverse members who have signed the book and chosen to walk together.

During the "Our Story" services, members will be recognized with special chalice lightings, according to the decade they signed the membership book. We hope you will take part on the date that includes your year. An email invitation will be sent prior to your service. Here are the recognition dates:

September 28: Honored were all members no longer with us who had ever signed the membership book.

October 19: 1950s: Honored were the valued elders of the congregation who joined in the 1950s and have served for over 55 years. They are: Philip Campbell, Judd Coon, Don MacMullan, Eleanor Hoag, Larry Crockett, Don Pelz, Ethel Potts, and Louise Kazarinoff.

October 26: 1960s: Honored were the 30 members who joined in the 1960s: Joan Buchele, Mary Stadel, Jane Ferguson, Donald Axon, Shirley Axon, Marion Hart, Elvera Shappirio, Ray Kazmierczak, Don Haefner, Marilyn Crandall, Sterling Crandall, Hal Estry, Ethel Lee, Fred Lee, Margot Youngs, David Youngs, Irwin Goldstein, Ruth Pinkus, Ruth Steinicke, Doris Terwilliger, Jean Casey, Ken Casey, John Hagen, Walt Pinkus, Dan Gray, Mary Gray, Ruth Lamphiear, Eric Ericksen, Joan Overmir, and Thomas Overmire.

November 16: This service will recognize the 10th anniversary of the Spiritual Growth and Development wing of the current church building. We will honor all who worked on the major committees that made the classroom wing possible.

December 21: 1970s: We return to honor members by decade. Those that joined in the 1970s are invited to take part in the chalice lighting.

January 18, 2015: 1980s members

February 15, 2015: 1990s members

March 15, 2015: 2000-2009 members

April 12, 2015: 2010-2015: The newest members, who will sustain this congregation into

the future, will be honored.

Questions? Contact Co-chairs Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at birthday150@uuaa.org. 

150th Anniversary Archive Search Terry Madden, 150th Anniversary Chair



All are invited on a guided tour search of the Ann Arbor District Library's (AADL) "Old News" archives to locate 150th nuggets of information. Join public librarian, Debbie Gallagher as she leads UUs on a search through the past on Wednesday, November 19 from 10:30 am to 12:00pm. Meet in the computer lab on the 3rd floor at the AADL Downtown main library. The goal

will be to see what can be found about the early days of the Unitarian and Universalist congregations. Seating is limited. To reserve a space in the computer lab contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com. 

150th Anniversary News



View the 150th Kick-off and Klein Lecture photos and mini-histories from September and October. All are posted at uuaa.org/150 Check them out. Questions? Contact Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at birthday150@uuaa.org. 

Activities and Events

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) * Saturday, November 1

Meet at 12:45pm in the Jackson Chapel to hear a dial-in talk to a national CCL expert from 1:00 to 2:00pm, followed by local discussion. All are welcome. For information about CCL go to: <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/>. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu. 

Forum on Fracking * Sunday, November 2

Fracking: What They Don't Want you to Know will be presented at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. Peggy Rahbi and Nancy Witter of the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan will be featured. Check out <http://www.letsbanfracking.org/>. Hosted by the Climate Action Group. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu. 

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, November 5

Come one; come all to the senior dinner at Gourmet Garden Restaurant this first Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com. 

Introduction to OUUr Faith * Saturday, November 8

From 10:00am to 2:30pm there will be a prerequisite to membership of interest to both newcomers and long-time members. This workshop is taught by a UUAU minister with the help of lay leaders. The topics will include the history of UU and this congregation, UUAU governance, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and

participants' own spiritual journeys.

Sign up by Sunday, November 2. Space is limited. Registration forms are available at the Involvement Table during Social Hour, in the Newcomer Welcome Room, and in the front entrance literature rack. Register by emailing Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuua.org.



Pastoral Care - Education * Sunday, November 9

Pastoral Care-Education and the Accessibility Team will sponsor "Taking Control of Your Mental Health: Coping With Depression" from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel. Madeline Bacolor, Marilyn Tripp will present with David C. Belmonte, MD, MS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Director of Medical Student Education University of Michigan Medical School Department of Psychiatry.

Depression is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest. Older adults and those with disabilities are at risk. Join for an informative session to learn the signs of depression, how it affects family members, and ways the Congregation can help someone with a depressive illness. Marilyn Tripp will facilitate. Questions and to register, contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Round Robin Dinner * Wednesday, November 12

New to the Congregation? Interested in meeting a few other members at a small informal dinner? Join others in adult dinner groups for an evening of getting acquainted or reacquainted. If not already participating, sign up at the Involvement table during Social Hour or contact Sally Preston at 734-475-3812 or sally@pctraining.net. To participate in the November dinner, contact Sally by Wednesday, November 5.



Men's Breakfast * Saturday, November 15

All men are invited to attend breakfast at 8:15am on Saturday September 20 at Holidays Restaurant. It is located at 2080 W. Stadium Blvd. across from the Post Office. Enjoy good food and make new friends. Questions? Contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904.



Interweave * Tuesday, November 18



This transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, questioning, intersex, and ally group of UUAU, invites the Congregation to a Thanksgiving potluck on Tuesday, November 18 in the Social Hall. Bring a Thanksgiving dish for the 6:15pm gathering. Join at 7:00pm for the documentary film *TRANS*: about males and females-and everything in between. It is an "up close and personal" view of the transgender community that will change both mind and heart. All are welcome.

Also, the Interfaith Service of Affirmation will be at UUAU on Tuesday, December 16. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu or 734-678-2805.



Women's Breakfast * Saturday, November 22

Meet at 8:15am on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Classic Cup Cafe. This is before the Thanksgiving chaos begins, so c'mon over and start off a Saturday with laughter, chatter, and good hot food. Newcomers are welcome. Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at 734-623-1506. 

Alpha House Host Week * Wednesday-Sunday, November 26-30

UUAA will be hosting at Alpha House during Thanksgiving Week, from November 26 through November 30. Alpha House is the shelter for homeless families. More than 70 people are still needed to sign up to bring food, serve dinner, play with the kids, and stay overnight. Come to the sign-up table in the Social Hall on Sunday, or click here: online at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4daaaa2ea02-recruitment>

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of our Congregation, donations of sheets, blankets, comforters, pillows, alarm clocks, and specific over-the-counter medicines are also being collected to meet Alpha House's needs. One big item that Alpha House needs is a small car for the many trips they need to take for doctors' appointments and meetings. Currently they must use a large van that has very poor fuel economy and costs a lot to operate. The link below is to the sign-up sheet for donations to Alpha House: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4daaaa2ea02-donations>

Questions? Contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com or at 734-972-2324. Thank you for the wonderful support of Alpha House. 

Announcements and Notices

Denominational Connection Team (DCT)

Update on two Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI):
 2012-2016: [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](#)
 A Draft of the Statement of Conscious (SOC) for this CSAI is due out from the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) on November 15. Those who went to the Reproduction Justice Classes held last year and anyone else interested will meet to discuss the SOC. Watch the bulletin and future



Newsletters for times. The UUAA Congregation will vote on bringing the SOC before the 2015 General Assembly at the January, 2015 Congregational Meeting.

2014-2018: [Escalating Inequality](#)

This CSAI was chosen at the 2014 General Assembly. A study guide is being developed and available on November 1. Those interested in this CSAI may contact Royla Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com. A study group will be formed to better understand this complex issue. DCT serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between UUAA and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing our Congregation and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs.

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



Social Justice Council (SJC)

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Truce of 1914, the SJC, Veterans for Peace, and Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice will sponsor the film *Joyeux Noël* on, Sunday December 14 at UUAA. The film is a dramatization of the Christmas Truce. View a trailer at <http://youtu.be/KRrr-CDXijs>.

"Christmas Truce of 1914: During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.

On Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more somber task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines. The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated-future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action-but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.

During World War I, the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit." Courtesy of [History website](#)

Why Is VFP Involved?

Who better than veterans who work for peace to tell the story of these soldiers' celebration of peace in the midst of war? Society needs to hear this story that peace is possible. Use the resources listed in the website sidebar to reach out in a new way to new and old allies. Questions? Contact Mike Muha at mmuha@sbcglobal.net or Carolyn Madden at

cgmadden@gmail.com.



Partner Church News Phyllis Valentine, Chair



Most Congregants can't read, write, or speak Hungarian, forcing our partners in Kézdivásárhely to communicate with us in English. In the past, we shared our thoughts fairly formally via letter, then email, but always in English...and almost entirely with the Partner Church minister. We do have wonderful face-to-face conversations when we visit, but that's only every three years. Last year, we all realized that Facebook offered possibilities for communication through photos and with fewer words...and that many in our Partner Church congregation, as well as in the village where Rev. Istvan lives, use Facebook. Suddenly, we can have near daily communication about ordinary as well as extraordinary things, learning more about each other's lives. And this connection is multi-generational. My life has been enriched by this much broader relationship.

This year's scholarship recipient, Attila Lestyan, has just begun his studies in theatre at the university in Budapest. (I stayed with his parents when visiting last June.) Here is a note received from him via Facebook:

"Dear Phyllis,

I'm sorry to respond this late...I would like to express my gratitude toward you and the community for your support. One reason for my delay is that we are absolutely overwhelmed here at the university, which is both great and devastating. We have almost no free time at all, we are at the university from 9:00am to 12:00am every day, or even more sometimes; we have classes and rehearsals even on the weekends.

Also I miss my family, since this way I can only see them at vacations. I can go home only once in a semester, as you know the trip from Budapest to Kezdi takes 15-16 hours. However, don't get me wrong, this is no complaint; on the contrary, I like what I am doing, and I feel lucky that I do something that I love. It's just that this can be grueling sometimes. But again it is also magical. We learn dancing, singing, we read literature, and of course do theatre. Right now we are doing Tartuffe, such a great defiance, it's a masterpiece after all, but it is so current and actual. All in all, I am happy and content.

But that's enough of me for now; tell me how things are going with you? What are you doing these days? How are your family and the community? I am looking forward to hearing from you. In case you have any questions I would answer with great pleasure.
Best wishes, Attila

P.S. My family is also sending their regards."

Our Land for Worship (OLFW)

In a strategic planning document called "Strengthening Our Connections," the Congregation's Board of Trustees invited all to make our land more assessable. Our Land for Worship Team has been working to do just that with three projects completed this fall. The first of these



Phyllis in conversation with Ildiko Bucs, Board member.



Attila is on the right.



projects is the new kiosk on the South Lawn. This kiosk was the Eagle Scout project of UUAU teen Avery Whitaker. On behalf the OLFW team and the entire Congregation we would like to extend our thanks for the creativity, effort, and resources he gathered and shared to build and install a kiosk marking the starting point of our land's trail system.

Secondly, Arthur Prokosch, Shannon Leutzinger, and John Erdevig have completed a new, more readable, trail map that is posted at the kiosk. Finally, the Men's Council dug posts to install the handmade trail markers that match the new map. With these projects completed, there is hope that the Congregation will spend some brisk fall days out on our land.

Questions? Contact John Erdevig at 734-709-6594 or jerdevig@comcast.net .



Klein Lecture Update



To celebrate the 150th anniversary, Dr. William "Bill" Schulz, President/CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) was invited to spend the weekend with our congregation in October. He brought with him great enthusiasm and energy.

On Sunday October, 12, he preached the sermon. As he ticked off the many wonderful, inspiring things that the UUSC has been doing, he repeated the phrase "You did that!" He was referring to participation through attention and money to the Committee. He inspired many to renew or begin their memberships in this worthy endeavor.

On Sunday afternoon, Bill stood in front of a large audience in the Sanctuary as the Klein lecturer. Having previously served as Executive Director of Amnesty International USA from 1994 to 2006, he brought with him a perspective on the world that few can equal. He shared the story of a woman he met in a refugee camp garbed in tattered clothing but wearing a colorful glass necklace. When asked about the necklace's significance, the woman replied "This is me." It took Bill a while to realize she meant that she, a refugee, however poor and disheveled, is an individual human being, not a statistic.



To read more on this story and the rest of his talk, see the full transcript of his presentation, *The Human Rights Challenges of the 21st Century* at uuaa.org.

Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Thank You



UUSC sends a big "Thank You" to UUAU. UUSC President Bill Schulz and UUSC Director of Institutional Advancement Maxine Neil has sent the Congregation a thank you for the enthusiastic response to their visit to Ann Arbor on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, 12. Both UUAU and UUSC were energized by the weekend.

Reverend Schulz gave a rousing sermon about the UUSC social justice programs at both services on Sunday, October 12 and in the afternoon delivered a rousing Klein Lecture on human rights that brought everyone to their feet for a standing ovation. Maxine had recently returned from Haiti and described the UUSC "eco-villages" underway there.

Maxine reported that even before receiving any UUSC memberships sent by mail, they had counted 32 new memberships, 45 renewals and over \$7500 raised during the week end. Money raised will fund the deeply important work done by the UUSC around the World. Maxine says, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!"



For more information on UUSC programs or to add to the Ann Arbor donations, visit www.uusc.org.

Questions? Contact Terry Madden, Sandy Simon, or Jenny Kropf at birthday150@uuaa.org.



New Members

Jeff Della Rovere and Jennie Lofgren

Jennie and Jeff and Jeannie relocated from the Boston area to Ann Arbor for work and study at the University. Jennie serves as a faculty veterinarian supporting improving animal welfare, and Jeff is a graduate student in the School of Education.



Jeff and Jennie have very recently welcomed home their daughter, Grace, and are looking forward to her growing up in the UU tradition. Jennie is a lifelong UU member, having grown up in Duxbury, MA. Jeff comes to the tradition through Jennie, seeing it as an optimal blend of thoughtful social justice with his Judeo-Christian background.



Caron Pelton



"I am a true Michigander, raised in Warren, then moving to Rochester Hills as a youngish married person. I attended Oakland University and my initial professional work was as a Medical Social Worker in Traverse City. Eventually, I made my way back to South East Michigan to be near family.

I am now retired which has allowed me to spend much more time with my family which I love to do. My daughter, Shelly Banet and family, live in Saline so I am able to see them very often. The Banets, Shelly, Jeff, Jay and Heather, and Lee Callendar, are longtime members of UUA. I also travel fairly frequently to Colorado and British Columbia where my two sons now live with their families. My children have given me seven darling, delightful and gorgeous grandchildren and two tiny astounding great grandchildren.

I also spend time enjoying reading, volunteering, currently in the Democratic political scene and just lazily watching movies, especially loving action and political films."



Church Office News

New Content Guide

All recognized Congregational groups who share activities and events in the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin can 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

Note: Turn those clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 2 to observe the end of daylight savings time.

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 December Newsletter is 9:00am on Friday, November 21. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

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

For general guidelines on submissions to the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin, refer to the [Content Guide](#).

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

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



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