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# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

## April Newsletter

April 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 4

### Worship @ UUAA

#### Congregational Links

##### UUAA Links:

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Social Justice at UUAA](#)

[UUAA.org](#)

##### Other Links:

[MidAmericauua.org](#)

[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[UUA.org](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Worship Services begin  
at 9:30 & 11:30am  
followed by Social Hour.

#### April 5, 2015

##### "A Longed-For Tidal Wave"

Rev. Tom Schade, preaching. Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer,  
pulpit host

Easter teaches two lessons: One is to not only expect the unexpected, but to imagine the unimaginable. The second is to always ask "What is dying?" "Where is Life remade?"

#### April 12, 2015

##### Our Story Sunday

##### Wear 150th T-Shirts!

##### "The NEXT 150 Years of Reason and Compassion in Action: Got Vision?"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister

Our year of 150th Anniversary celebrations has been a long arc, a chronicling of the movement from revering our past toward the vision of trusting the dawning future more. It makes for great poetry and a stirring hymn (#145).

Can we make that come alive?

What is our vision for the next 150 years of this Congregation?

#### April 19, 2015

##### Earth Day Celebration: Multi-Generational Service

##### "The Lorax Speaks"

Debra Golden and Rev. Mark Evens

In this multi-generational service we will retell and act out the story of "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss and consider

what our key ecological challenges are today.

**April 26, 2015**

**"After Earth Day"**

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, supported by the UUAA  
Climate Action Group

Our Earth needs more than a day's worth of celebration from each of us. Our climate is crying out for new paradigms of relationship, new actions to make real impacts. Please join our UUAA Climate Action Group and Rev. Gail to learn from [Commit2Respond.org](http://Commit2Respond.org), a coalition of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience working for climate justice. 

## Gleanings

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

Dear Ones, All,

In the urgency of now, headlines scream about declining interest in mainline Christian churches. Pundits declare that virtual church, on-line streaming video will replace the worn old practices of gathering on Sunday mornings. What do you think?

April 12th I will be preaching from my own vision of the next 150 years of this Congregation. There will be a forum to engage what we are calling the "Big Questions." Some of those are about:

- the future of bricks and mortar church in the 21st century
- the future on Unitarian Universalist
- to which ministries shall we give our all
- which ministries shall we retire.
- how must our church change to survive, or to thrive



For my part, I agree with the statistics on church attendance decline, although I question their accuracy for what we offer here in Ann Arbor as Unitarian Universalism. Our numbers are stable. And I agree with the pundits and prophets who predict we will continue to see bullish growth in the uses and presence of electronic communications. Though I flat out disagree with the conclusion that all our virtual, electronic, instant and hand-held connecting will ever replace or displace the power and purpose of gathering together to sing, to celebrate, to mourn, lament, marry, grow and learn: face to face. Hugging and singing, hearing the sound of one another's voices from the pulpit or while sharing a donut and coffee., all that is much, much too important to what makes spiritual growth, effective public witness, social change and purposeful lives possible.

Also, I'm wondering what experiences you all are having while wearing the buttons "Black Lives Matter?" For my part, the responses have been heart-felt, positive, and

encouraging. I am routinely thanked for wearing the button. I hear, "I like your button. What are you hearing? April 5th, 1pm, our Challenging Racism Group is hosting another "Open Discussion About Race." All are welcome to drop by and chat about experiences wearing the buttons and other reflections about race and racism.

I continue to believe that we are in a unique moment in history. I think portals of understanding and effectiveness are opening through which we can move to partner in significant social change on race and racism. As the hymn invites., "Come! And Go With Me to That Land!"

My Love to Each,  
Rev. Gail



**Musings**  
**Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister**

### Change and Transition

Dear members and friends of UUAA,

It is with significant sadness yet abiding gratitude as well as confidence in our futures that I write to inform you that I am resigning my position as Associate Minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. I arrived at this decision after much reflection and discernment, and in deep consultation with Rev. Gail. My discernment has led me to realize that, at present, continuing in congregational ministry is not a fit for me and my family.



When I arrived, this Congregation needed to build its capacity to function as a large church. Since I began serving here in September of 2008, we have accomplished a lot together. We have matured and expanded the Chalice Circles small group ministry program. Together we have developed a dedicated team of pastoral care assistants, a pastoral care education program, a memorial reception support team, strengthened channels for sharing pastoral news within the cVongregation, and developed a program of senior lunches.

We have developed a strong Men's Council that sustains a vibrant program of men's groups, an annual dinner, an annual retreat, and service projects for the Congregation. Interweave, our LGBTQQA and allies group, has continued to blossom, with steady Social Hall presence, regular social and program events, the annual December Service of Remembrance, and advocacy of equal rights in the community.

We now have a Congregational Map and a Recognized Groups List to help Congregational groups align with the Congregation's mission and help communicate to all the workings of the Congregation as a large system.

At this point the Congregation needs a different balance of talents from the Associate Minister. The skills and capacities you need now and into the future do not fit the ministry I can provide.

The effective date of my resignation is not yet set. Rev. Gail and I are in a continuing

conversation about how to best support the needs of the Congregation during this transition. I am now in search for my next professional position. My expectation is that I will return to the field of technical communication which was my vocation before I was called into ministry. If I am able to stay in Ann Arbor, this Congregation will be my family's religious community.

It has been a privilege and an honor to work with you, to be with you pastorally in your times of need, and to serve our faith tradition with you. As our relationship shifts, I look forward to helping you prepare to welcome new staff with whom you will write the next chapters of this Congregation's excellent history of reason and compassion in action.

In Faith,  
Mark



## **Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action**

### **Sandy Garges, Director of SGD**

Dear All,

For the past six years I have served this Congregation with joy and gratitude. What a blessing it has been for me to serve as the Director of Spiritual Growth and Development. The passion and engagement on display here each Sunday truly feeds my soul. UUAA is a community of citizens who strive to make this world a better place. Congregants do this by parenting or mentoring our youth, volunteering, eating in an earth-friendly way, just to name a few.



At this point in my life, doing my part to make the world a better place means dedicating my efforts towards specific goals which speak loudly to my heart. This new personal focus also requires that I resign my position at UUAA and rejoin the Congregation as a member. As they say, each ending is a new beginning and that is how I experience this change. The heaviness that I feel about leaving the position is countered by the optimism and hope I feel about my new beginning. In the fall, as a parent of two youth in the SGD program, I will once again be a familiar face here at UUAA, but instead of a staff nametag I will be wearing an invisible "congregant hat" and sitting next to my husband in Service.

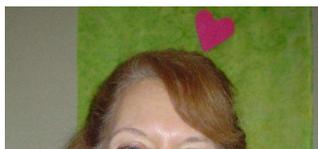
Thank you for allowing me to serve this Congregation as Director of SGD. I consider it a gift. I will continue to serve until May 10, the final Sunday of the program year. I will then look forward to seeing many of you in the Sanctuary!

With love and gratitude,  
Sandy



## **Program Notes**

### **Maria Thomas, Programs Coordinator**



#### Changes

Spring is a time of transition, and I have one of my own to announce: I will be leaving the UUAA community. I have

accepted a fulltime position at the University of Michigan, and my last day as Programs Coordinator at UUAA will be Tuesday, April 7.

I'm both excited and saddened by this coming change. I have so enjoyed my three-plus years of being a part of this incredible group of congregants: UUAA-ers are movers and shakers! I've witnessed a level of caring, community, and dedication to principles that is precious and rare. I've learned so much about assisting in the day-to-day operations of a large and busy organization, one that is fueled by the passion of its members. It's been an inspiring, enlivening ride!

At the same time, I look forward to new challenges and new opportunities. I want to thank the Congregation for making "programs coordination" a vibrant reality and a joy to witness. I thank all of you for your welcoming ways, your warm hearts, your amazing volunteerism, and your profound commitment to what I consider to be the best of values. I will miss being at UUAA!

In peace, and with gratitude,  
Maria



## 150th Anniversary Celebration



### The BIG Questions \* Sunday, April 12



At 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel join for a special forum and discussion with Senior Minister Gail R. Geisenhainer to begin collecting and discussing questions about the future of UUAA. What is the role of a bricks and mortar church like UUAA in the 21st century? What is the role of Social Media in the spiritual life of the congregation's children? Or in the life of adults? What ministries can only be done face to face? What will this congregation look like in 2065? What is UUAA's role in the state and region?

This forum discussion will help to prepare for broader - ranged panel discussions with UU leaders from around the country on Saturday, May 16, as part of the 150th Anniversary weekend activities (see the Anniversary weekend article).

Questions? Contact the 150th Planning Team at [birthday150@uuaa.org](mailto:birthday150@uuaa.org).



### 150th Anniversary Member Chalice Lighting \* Sunday, April 12

This year, as the 150th year is celebrated, Congregational members are honored by inviting each member to take part in lighting the chalice at the beginning of special "Our Story"



Services. Members who have signed the membership book in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s have been honored. Each member is invited to take part in one or both Services if you signed the Membership Book in 2010 to 2015.

An email invitation will be sent close to the date as a reminder. Hopefully all will be able to be there.

Sunday, April 12 will also be an "Our Story Sunday": Reason and Compassion in Action. So, wear those 150th t-shirts.

Questions? Contact Co-chairs Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at [birthday150@uuaa.org](mailto:birthday150@uuaa.org).



### Historic Building Tour \* Saturday, April 18

Plans are underway for the tour on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00 to 3:30pm of Ann Arbor buildings once home to this Congregation. The tour will include what is now the Hobbs and Black architectural offices at the corner of State and Huron. The tour will be led by congregational President Ken Clein. All can view the famous Tiffany window. The tour at 1917 Washtenaw, now the Stone Chalet Bed and Breakfast, will be led by Minister Emeritus Rev. Ken Phifer. Local historian Grace Shackman will assist, and stories of the building and congregational life will be told.

The tours are free, but those wishing to participate must have a ticket in advance. Tickets will be available on a first-come-first-served basis during Social Hour. There are limitations on numbers who can participate. Note that there are some accessibility issues for both buildings. Minimum age for the tour is 16.

Questions? Contact Kathy Edgren at [kkedgren@gmail.com](mailto:kkedgren@gmail.com) or 734-424-3019, or Lucy Bauman at [lucy.bauman@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.bauman@gmail.com) or 734-761-6394.



### 150th on the Horizon



The 150th Anniversary Year Grand Finale will be Thursday, May 14 through Sunday, May 17. The year of 150th celebrations is drawing to a close. Don't miss any of the Grand Finale events.

Thursday, May 14 at 7:30pm - On the actual 150th anniversary of our founding, gather in the Sanctuary for a candlelit, contemplative service honoring the 40 people who signed our Articles of Association on May 14, 1865.

Saturday, May 16 from 2:00 to 4:30pm in the Sanctuary there will be a panel discussion on the future of UU and the role of UUAA: "Brick and Mortar Churches in the 21st Century?" Rev. Tom Schade, a member of UUAA and retired UU minister, will moderate a panel of UU luminaries from around the country:

- Rev. Sue Phillips, Massachusetts Bay/Clara Barton District Executive of the UUA
- Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Music Director, First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor
- Rev. Meg A. Riley, Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship
- Rev. Tandi Rogers, Growth Strategist for the UUA
- Rev. Don Southworth, Executive Director of the UU Ministers Association
- Leslie Takahashi, co-minister at the Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek, CA

There will be thought provoking BIG Questions from UUs on the cutting edge. Check out [www.uuaa.org/150](http://www.uuaa.org/150) for the questions and for advance written thoughts from the panelists. Families can sign up for child care at the 150th table during Social Hour.

Sunday, May 17 will be Commemoration Sunday. At 10:30am there will be a celebratory Service for all ages. At 4:00pm the Service of Commemoration and Commissioning will feature keynote speaker [Rev. Vanessa Southern](#), Minister-At-Large, UUA leader, author of *This Piece of Eden* and of the forthcoming 2015 UUA Meditation Manual. Families can sign up for child care at the 150th table during Social Hour. A festive reception will follow the Service throughout the building. Additional information is available on [www.uuaa.org/150](http://www.uuaa.org/150).

Questions? Contact co-chairs Terry Madden and Sandy Simon at [birthday150@uuaa.org](mailto:birthday150@uuaa.org).



## 150th Anniversary in Review

Enjoy photos, videos, and more. Keep abreast of all the wonderful things happening at the Church commemorating the 150th anniversary at the web site: <http://uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/birthday150>. Find photos, the Klein Lecture video, Ken Phifer's sermon video, and letters of congratulations from partner organizations.

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



## Donate Frequent Flyer Miles

The 150th celebration in May 2015 will include special guests who will fly to Ann Arbor for the occasion. Those interested in donating frequent flyer miles as airfare for a guest may send information that includes the airline and the number of miles gifted to Phyllis Valentine at [pav@umich.edu](mailto:pav@umich.edu).



## Activities and Events

### Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) \* Saturday, April 4

Join from 12:45 to 2:45pm in the Jackson Chapel. All are welcome. The meeting will dial in to a national CCL expert talk, followed by local discussion. Check out:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/>. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at

[ljunck@umich.edu](mailto:ljunck@umich.edu).



### Plant-Powered Family Potluck \* Saturday, April 4

Come celebrate Earth Day at a vegan potluck for the family in the Fahs Chapel from noon to 2:00pm. Enjoy healthful, delicious food, good cheer, and share info. Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. Bring table service and serving tools. Questions? Contact Donna Estry at [estry@umich.edu](mailto:estry@umich.edu).



### Round Robin Dinner \* Friday, April 10

Join others in small groups of adults for an evening of food, conversation, and congeniality. This is a delightful way to get to know a few UUs at a time. As always, there is a need for people who can host. Contact Sally Preston at [sally@pctraining.net](mailto:sally@pctraining.net) by Wednesday, April 1 for those interested in participating.



## One-Time Chalice Circle \* Sunday, April 12

Join from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Jackson Chapel. The topic for April is "Joy". Sign up during Social Hour or contact Kathi Waters at [listen2children@gmail.com](mailto:listen2children@gmail.com). Childcare is not available for One-Time Chalice Circles. 

## Burger Night Farewell \* Friday, April 24

Join the 20s and 30s group to give a sendoff to some members who are graduating or moving on to the next steps in their lives. Meet at 7:00pm at the Red Hawk Bar and Grill on State Street in Ann Arbor for a \$10 burger or chicken sandwich and other menu offerings as well as beverages. RSVP on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/k7m7mua>, or contact Sandy Eyl at [sandy.eyl@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.eyl@gmail.com). 

## Member Receives Service Award \* Saturday, April 25

Alex Mitrovich, UUAUAA Accessibility Team member, will receive the Oberlin College Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award for work organizing and participating in a groundbreaking Speakers Bureau of people with mental illness. The award ceremony will be at UUAUAA in the Sanctuary at 12:30pm with a reception to follow. This event is open to the wider community.

The Speakers Bureau present in classroom and other settings around southeast Michigan to increase understanding and inclusion of the mentally ill. Alex has also been an active member of this Congregation's Accessibility Team, working to increase inclusion of people with physical and mental disabilities in Congregational life and in the wider community.

For more information about this event or to help with the reception, contact Els Nieuwenhuijsen at [elsni@comcast.net](mailto:elsni@comcast.net). 

## Our Land for Worship Service Day \* Saturday, April 25

From 9:00am to 1:00pm come to work widen the section of Yellow Trail from the Glade to the seasonal stream. The trail needs to be widened from 2 feet to 8 feet. Also, there is an old overgrown farm rock pile that needs reclaiming. All skills and ability levels are welcome. Questions? Contact Scott Morgan at 734-649-4475 or [wsm371@gmail.com](mailto:wsm371@gmail.com). 

## All-Church Gathering \* Saturday, April 25



Interweave and friends invite the Congregation to a spring gathering. Join for singing, small group sharing, and a catered dinner.

Click here for the [registration form](#) or register at the Interweave table during Social Hour. Scholarships are available upon request. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at [leigrobe@umich.edu](mailto:leigrobe@umich.edu). 

## Earth Day Sing \* Saturday, April 25

Celebrate Earth Day and join in songs of praise and love for the planet - including songs from the hymnal, a few by Carolyn McDade, and many more. Join at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary, following the "All-Church Gathering" dinner. Honor the 7th



Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.  
Questions? Contact Lori Fithian at [lorifithian@mac.com](mailto:lorifithian@mac.com) or 734-426-7818.



## Teacher Appreciation Brunch \* Sunday, April 26

A tradition continues as the Congregation comes together each spring to honor and thank the people who are serving as volunteer teachers, assistants, and rovers in the SGD Children and Youth Program. The brunch is a potluck: a way to express gratitude to the program's volunteers who commit their time and develop meaningful relationships with this community's children and youth.

The Teacher Appreciation Brunch will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 am in Fahs Chapel. Parents, caregivers, and other Congregants are invited to contribute a potluck dish or help with set-up or clean-up. Use this link to access the sign-up page:  
[Teacher Appreciation Brunch Sign-Up](#)

Questions? Contact Teacher Appreciation Brunch Coordinators Cindy Hegg Krueger at [ckrue@comcast.net](mailto:ckrue@comcast.net) or Lissa Oliver at [lissao@earthlink.net](mailto:lissao@earthlink.net).

Thank you for supporting the SGD volunteers.



## Game Day \* Sunday, April 26

Beat the cold weather from 1:00 to 4:00pm for a multi-generational day of board and card games. Some games will be available, but 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? Contact Arthur Prokosch and Bethany Ramirez at [bethanyramirez@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyramirez@gmail.com).



## 2014-2015 Annual Reports Deadline \* Monday, April 27

Each recognized congregational group is encouraged to prepare information to share with the Congregation in an annual report.

The annual report deadline will be Monday, April 27 at 5:00pm. A full collection of all annual reports will be distributed before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 31.



Recognized congregant group leaders are encouraged to write an annual report. Basic elements to include are:

- The recognized group's name.
- The author of the group's report.
- A brief description of the group or ministry.
- A description of how UUAA core values were met by the group.
- Highlights of activities that took place from May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015.
- Goals reached.
- Names of active participants in the ministry.
- Described future ideas, plans, and goals.

Send the report to [annualreport@uuuaa.org](mailto:annualreport@uuuaa.org). Early submissions are welcome.



## Announcements and Notices

### Children's Ministry Team (CMT) by Lisa Kohn



The Children's Ministry Team develops, supports, envisions, and evaluates the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) programs for pre-school through 5th grade. Under the guidance of the SGD Director, members of the committee serve as coordinators for specific classrooms and provide support to the SGD director and teachers. One essential function of the group is the recruitment of SGD teachers.

Gregg Peterson and I are nearing the completion of our terms (2 ½ yrs) on the CMT and are seeking candidates who want to contribute and nurture the SGD programs for our youngest congregants. Serving on this group has given me a bigger view of our Congregation and an appreciation of our interdependent parts.

It is not necessary to have been an SGD teacher in order to join the CMT. Desired characteristics include a commitment to facilitate learning for our kids, willingness to work on targeted small projects, and ability to foster good relationships with teachers and families. Time involvement includes a one hour meeting per month and some additional time of 2-10 hours per month depending on the project.

#### Calling Teachers For Next Fall

April begins the kick-off of teacher recruitment for the fall 2015. Sharing UU teachings and traditions with the youth is a deeply meaningful spiritual practice. I've had the privilege of working with 2nd and 3rd graders this year in the curriculum called "Peacemakers". Some of the topics in the many lessons include how to find hidden commonalities in others, how to thwart green poison darts (negative or critical comments) and how to recognize and resolve conflict. It has been pure joy witnessing the wisdom and problem-solving skills of the children. There is no doubt, as other SGD teachers can attest to, that there is reciprocal learning happening in the classrooms.

Each SGD class enjoys a four-person teaching team. The co-teachers alternate classroom responsibilities with each teacher leading one class per month and assisting one class per month. This system allows the teachers and children to build relationships throughout the year. Congregants who have participated in this Congregation for at least one year are eligible to serve as teachers.

While considering the possibility of becoming a children's or youth SGD teacher, know that each will be well supported with the Children's and Youth Ministry Teams and with the rich curriculum of the programming.

Questions? Contact Lisa Kohn at [lkohn@umich.edu](mailto:lkohn@umich.edu).



**Climate Action Group News**

"Thank you" to all the UUAA members who signed 113 letters to members of Congress urging action on climate change.



In more news, the class by Bennett Stark, "Unparalleled Challenges of the Coming Decades", will emphasize climate change and will begin on Sunday, April 9. Earth Day Service will be on Sunday, April 19. There will be a Service emphasizing climate change on Sunday, April 26. Also, a forum on home solar energy and home geothermal energy is in the planning stage.

Questions? Contact Larry Junck at [ljunck@med.umich.edu](mailto:ljunck@med.umich.edu).



## Adult SGD Registration



Registration for spring classes and workshops continues. The Adult SGD Catalog for the spring term is available online at [www.uuaa.org](http://www.uuaa.org) and in hardcopy during Social Hour. The best-yet selection of classes and workshops includes many that begin or occur in April or May.

Registration, if required, is by email at the email addresses in the Catalog until the day before the respective classes and

workshops begin.

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



## Adult SGD Active Dream Workshop

The "Dreaming with Our Ancestors: World Day of Active Dreaming" workshop will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 1:00 to 4:00pm in the Harper Room.

As part of The World Day of Active Dreaming, groups around the world will gather to dream together. Use the tools of Active Dreaming including conscious dream journeys, dream theater, and dream re-entry to commune with ancestors of the past and future. Explore how each was dreamed into being, and how each dreams of lives. Bring dreams and sense of adventure to explore dreaming with ancestors. Questions?

Contact Julie Tumbarello at [info@dreamingjulie.com](mailto:info@dreamingjulie.com).



## Denominational Connections Team (DCT)



The MidAmerica Regional Assembly will occur Friday to Sunday, April 17 to 19 in Naperville, Illinois. Hear from great speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and meet and mingle with UUs from all over the Region. Go to [www.midamericauua.org/RA](http://www.midamericauua.org/RA) to see all the events and to register. Youth are welcome and childcare is offered. Limited partial scholarships are available. Hotel rooms are available at a group rate. Those who plan to attend, sign up at the Social Justice/DCT Table during Social Hour.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. See <http://www.uua.org/ga>. Attendees will worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2015 General Assembly will be Wednesday to Sunday, June 24 to 28 in Portland, OR. The theme for the 2015 GA will be "Building a New Way". The religious, cultural, and demographic landscape in the United States is changing dramatically. There are many

kinds of Unitarian Universalists - some deeply involved in their congregation and others who reject the traditional forms of the institutional church. The denomination is looking for people to work within a congregation and those to work beyond congregational walls to participate in General Assembly 2015. The Congregational Study/Action Issues will be [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](#) and [Escalating Inequality](#). GA is multigenerational and inclusive, with an active youth and young adult contingent. Scholarship and volunteer opportunities, childcare, and accessibility services are available. Sign up at the Social Justice/DCT Table.

Questions or suggestions? Contact Roylea Furniss at [refurniss@gmail.com](mailto:refurniss@gmail.com).



## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project

Unsung Heroes and Plot Twists

Digging into the history of the UUSC Coffee Project at UUAU uncovers unsung heroes and twists in the path toward the UUAU Coffee Project's status as one of the largest purchasers of Equal Exchange products nationwide. In 2012, this team led the pack: top purchaser of all UU congregations.



Connie Fredrick (left) and Marion Hart (right) celebrate Marion's 91st birthday and renew the spirit of UUAU Coffee Project at the Senior Luncheon on Monday, March 9

How did this come to be? It begins with Unsung Heroes, Marion Hart and Sue Tons. Plot Twists: Marion Hart and Sue Tons decided to donate profits from the sale of Equal Exchange products at UUAU to Fundacion Ninos Sanos (Foundation for Healthy Children) in Ecuador where Sue had relatives. Eventually, it became difficult to guarantee the money would get to medical facilities there. Enter the UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which had begun a partnership with Equal Exchange. In 2001, Marion and the Congregation began working directly with the UUSC to support sustainable livelihoods, education, and health care around the world.

Who benefits from profits? First, those who grow the products get fair payment. Second, Equal Exchange donates 20 cents from every pound of product sold to the UUSC's Small Farmer Fund, which supports farmer cooperatives worldwide. Third, the church also gets a percentage. That's money well spent.

Now the UUSC Coffee Project committee sells coffee, tea, chocolate, dried fruits, and nuts in the Social Hall every Sunday, after every service. Jenny Kropf and Shireen Jones (present-day unsung heroes) coordinate purchasing products, stocking the cabinet, and scheduling who will work at the Coffee Project table. Volunteers are invited to join the committee of 10.

Questions? Contact Cathie Breidenbach at [cathie@breidenbach.net](mailto:cathie@breidenbach.net).



## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project

## UUSC's Water Projects



Water is essential to human life. Yet, almost three-quarters of a billion people around the world lack clean drinking water. The United Nations has reported that more people now die from contaminated water than from all forms of violence. The human right to water - access to safe, sufficient, and affordable water for everyone - is more important than ever.

The UUSC defends and promotes the human right to water by working with grassroots groups and activists to push for new laws, challenge violations, and create new models for implementation. Acting on the moral responsibility this issue demands, UUSC is on the cutting edge of ensuring that the human right to water is recognized in principle and becomes a reality.

UUSC collaborates with innovative groups that protect water resources and increase access to services in law and practice. Recognizing that too many people are denied the human right to water because of discriminatory policies and procedures, UUSC puts special focus on working with marginalized populations.

Access to water shouldn't depend on race or bank account. The good news is that, despite increasing environmental challenges, there is enough water for everyone's basic needs. And protecting the human right to water is entirely compatible with protecting the environment. UUSC envisions a sustainable future in which all people have access to water for basic human needs, and where water supplies are safe from industrial contamination, over-extraction, and climate change.

Questions? Contact Becky Hoort, for the UUSC's News Reporters, at [rhoort@umich.edu](mailto:rhoort@umich.edu).



## Memory & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following people who donated to UUA with a Memory & Tribute gift in January, February, and March:

In Memory of Leonard Quenon:  
Donald & Jessie Siekmeier

In memory of James Johnson:  
M. Joanne Dodge  
Carolyn and Richard Barber  
Becky Swank  
Joan and Charles Burleigh  
Kenji Yano  
Patricio Herbst and Vilma Mesa  
David Tumbarello  
Lucia and Bob Heinold  
Daniel and Lynn Ayres  
Phyllis Valentine  
Men's 7th Circle  
Friends in Deed

**Other Contributions:**

Lawrence Crockett &amp; Kathleen Richards

Paul Mayer

Jim &amp; Terri Palacios

**Become a Member of the Sunderland Society**

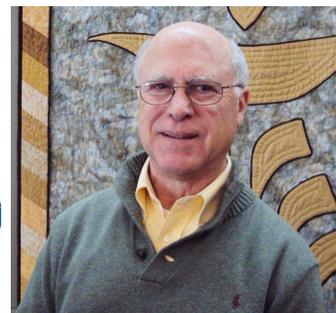
The Sunderland Society is an honorary society for members and friends of UUAU, who have made future plans for the Congregation through trust, estate, or other future gifts. Named in honor of Rev. Jabez T. and Eliza Jane Read Sunderland, the Society recognizes the vital role benefactors play in the future health of the Congregation. Membership involves no dues, obligations, or solicitations, but it does allow UUAU to recognize and thank Sunderland Society members for the planned giving commitment. Participation also inspires generosity in others.

For more information about planned giving at UUAU go to: <http://www.uuaa.org/index.php/support-our-congregation/longrange>.

To communicate planned gifts to UUAU, please complete the attached form. [Click here for the Planned Gift Commitment form](#). Questions? Contact Thom Bales, executive director, at 734-665-6158 or [thom@uuaa.org](mailto:thom@uuaa.org).

**New Member Bio****Richard Douglass**

Richard is Marian Horowitz's husband. He is a retired professor from Eastern Michigan University and has taught and conducted research in public health, international health, and healthcare for the poor and marginalized, and social gerontology since 1972. He loves children, sailing, rowing, good music, cooking, and celebrating the brief time there is to be alive.

**Kristin Evon**

"I joined Chalice Singers in January of 2011 and after four years of flirtation have finally signed the membership book. I work in a clinical genetics lab at U of M and in my spare time enjoy all things nerdy. I am looking to become more involved in the struggle for racial, marriage, and gender equality."

**Bruce and Mary Lund**

Bruce and Mary met in 1969 as graduate students at Stanford University and were married in 1973. Their first home was in Fredericton, NB Canada, where son Matt was born in 1977. They moved to Novi Michigan in 1979 when Bruce began work at Ford Motor. In 1984, Mary began a career as an English instructor at Henry Ford College. A



pivotal step in selecting UUAU was their participation in a Chalice Circle during 2012-2013. Bruce admires science as the source of eventual truth. Mary finds meaning through science, literature, and the sharing of joys, sorrows, and achievements of life.



## Angela Peters



Angela is originally from Ida, Michigan but has lived most of her adult life in the Ann Arbor area. She received her BBA from Eastern Michigan University in 1999. She is drawn to, and practices, nature-based spirituality. Angela is a stained glass artist, and creates and sells wire wrapped, semi-precious stone jewelry. Her other interests include writing, genealogy, and animal rescue. She currently volunteers with a local K-9 Search and Rescue organization to help train trailing dogs to find missing people. She says, "Everyone I've met so far has been very warm and welcoming. I really feel like I fit in here and am looking forward to participating in church activities."



## Mariah Zeisberg

"Hello. You may have seen me and my wonderful goddaughter, Juniper, one day sitting in our usual spot in the front row. She and I started coming here together in 2013. We love to have spiritual conversations and to run around in the woods behind the building. I value community, friendship, scrumptious food, feminism, and books. I work at the University of Michigan and volunteer at the Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor cooking delicious snacks with the teens. I am very happy to be here among friends."



## On The Horizon

### Men's Dinner

The annual Men's Dinner will be held on Friday, May 8. There will be an exciting speaker and great food starting at 6:30pm. Stay tuned to the *Weekly Bulletin* for more details. Tickets will be on sale during Social Hour in April. Questions? Contact Jeff Poliner at [jfpolnr@aol.com](mailto:jfpolnr@aol.com).



### Men's Retreat News

The 2015 Men's Retreat has been scheduled for Friday, September 25 to 27 at the Judson Collins Campground. Come join with other men in the Congregation for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Mark VanKempen at [mark.vankempen@gmail.com](mailto:mark.vankempen@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 from 9:00am-5:00pm**

**Telephone: 734-665-6158**

**Fax: 734-665-7895**

**General Email: [office@uuaa.org](mailto:office@uuaa.org)**

**Communicating at UAAA:**

**The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *Weekly Bulletin* is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send submissions to [bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org).**

**The deadline for submitting UAAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2015 May Newsletter* is 9:00am on Tuesday, April 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 ([uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org)) to [webtech@uuaa.org](mailto: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 UAAA, refer to the [Lay Leader Administrative Guide](#).**

**Building & Office Team:**

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

**Debbly Casamatta, Office Administrator, [deborah@uuaa.org](mailto:deborah@uuaa.org)**

**Venus Gregory, Building Attendant, [venus@uuaa.org](mailto:venus@uuaa.org)**

**Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian, [arthur@uuaa.org](mailto:arthur@uuaa.org)**

**Dewon Lewis, Weeknight Custodian, [dewon@uuaa.org](mailto:dewon@uuaa.org).**



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