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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

February Newsletter

February 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 2

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 with classes for children
followed by Social Hour.

February 1, 2015

"The Art of the 'Matter'."

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music, preaching

A growing chorus of American voices-in New York and Detroit, in Ferguson and Ypsi, in line and online- cries out the hopeful refrain "Black Lives Matter."

Will this Congregation have a verse to sing? How will it sound? And when will we write it?

February 8, 2015

"Humility: Can Anyone Teach Us Anything?"

Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister, preaching

Our February Chalice Circle topic is "Humility: We share our feelings, thoughts, and experiences with humility and practice it, by considering what we may have to learn from others." What it can mean to be "life-long learners."

February 15, 2015 - OUR STORY SUNDAY

WEAR 150th T-Shirts!

"Where Do We Stand? We Move!"

Rev. Kenneth W. Phifer, Minister Emeritus, preaching.
Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister, pulpit host

Through a series of new buildings, we have moved in patterns of new directions. We are currently in our fourth home in Ann Arbor. Our previous minister for 25 years, Ken Phifer joins us to talk about the meaning in our historic moves.

FORUM: Reception to greet Minister Emeritus, Rev. Ken Phifer, after the second service.

February 22, 2015

"The Truth About Who I Am."

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister, preaching

The world is created, repaired, and sustained by numerous acts small and large. It is in giving of ourselves in service that we become our true selves.



Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Pastoral Care in Our Congregation

Reverend Gail speaks of our presence in the Sanctuary together on Sunday mornings as being "in the company of those who wish you well." We strive to be thoughtful and caring toward one another in all of our congregational life.

Pastoral Care is the name we give to a quality of attention that goes to the next level of intention and focus beyond "wishing each other well." We strive to be a place where we each can be accompanied through life's most intense and challenging experiences and transitions. Pastoral Care is when we accompany one another into and through illness, divorce, birth and death, job loss, getting sober...

Rev. Gail and I are here to walk with you toward trouble, and share your delights as well.



Due to budget constraints we have had to end the twelve-hour per week position of Pastoral Care Coordinator in which congregant Meredith Ley has served since April 2010. We expect to express our appreciation of Meredith during the Social Hour between the early and late Worship Services with some special h'ordeuvres in the next few weeks.

This transition is a good opportunity to rearticulate what pastoral care is and how to connect with the Pastoral Care program we provide as a congregation.

In addition to Rev. Gail and myself, we have developed a pastoral care program to help us all engage in this quality of presence to varying degrees, with ourselves, with our friends and family, and with training with other congregants.

We have trained Pastoral Care Assistants who can also provide some companionship in times of need. Currently we have the following eight members serving in this role:

Sara Gibb
Kathy Friedrichs
Marion Holt
Eileen Wright
Terry Butcher
Tom Longworth
John Danks
Vey Valentine

If you are interested in finding out more and perhaps applying to become a Pastoral Care Assistant, email me at pastoralcare@uuua.org or talk with me some Sunday morning.

We publish Pastoral News twice a week: Thursdays through the *Weekly Bulletin* email, and Sunday through signs posted in the front lobby, at the Involvement Table during Social Hour, and in a binder available throughout the week on the counter in the church office. We publish news only with the direct permission of those involved.

To share pastoral news or let us know of a pastoral care concern, you can do any of the following:

- Speak with Rev. Gail or myself face-to-face on Sunday morning or at other times during the week.
- Call the Pastoral Care Phone Line at 734 506-8822. This phone number rings to the cell phone of the minister on-call for pastoral care. You can leave a confidential message. Our goal is to respond appropriately within 3 hours of your call 24/7/365.
- Send an email to pastoralcare@uuaa.org. Email to this address is forwarded to Rev. Gail and myself and is monitored by the pastoral care minister on duty.
- Put a note in my mailbox in the church office or send a letter to the church office. You can mark it "attention Rev. Mark Evens" and "confidential".
- Leave a note in the *Share Your Life* binder in the Pastoral Care section of the Involvement Table in Sunday morning Social Hour.

Our Pastoral Care program has many facets, including Pastoral Care Education, led by Terry Madden, which presents workshops and discussions related to pastoral care, and a job seeker support group. Our next senior luncheon is scheduled for Monday March 9 at noon. There will be opportunities to help sustain that program into the future.

The change in staffing with the elimination of the Pastoral Care Coordinator position means that I will now be in more frequent direct contact with our Pastoral Care Assistants and managing the flow of Pastoral Care news into publication. I will be more focused on Pastoral Care and therefore will be rationing my time in support of other program areas more carefully. Hannah Hotchkiss, our Welcoming Ministries Coordinator, and Maria Thomas, our Programs Coordinator, will also be helping a bit more with some administrative aspects of Pastoral Care.

Questions about the Pastoral Care program are welcome. Watch the weekly Pastoral News for additional information.

In Faith,
Mark



Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) in Action

Sandy Garges, Director of SGD



The recent events in France are all over the news and in our minds. Having lived in France on 9/11, I had an initial visceral response to the news of the terrorist attack as I remembered how the atmosphere changed in France on 9/12. The sight of military personnel became a part of my daily dog walks. What has also changed since 9/11 is that I now have two children of my own. My initial body-aching response this year quickly turned to thoughts of the children, both the two who live with me and all of the children and youth who are here with us on Sunday mornings. How do these events affect young people? What can we do, both as caretakers who serve as their primary religious instructors and as a community of faith?

One of my initial parental responses was to turn off NPR - no need for the kids to be continually bombarded with the news of past or potential attacks. Shielding them can be helpful in some instances, but shielding them from reality long-term is not the answer. I then recalled the quote by Fred Rogers (aka: Mr. Rogers) "When I was a boy and I would see scary

things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

Like so much advice, the words of Mr. Rogers are not simply for children, they are for adults, too. I recognize that this is what we do here together in community, we are helpers, we nurture helpers, we celebrate helpers."

One of the best choices I have made as a primary religious educator for my children was to be present at the Ann Arbor courthouse on Saturday, March 22, 2014, the one day in Michigan when same-sex marriages were performed. We did not shy away from the reality, discrimination under the law, nor did we stay home because it was easier. We learned as a family what it means to be an ally, a witness. The gift we received that day was to be in the presence of hundreds of helpers, those very folks envisioned by Mr. Rogers.

As we enter 2015 as a community of helpers, I offer this reminder: don't forget to look for the helpers. The presence of helpers does not guarantee a perfect world, but it will offer a weighty offset to the challenges we confront daily. Helpers can inspire hope and a rededication to action.

With care,
Sandy



Board of Trustees

President's Message Ken Klein, Board President



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Martin Luther King, Jr.

It's been 50 years since the Selma march, but Dr. King's dream of equality and love is not yet realized. Many UUs were allies in the civil rights movement and our *Standing on the Side of Love* ministry owes much to Dr. King's legacy of love and non-violence. But bending the moral arc of the universe toward a more just world takes time and a commitment to persist in our witness and ministries of love and social justice.

Our buildings and land are valuable resources in our spiritual life and ministries. Together we have made this place to gather in love and mutual respect, for worship, spiritual growth, and to make a better world. The stewardship of these physical resources is crucial to support our next *150 years of reason and compassion in action*.

Any building, even a fairly new one, needs periodic maintenance and repair. Our original building boiler and parking lot will require replacement in the next year, and unfortunately we have not been able to save up for these large expenses as we would have liked. While your Board of Trustees has been engaged with the staff/congregant team to put a long term capital replacement/maintenance plan in place with adequate funding, it appears that we will need to ask the Congregation for additional financial support to address these issues and establish a dedicated fund for future capital expenditures. Please stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I hope you'll stop by the Scrip table in the Social Hall after Service on

Sundays. Scrip is available for many local retailers and gives a percentage of each purchase back to our Congregation, without costing you anything. Got Scrip?!

In Fellowship,

Ken Clein
Board President



Call for Board of Trustee and LDT Nominations



Members of the Congregation will be elected to serve on the Board of Trustees at the 2015 Annual Meeting in the May in the following positions: Vice President/President Elect, Treasurer, and Trustee. The job descriptions for these positions can be found at <http://uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/our-congregation/how-we-govern/ldt#board>.

In addition, one person will be elected to serve on the Leadership Development Team (LDT). Information about the LDT can be found in Article VII of the Bylaws at <http://uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/our-congregation/how-we-govern/bylaws>.

Those interested in serving the Congregation in one of these roles, or if there is someone to nominate, email the reasons for the recommendation to an LDT member by Monday, February 9. Nominations and questions can be sent to: Dee Dishon at deedishon@gmail.com, Allen Duncan at aduncan85@gmail.com, Kathy Edgren at kkedgren@gmail.com, Kathy Friedrichs at kamf@umich.edu, or Connie McGuire at cmcguire@umich.edu.



Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) News

Program Notes

Maria Thomas, Programs Coordinator



The Importance of Rovers

Have you ever wondered about ways to support the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) program other than teaching? Consider being a rover.

Rovers are adult congregants who are present in the SGD Wing during class times on Sundays during either service. Teachers may call upon rovers for a variety of assistance, such as escorting a child to the Sanctuary if a parent or caregiver is especially missed, or getting extra supplies for teachers from the supply closet. Or, rovers may help with tasks such as sorting the books on the SGD cart while remaining available to teachers.

Rovers enjoy a very flexible volunteer schedule, signing up for as many or as few Sundays as are convenient. Currently, the SGD Program especially needs rovers for the 9:30am Worship Service.

The presence of rovers in the SGD Wing is another way in which the Congregation shows its support and caring for teachers, children, and youth. The time commitment is relatively small, while the benefit to all is huge. Consider being a rover.

Feel free to contact me with any questions at maria@uuaa.org.



Growing Together

Debra Golden, SGD Program Assistant



This summer the Super heroes will return. Well, actually some of them never left, but we are reprising the sUUPER heroes' summer curriculum for grades K-5. I'll be leading the lessons, but need some help, super powers or not. We require at least two teachers in a room. Featured heroes will include folks some rooms are named after and some of our past ministers to tie in our 150th celebration.

We wish to create a program that welcomes the older youth (grades 6-9), but need three or four facilities to make that happen. The summer sessions will involve more time on the land, time for talking about what matters, walking on the land, and strengthening connections to what brings us here. Lessons will focus on one or two words (search, tolerance, waffles...) each Sunday. Yes, there will be some cooking (waffles and such), too.

Interested in spending time with this group? Contact me at debra@uuaa.org or Maria Thomas, programs coordinator, at maria@uuaa.org.

Thanks for your interest and participation,
Debra



150th Anniversary Celebration

Story Catcher Deadline * Sunday, February 8



No more procrastinating. The time has come to turn in the last of the stories about you and UUAU to Pat Kuessner for the 150th Story Catcher book. Email those one page stories to storycatchers@uuaa.org or put them in the 150th mailbox in the church office. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this fun and eclectic collection that will be published soon.

Questions? Contact Sandy Simon and Pat Kuessner at storycatchers@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary Member Chalice Lighting * Sunday, February 15



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, and 1980s have been honored. Each member is invited to take part in one or both Services if

you signed the Membership Book in:

1990-1999: Sunday, February 15

2000-2010: Sunday, March 15

2010-2015: Sunday, April 12

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

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



Reception for Rev. Ken Phifer * February 15



As part of the 150th Anniversary year celebrations, minister emeritus, Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Phifer will be honored at a reception. Ken served this Congregation as

senior minister for 25 years of our history-- from 1980 to 2005. He will be delivering the sermon at both Services that day. Come to the Services and stay to greet or meet Ken at a reception following second Service at 1:00pm on Sunday, February 15 in the Fahs Chapel.



Questions? Contact Terry Madden at birthday150@uuaa.org.



Big Sing Registration Deadline * Sunday, February 15



The music ministries at UUAU are throwing a big community music event: "The BIG SING." Singers from across the state are being invited to participate.

This is a chance to participate for anyone who loves to sing but cannot commit to joining the choir. No choral experience is necessary. The mass choir rehearsal and fellowship will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Musical scores and lunch will be provided. The concert and community sing will be on Sunday, March 15 at 4:00pm. Both the rehearsal and the concert will take place at UUAU.

Register by Sunday, February 15 with Music Director Glen Thomas Rideout at glen.thomas@uuaa.org.



Help Spring Clean the Website



Here's an easy way to help spruce up one part of the church for the upcoming anniversary events: Check for broken links on the web site www.uuaa.org.

Recently, upgraded tools behind the web site led to problems with some of the links. If a link is found that goes to the wrong page or produces an error, send an email describing the page location (a link helps) to webtech@uuaa.org. Questions? Contact webtech@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary Tile Sales



Orders for this beautiful commemorative tile made by Ann Arbor's Motawi Tile will be accepted through Tuesday, March 10 for delivery at the end of April. The tiles are priced at \$35 each.

They may be ordered through www.uuaa.org or at the History table



during Social Hour through March 10.

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



Women's Rights Display Case



150th Anniversary celebrates with a "Women's Rights and the Vote" theme in the Jackson Chapel display case. Visit during the month of February. The display provides an historical context to view the 150th anniversary year and was created by congregant Doug Kelley.

Questions? Contact Terry Madden at birthday150@uuaa.org.



150th Anniversary News



Photos of events, mini-histories and more are all posted at uuaa.org/150. Check them out. Questions? Contact Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at birthday150@uuaa.org.



Frequent Flyer Miles Needed



The 150th celebration in May 2015 will include special guests who will fly to Ann Arbor, Michigan for the occasion. A list of people willing to donate frequent flyer miles as airfare for a guest will be compiled.

Those interested in donating air miles may send information that includes the airline and the number of miles gifted to Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu.



Activities and Events

Accessibility Team Event *Sunday, February 1

Meet to discuss enhancing access to the Sanctuary steps by adding handrails. The design, functionality, and aesthetics will be addressed. All congregants' opinions about such a change are welcomed. Meet from 1:15 to 2:15pm in the Sanctuary. All are invited to share views about Sanctuary handrails. Send questions and comments to Els Nieuwenhuijsen at elsni@comcast.net or Phil Tuchinsky at ptuchinsky@sbcglobal.net.



Senior Dinner * Wednesday, February 4

Come join fellow seniors at Gourmet Garden at 6:00pm. Gatherings will be held each first Wednesday of the month for good food and a good time. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.



Citizens Climate Lobby * Saturday, February 7

The Ann Arbor Chapter will meet at 12:45pm at the Clean Energy Coalition offices at 1250 N. Main St, Suite 1 in Ann Arbor. All are welcome. The meeting will be a dial-in to a national CCL expert talk and will be followed by a local discussion. Questions about CCL? Go to

<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/> or contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu.



Justice in the Middle East (JME) Film * February 8

JME invites everyone concerned about social justice to see the documentary *Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land* on Sunday, February 8 at 1:00pm in Fahs Chapel.

Americans rely on the news media for information about events occurring around the world. News, especially television news, exerts a powerful influence on our perceptions, telling us which events are important and shaping our understanding of the issues. The United States plays a central role in the Middle East conflict, so it is vital that Americans receive accurate information. Thus, it becomes important to examine the quality of news reporting and to ask: Is the news coverage complete and objective?

Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land
U.S. Media & the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Sunday, February 8
1 - 3 pm, Fahs Chapel

Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land exposes how distortions in U.S. media coverage reinforce false perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. American foreign policy interests (oil, military bases) work in combination with Israeli public relations strategies to exercise a powerful influence over how news from the region is reported. Scholars, media critics, peace activists, religious figures, and Middle East experts explain how - through language and framing - the reality of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza remains hidden in the news media, and Israeli colonization of the occupied territories is portrayed as defensive rather than as offensive. The documentary raises questions about the relationship between media and politics.

Discussion immediately following the film

First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd
Ann Arbor, MI

Following the Arab-Israeli "Six-Day" war in 1967, the Israeli military occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Later that year, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 242 calling for Israel to withdraw. Almost half a century later, 4.4 million Palestinian residents of these areas still live under an illegal, oppressive occupation. The years since then have been marked by constant violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

This video examines the coverage of the conflict by the American media, which is rarely critical of the occupation, in stark contrast to the coverage by international sources. In fact, many Americans don't realize that Palestine is under military occupation. Without the context of the brutal occupation, the resistance of the Palestinians appears as irrational hostility towards the State of Israel. Since most Americans get their news from television and newspapers, the video argues that their understanding of the Middle East crisis directly reflects the pro-Israel bias of American news media.

Question? Contact Anne Garcia at awgarcia@wccnet.edu.



Alpha House Host Week * Monday to Sunday, February 9 to 15



The next Host Week at Alpha House will be from Monday to Sunday, February 9 to 15. The Alpha House helps homeless families in Washtenaw County. Volunteers are needed to do these tasks for this Host Week: day hosts, cooks, persons to serve meals, people to play with the kids, and overnight hosts. Come by the Alpha House table during Social Hour to sign up, or go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4daaaa2ea02-valentines1>.

Questions? Contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



Valentine Family Potluck * Saturday, February 14

Celebrate Valentine's Day and National Have-a-Heart Day at a vegan family potluck in Fahs Chapel from 12:00 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.



Interweave * Tuesday, February 17

February is National Standing on the Side of Love month.



All are invited to join "Standing on the Side of Love" with Rev. Gail Geisenhainer in the Social Hall. A potluck will begin at 6:00pm, and the program will be held from 7:00 to 8:30pm.



Standing on the Side of Love is a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world.

Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu or Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com.



Meet Your Farmer Series * February 22



preserved into the distant future.

The Mindful Eating Coalition continues the series at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel with Anne Elder of the Community Farm of Ann Arbor. Anne will tell the story of the farm, and how she, Paul, and members of the Ann Arbor community started it 25 years ago, turning 11 acres of fallow ground into composted-cultivated beds, an orchard, and rotational grazing pastures. Hear how the farm's development rights have

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



Make a Difference Involvement Weekend * February 21 & 22

A Workshop will be on Saturday, February 21 from 9:30am to 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. For new, emerging, and current leaders. Breakfast will be provided. People will inspire. Sign up for participation. Questions? Contact Hayley Boyse at hboyse@gmail.com.

An Involvement Fair will be held on Sunday, February 22 after Worship Services in the Social Hall. All congregants are invited. Sign up for anything from a short, discrete task to an in-depth, longer term project. Or, just come, learn, and file for future reference.

To sign up for a group table contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

Watch for details. Co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council and the Leadership Development Team. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com, Katherine Edgren at kkedgren@gmail.com, or Connie McGuire at cmcguire@umich.edu.



Announcements and Notices

Reflective Conversations (RC)

The Reflective Conversations team is preparing for reflection/feedback group discussions for this program year. The process piloted during the 2013-14 program year with Reflective Conversations about Sunday Worship and Interweave. The Congregation was given feedback on those sessions at the January Congregational meeting.

This year, the Board of Trustees has asked the team to examine the Stewardship Ministries in addition to Sunday Worship. The team has planned two reflection/feedback circles for members to share their experiences with stewardship. There will be one session for

stewardship volunteers to provide feedback and three RCs for Sunday Worship.

Participants are selected at random from a pool of members. Those who receive an invitation please respond and plan to attend. There will be questions for reflection and all will be asked to provide feedback regarding personal perspectives based on personal experiences. What everyone shares will help to understand what life is like here at UUAU. Over time, the RC team would like to hear from all members and what is shared will have an impact on the future together here. Questions? Share with the team at reflectiveconversations@uuua.org. 

Denominational Connections Team (DCT)

Here is a Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI) Update:



2012-2016: [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](#)
The Congregation voted on whether this Statement of Conscience (SOC) should be brought before the 2015 General Assembly at the January 2015 Congregational Meeting. Results of the vote will be included in the next Bulletin after the vote.

2014-2018: [Escalating Inequality](#)

This CSAI was just chosen at the 2014 General Assembly. A study guide is now available. If interested, contact Roylea Furniss at refurniss@gmail.com. A study group will be forming at the church to better understand this complex issue.

Important UUA Dates:

Regional Assembly will be on Saturday, April 18 in Naperville, Illinois.

General Assembly will be held Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28 in Portland, Oregon.

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

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

Adult SGD Spring Term



Looking Ahead to the Adult SGD Spring Term

Right now: Members of the Adult Education Advisory Team are ready to help prospective teachers and facilitators prepare and submit proposals for classes in the Spring Term, which begins in early March and runs to Labor Day weekend. Space has been pre-reserved in the church building on Mondays and Thursdays.

Key dates:

Sunday, February 18: Completed proposals containing the class descriptions are due. Hand-deliver proposals to Sandy Garges' mailbox in the church office or send to Charley Burleigh at chburleigh@aol.com.

Sunday, March 8: The Spring Catalog will be published at www.uuua.org and on paper, and registration will begin. Most classes in the Spring Term will start on or after Monday, March 9.

"The Art of Storytelling" description:

Storytelling is an effective way to teach, to inspire, to heal, and to delight. Have fun while

learning to relax in front of other people and let creativity blossom. This interactive course will help shape ideas and gain experience in the effectiveness of body and vocal techniques. Beginners are welcome as well as those with more experience. Meet for four consecutive Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm from March 9 to March 30. Send reservations to bevblack@umich.edu.

Questions? Contact Charley Burleigh at chburleigh@aol.com.



Adult SGD Class

Reflection and Learning Project on Israel-Palestine will be on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

UUAU Justice in the Middle East (JME) will offer a repeat of the Adult SGD program on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Sessions will meet at 7:00 to 8:30pm on all four Wednesdays in March. Course materials include a 72-page Study Guide and DVD that are provided free of charge thanks to a grant from the Community Church of New York-UU.



March 4 (Jackson Chapel):	The Zionist Enterprise - History Before 1948
March 11 (David Room):	A Jewish State - History After 1948
March 18 (Jackson Chapel):	Christian Theology and U.S. Middle East Policy
March 25 (David Room):	Voices of Faith for Justice in the Middle East

"Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide" curriculum will be used. It was developed by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church. It examines the historic and current realities of anti-Semitism, the Jewish nationalist movement known as Zionism, Christian Zionism, and their religious and political impacts. The ethical, moral, and political implications of a scheme to end the persecution of one group by dispossessing another group will be discussed.

In struggles for freedom, justice, and reconciliation between peoples, religious institutions have played a major role by providing a theological critique of ideologies of discrimination, domination, forced separation, and dispossession. This course is designed to foster a respectful discussion among Unitarian Universalists on the fundamental issues driving this conflict.

Register by signing-up at UUAU-JME table during Social Hour.

Questions? Contact Anne Garcia at awgarcia@wccnet.edu or Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com.



Help Give a Warm Web Welcome

The Internet Technology (IT) group that maintains the uuaa.org web site is looking for someone who would enjoy producing an audio or video welcome message to add to the visitor information. This would be a nice touch for the web welcome and would also make the welcome information more accessible to people with low vision. Anyone interested may send an email to webtech@uuaa.org.



Partner Church by Mike Muha



A Favorite Day on the 2014 Pilgrimage to Transylvania

One of the high points was visiting Szentivanlaborfalva and experiencing village

life in Transylvania. We started at the home of Istvan, the minister, and his wife Csilla, which, like most village homes had a small garden, a cow, several chickens and other farm-like stuff. The girls, Boglárka and Eszter, loved playing with the animals.

We walked over to the baker's house down the road. They have a wood-fired oven outdoors where they bake bread and rolls. Some of us "helped" mix and knead the dough, then let it rise. They build a fire in the brick oven, let it burn for a couple hours, scrape out the coals and bake the bread right where the fire was. When the bread comes out, it looks burned - all black. But they beat the burned crust off with a stick (and feed it to their many chickens) and the bread looks wonderful and tastes great.



Next we went to the bone carver - he carves various things out of bone and sells them. He also has a small orchard and organic garden. He shared some home-made wine with us and talked about how he takes care of his trees and plants. He also had a couple old motorcycles which he restored.



We then went back to Istvan's house for dinner - fresh bread that we helped bake, authentic Hungarian goulash cooked in an iron pot over an open fire, and of course palinka, which is a traditional fruit brandy in Romania, Slovakia, Austria and Hungary.

After dinner Istvan and a couple of friends picked up their instruments and played and sang. We had a great time listening to the music, dancing, and talking with the villagers (some spoke English pretty well, some not at all, but we managed to communicate). Some of us are now Facebook friends.

Getting to know the local people, and seeing how they lived, added a more intimate aspect to our trip and reinforced the fact that, at a local level, we are pretty much the same the world over.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News

The UUSC's Innovative Partnerships in Haiti.

Here is an example of how donations to the UUSC are being used. Since Haiti's 2010 earthquake, UUSC has partnered with the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) on pilot projects to support survivors, create sustainable rural livelihoods, and foster people's control over their own food. Beyond initial relief work, UUSC has made a long-term commitment in Haiti, redefining recovery to include social justice.



As part of these efforts, UUSC has championed two innovative MPP models: the eco-village, and tire gardens which UUSC is helping to transform from testing ground into template. The first eco-village is home to 10 families that survived the earthquake in Port-au-Prince and fled to the countryside. Now, in addition to a roof over their heads, each family has land to farm.

With training provided by MPP, residents construct personal vegetable gardens in recycled tire planters alongside each house. The planters retain rainwater and are far more productive than traditional gardens. Just five tire gardens can feed a family of four for a year. Each family at the eco-village has at least 20, which means they can sell surplus produce at the nearby market.

This initiative is about more than one eco-village; it's about a vision of a prosperous and self-reliant rural Haiti. After seeing the eco-village's initial success, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance began working with MPP to fund an additional four villages; villages two and three are under way and UUSC is raising funds for a sixth village. This adds up to a community of 60 families; enough to create and sustain a school and rural clinic.

Wendy Flick, manager of UUSC's Haiti program, will soon begin presenting the model to the Haitian government and various international nongovernmental organizations in hopes of getting it replicated on a broader scale in Haiti.

Questions? Contact Becky Hoort, for the UUSC News reporters, at rhoort@umich.edu.



Sharing the Collection

The February recipient of Sharing the Collection will be the Religious Action for Affordable Housing (RAAH). RAAH is coalition of 15 religious congregations, including the UUAU, that is mobilizing and expanding interfaith funding to support affordable housing for poor, disabled, and housing deprived people in Washtenaw County.

RAAH is currently completing its fifth capital campaign. The campaign will result in expanding much needed housing for prisoners re-entering the community, disabled people, and chronically homeless individuals.



The Sharing the Collection team includes: David Allen, Lynn Ayres, James Johnson, Terry Madden, and Theresa Rohlck. Questions? Contact Terry Madden at terence.madden@gmail.com.



Interweave Gathering

Save the Date: Interweave invites everyone to an All Congregational Gathering on Saturday, April 25 from 4:00 to 8:00pm at UUAU. Questions? Contact Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu or Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com.



New Members

Mary Ann Hergenrother



"While my transition from Plymouth, MA to Ann Arbor has been slow and ambivalent, my desire to be part of the UUAU has not. I am a semi-retired school administrator, researcher, college instructor, K-12 teacher, and education consultant, who moved here to be closer to my daughter and two grandkids: Jack, 9 years and Beatrice, 5 years old.

Originally, I hail from Huntington, NY, where I enjoyed living, working, and fighting for social and economic justice, especially for women and girls. I want to do this work along with challenging the everyday racial injustices.

I currently consult on gender issues in classrooms, sexual harassment in schools, and am a special education advocate. I do staff development in organizations as needed." 

Roger Marshall

Roger is a writer who retells Arthurian Legends, a semi-retired designer of organizational systems, and poet. From 30 plus years of designing and implementing information systems, Roger launched an ongoing project to create a universal and harmonious set of models, systems, processes, and tools for creating effective "whole" organizations. The result is a self-organizing system that promotes sustainable, balanced, and aligned change. Control processes are based in freedom, democracy, self/team organization, and responsibility. Roger is a qualified facilitator in Polarity Management, Transition Management, and Psychological Type (Myers-Briggs).



Roger was an active member of Birmingham Unitarian Church for 30 years before moving to Ypsilanti to be close to family and UUAA. 

Church Office News

Communications Content Guide

Recognized Congregational groups who share activities and events in the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin can access a Content Guide to aid in writing entries. Find deadlines and details on how many words to write, where to send each article, learn about Congregant contacts, and more. [Click here](#) for a copy. Questions? Contact office administrator Debby Casamatta at deborah@uuaa.org. 

Building Hours:

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm

Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm

Fridays, CLOSED

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUAA:

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

The deadline for submitting UUAA event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2015 March Newsletter* is 9:00am on Saturday, February 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 UUAA, refer to the [Lay Leader Administrative Guide](#).

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org

Debbie Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Venus Gregory, Building Attendant, venus@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Weekend Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

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



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