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June Newsletter

June 1, 2015 - Vol 11, Issue 6

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 10:00am
 followed by Social Hour.

June 7, 2015

COMING OF AGE CREDO SERVICE Coming of Age
 Youth, Mentors, Facilitators,
 and Rev. Gail Geisenhainer

Our Coming of Age youth will share their credos, their current statements of the most important beliefs and commitments that guide and shape their lives. Come witness and receive these credo summaries and celebrate our youth in this 90-minute inspirational Service.

Not to be missed!

June 14, 2015

"Oh My God!" Rev. Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek,
 guest preacher

Oh, how we UUs can be touchy and twitchy about The G Word. This service will invite reconsideration of what we mean by that word, God, and how God works (and doesn't) in the world. Don't worry, please -- that God you don't believe in? Our speaker doesn't either. Guest preacher Rev. Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek will share her own theological evolution with respect to ideas about God and that which is sacred, and won't foist anything about God's will on anyone.

Bio: Yvonne is a lifelong UU who grew up atheist/agnostic in our Detroit congregation in the '50s and '60s. After earlier careers in federal civil rights



she discovered her call to ministry in deepening UU lay leadership commitment. She's been a congregational president, district president, new congregation founder, and acting district executive, all in California. A graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry (M.Div. 2008), she was ordained in 2009 and has served in professional ministry in Harrisburg PA, Arlington Street Church in Boston, and for four years as the first settled minister up the road in Brighton MI. This past year she's sung and rung in Ann Arbor, with the Chalice Singers and handbell choir.

June 21, 2015
"Father Sun"

Cassandra Hartley, guest preacher

This year summer solstice and Father's Day come together! Join us as we celebrate the changing of the seasons and especially the masculine symbolism of the sun.

Bio: Cassandra Hartley is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry and mother of three young children. She received her M.Div. from Detroit Ecumenical Theological Seminary and did her internship with the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Cassandra and her family are also proud members of UUAA. A job transfer took them to Massachusetts for a year, but they are grateful that a new opportunity allowed them to move back home to Ann Arbor!

June 28, 2015
"Finding Redemption in the Manure"

Cassandra Hartley, guest preacher

How do wood chips connect to a Catholic priest named Thomas Berry? What does the plague have to do with the origins of the cosmos? Explore the stories of salvation that shaped our past and the new story that could save our future. 

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



Annual Meeting is Sunday, May 31st. Come to register at 11:15. We plan to start meeting by 11:30am.





My, Oh, My! Wasn't the Grand Finale of our 150th Anniversary Celebration j wonderful? So many, many folks pitched in to serve in so many, many ways. amazing to see all the names of volunteers.

Thank you, all. Much will be learned, much was enjoyed, much will grow fro labors of love.

As our visiting clergy said.., "do you realize what you have here?"

I think that kind of reflection is an important reason to have large celebrations, to honor birthdays anniversaries, milestones of all sorts. That's why vacations or walks in the park are so valuable. It i important to step away from the everyday and look back in reflection.

This is how we assure that our lives reflect our values. We act, we step back, we assess, we reflect i we have seen, and we make corrections to our course.

In these times of overwhelming busyness it is important to take time to step back, time to assess, t reflect, and time to change course.

Again, as our visiting clergy said..., "do you realize what you have here?"

Yes, for my part, I believe I do.

My Love to Each,
Rev. Gail

Rev. Mark Evens, Associat

New, More Responsive Pastoral Care Communication Channel

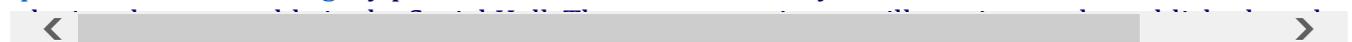
Twice a week we publish pastoral news of the Congregation: on Thursdays by email with the *Weekly Bulletin* to those who have subscribed to the bulletin and *Monthly Newsletter*, and on Sunday mornings as hard copy in sign holders in the main entry and lower Spiritual Growth and Development wing lobby, and on the Involvement Table on the left just as you enter the Social Hall.



This works well for many purposes. However, sometimes when a family schedules a memorial soon after a death or when other news that is more time sensitive develops, three or four days' lag time can be too long. To help us be in touch about pastoral news on a timelier basis, we are implementing a new pastoral news communication chan much faster turnaround: pastoralnewsalerts@uuaa.org.

As pastoral news is received, confirmed, and edited, it will be published immediately via this new c Pastoral news alerts go out to staff, certain lay leaders, and those specifically subscribing to receiv alerts.

People will continue to submit pastoral news in the usual ways: to pastoralnews@uuaa.org, or pastoralcare@uuaa.org, by phone to 734-506-8822, directly to a minister, or in the "Share Your Li



schedule, electronically on Thursday with the weekly bulletin and in hard copy in sign holders on mornings.

To subscribe, send an email to pastoralnewsalerts-join@uuaa.org from the email account at which to receive the news. To unsubscribe send an email with "unsubscribe" as the subject to pastoralnewsalerts@uuaa.org.

In Faith,
Mark

Growing Together

Debra Golden, Summer Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) Coordinator

We have entered the transitional session for SGD, and the official summer program begins on Sunday, June 14. We built time in between the "formal programs" with special programs to offer something for our children while giving a break for teachers. On Sunday, May 24, we viewed the film *Life is Fair* about a day in the life of a Khasi Hills child and talked about our connections to this region in India in hopes to write a story and make a film our young "Big Hearts" can share with them. On Sunday, May 31 we will have storytellers share favorite stories of meaning with our children.



The summer program of sUUPER heroes reprises the program from three years ago with some changes to keep the good stuff and add in other heroes. We will begin with discussion of who and what is a hero and then have a scavenger hunt of sorts. This program is designed for grades K-5, but yes, we welcome older ones, too. They may wish to help out, and they will gain new insights into who and what we value as well. It is something that allows students to attend as they are able. Each lesson is self-contained. I have a few teachers who serve as leads and assistants, but as always, I welcome more. Older youth are encouraged to attend Worship Services.

Nursery and preschool will continue every week during Services, so they remain a constant.

Thanks to all who help make this happen.

In Joy and Peace,
Debra Golden,
Summer SGD Coordinator.

Board of Trustee News

President's Message
Ken Klein, Board President



The Future is NOW!

WOW! I sure hope you were able to attend some of the 150th events during...



rededication! Distinguished UU guests from across the country joined us in commemorating this milestone in our Congregation's life. This has been informative, memorable, and inspiring year. The next 150 years of reascension and compassion in action will in some ways be like the past, but in many ways challenge us to evolve our mission and Congregational life in response to changes in society and technology. I hope you will continue to be involved in the conversation on the future of our Congregation and the UU movement in the coming year.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars to attend the Congregational Meeting on May 31. We'll elect new Trustees, review aspects of the Annual Report, discuss financials, and vote on proposed By-Laws revisions. In the interest of saving trees and money, we will print only a limited number of annual reports and supporting materials such as the proposed by-law revisions. Please remember to print your own or use your tablet, phone, or laptop to follow along during the meeting.

Proposed By-Law Revisions

There are a number of relatively minor revisions to correct inconsistencies and add clarity, and the significant proposed revision to return to a two-year term for the Board President. The Board, numerous past presidents, and senior minister all support this change to make the position more effective. In fact, President Beth Hospadaruk is willing to serve for two years. I hope you will consider and support the proposed changes to make our Board more effective.

2nd Ask Campaign Update

As of this writing, there have been 110 amended pledges totaling about \$87,000. This will have a significant impact on our financial situation and help to address the maintenance needs. The Board is extremely thankful to all those who generously made or increased their 2015 pledge in support of the 2nd Ask Campaign. Thank You!

Looking Forward

It has been my privilege to serve as your Board president during the past year and be so engaged in the life of this amazing Congregation. I have been very fortunate to be supported by a great team of fellow members, staff, ministers, and volunteers. While we are far from perfect, each year the Board and I strive to serve the Congregation in covenant with our values and mission, while discerning the strategic leadership needs of our UU community. There are fantastic new Trustees joining the Board next year and you will hold them in your care and continue to offer your input and support as they take on the work of leading our Congregation into the next 150 years.

In Fellowship and Love,
Ken Klein,
2014-2015 Board President

Activities and Events

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, June 3

Come to the senior dining out gathering on the first Wednesday of the month at the Gourmet Garden at 6:00pm. All are welcome. No reservations required. Come with some suggestions of a possible new place, otherwise just be prepared for some fun and good conversation.



Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com.

Plant-Powered Family Potluck * Saturday

There will be a vegan family potluck in Fahs Chapel from 12:00 to 2:00pm. Enjoy healthful, delicious good cheer, and share info. Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or animal products. Bring table service and serving tools. Questions? Contact Donna Estry at estry@

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) * Saturday, June 6



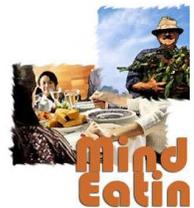
The monthly meeting of the Ann Arbor Chapter will be from 12:45 to 2:45pm in tl Chapel. All are welcome. The meeting will consist of dial-in to a national CCL expe followed by local discussion. For more information about CCL, check out <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/> or contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu.

Adult SGD Class * Sunday, June 7

The Community of Writers will meet from 1:00 to 3:00pm. The meeting room will be announced a date. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Rebecca Manery at rmanery@umich.edu.

Food Garden Tour * Sunday,

The Mindful Eating Coalition presents the Food Garden Tour on Sunday, June 14 after Service. This will be a self-guided tour of members' food gardens. MEC will provide addresses and maps. Congregation members will share what real people do in their real yards - everything from serious gardens to front yard square foot gardens to patio tomatoes and herbs. MEC also encourages a stop at the Good Food Garden in UUAA's own "back yard" and at Farmer Bill's where UUAA members help grow food for the Food Gatherers. Gardeners can enter their gardens at the MEC table during Social Hour. Questions? Contact Ruth Vail at 734-913-2761.



Climate Action Group * Sunday,

All are welcome from 11:20am to 12:00pm in the Jackson Chapel. Meeting goals include discussing the group mission and establishing a circle of leadership. Bring ideas.

During Social Hour, signatures will be collected in support of the ballot initiative to ban fracking in Michigan. Plus, from Sunday-Tuesday, June 21-23, three members of CAG will attend the CCL International Conference in Washington DC with opportunities to lobby Congress. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu.



Pastoral Education * Sunday, June 21

Pastoral Care Education has invited Allan Feldt to offer his expertise on the topic of "Dealing with Loss." Come to the Fahs Chapel on Sunday, June 21 from 11:30am to 1:00pm for an informative and entertaining presentation to be facilitated by Kate Warner. To register contact Terry Madden at terrence.madden@gmail.com.

Announcements and Notices



150th Anniversary Reception Gr by Colleen



The 150th Anniversary festivities concluded with a reception that was only possible with the help of many volunteers. First and foremost I am extremely grateful to Nancy Schewe for all of her help with coordination and logistics, for attending all of the 150th meetings, and for recruiting volunteers. Thank you to Sheila Sanders for the responsibility of making the delicious and refreshing punch and purchasing all the necessary ingredients.

Hal and Donna Estry assisted in making and serving the beverages throughout the entire party. Also, thank you to the teams who set up the furniture after the morning service; who helped set up the food, flowers, and paper products; who assisted in serving and replenishing food platters throughout the party; who helped with the heroic task of clean up and tear down. Many hands made this celebration a success. It was a pleasure to work with all of you! Thank you to: Joan Burleigh, Mary Burton, Mary Ann Camron, Camron, Lorrie Carbone, Deirdre Clein, Ken Clein, Merrill Crockett, Margaret Dawson, Mark Domar, Dybdahl, Dave Friedrichs, Bruce Gibb, Sara Gibb, Doug Harris, Shaugn Harris, Beth Hospadaruk, Beth Hospadaruk, Paul Lalinsky, Guala Lauzzana, Connie McGuire, Vilma Mesa, Cathy Muha, Mike Muha, Papcsik, Jim Schaefer, Steve Schewe, Ruth Vail, and Ricardo Wyatt.

150th Anniversary in

Review memories from the UAAA 150th anniversary celebrations at: <http://uaaa.org/index.php/us/birthday150>. Find photos, videos, Mini-Histories, and letters of congratulations from partner organizations.

Questions? Contact Sandy Simon and Terry Madden at birthday150@uaaa.org.

Adult ADHD Peer Support Group

The Adult ADHD Peer Support Group was formed to create a place for adults with ADHD to gather to share their stories and learn from one another. Our philosophy is one of neurodiversity--that the brain is simply wired differently than most; it is neither better nor worse than any other. The challenges arise from living in a society that often doesn't accommodate that brain style very well. A strength-based approach is taken to celebrate our unique minds. An informal monthly coffee chat happens on the Saturday of the month. Future plans include creating education and outreach opportunities within the congregation. Questions? Contact Douglas Harris at 734-717-7529 or douglasharris@comcast.net, an ADHD coach and is on the Board of Trustees of the Attention Deficit Association (ADD.org).

UU Service Committee (UUSC) by Becky Hoort, UUSC



Update on UUSC's work in Nepal:

Within hours of the initial earthquake in Nepal on Saturday, April 25, 2015, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) assessed the humanitarian situation on the ground and has since developed partnerships with two local grassroots organizations that are working to provide relief in the affected areas.



political, social, and cultural context. In Nepal, this means a focus on women, girls, children from castes who are discriminated against, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people.

On Tuesday, May 12, Sadhana Shrestha, the executive director of Tewa, was traveling to a remote village on a relief mission when an aftershock earthquake occurred. She gives this (edited) account:

"Half an hour away from the village we felt the tremor. Suddenly we saw houses collapsing and vehicles stuck on the road. We continued to the village where, despite big rocks and landslides, the women were waiting for us. Their houses, cracked in the earlier quake, had fallen due to the one just a half hour before. Their needs were in our mouths, but seeing the faces of the resilient women smiling and saying they would buy sheets with the money we gave so they could have roofs - I was amazed!

Yesterday's quake has left us all shaken. But Tewa's team is very active, mobilizing more than 100 volunteers, members, friends, and family, and reaching out to communities hit hardest by the earthquake.

Those who would like to support this and other UUSC-affiliated recovery work in Nepal, donate to the UUA Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund at uusc.org/nepal-fund. Thanks to many generous supporters, \$205,000 has already been donated towards a \$250,000 goal.

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

Khasi Hills Update by Mark Kinney

There is a new UU church at Mawkisyiem, India. Mark and Nancy Kinney recently traveled to India as part of the Sponsor a Student Program of UUAA to provide training for the teachers of the 42 schools that the Unitarian Union of Northeast India (UUNEI) operates and to participate in the dedication of the new Mawkisyiem church funded primarily by the UUAA Sponsor a Student program.

The sturdy concrete building with tightly-closing windows and an open ridge-line is very light inside with rows of benches and a chancel area will be further decorated as time advances.



The crowd at the dedication of the new church building provided by contributions from the UUAA "Big Hearts".

First, Nangroi Suting consecrated the church building and dedicated it to Khasi Unitarian founder, H.K. Singh, since it is the church closest to his birthplace. Nangroi ceremonially opened the church doors to those on the program filed inside. The other 300 people that were there on the occasion filled the chairs outside and on the porch of the church next door. The singing of that many people was quite amazing.

Nancy lit the chalice, highlighting the relationship between H.K. Singh, Jabez Sunderland, and Eva Cameron of Ann Arbor. Mark read a letter from the current senior minister, Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, which he presented to the church secretary. Several long speeches in Khasi from various ministers, including Derrick Pariat, president of the UUNEI, followed. It was a



It was a privilege to be there, as speaker after speaker acknowledged the special



connection to Ann Arbor and the "Big Hearts." An eight-member choir composed of young people from the church, plus guitar, sang a song that they had written.

Mark Kinney
Rian accepti
from Rev.
Geisenha

After Khlur Mukhim gave his benediction and closed the session, a wonderful dinner of rice and a choice of chicken, dal, or paneer, plus lettuce and tomato salad was served to all. The latest 36 sweaters were dropped off for the kids to Kong Mel at the school, a were briefly greeted.

Programs Coordinator Positi

As a result of recent staff changes and the success of recent fundraising we are pleased to announce posting of a full-time staff position: Programs Coordinator. This position will report to Rev. Mark E Associate Minister, during our ongoing staff transitions and will subsequently report to the senior person for Spiritual Growth and Development.

This is a full-time forty hours per week position, requiring consistent Sunday hours, and occasional evenings and Saturday mornings. Starting salary will be \$36,000 per year plus benefits. This position requires strong organizational, interpersonal, verbal and written communication, and time-management skills. A strong team orientation, flexibility, and the ability to manage and coordinate multiple projects required.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's Degree or equivalent; experience in assisting with administrative business or not-for-profit company; good working knowledge of business software including Word and Google Docs.

Applications from qualified Congregants are welcome. Please forward this information to others in our Congregation who might be interested.

UUAA is an equal opportunity employer and encourages all qualified applicants to apply.

For more information see

<http://www.uuaa.org/images/documents/Board/HumanResources/JobDforProgramsCoordinator>
Send letter of interest and resume by June 30, 2015 to Rev. Mark Evens, 4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd
Arbor, MI 48103, or by email to office@uuaa.org.

On The Horizon

Men's Retreat News

The 2015 Men's Retreat has been scheduled for Friday to Sunday, September 25 to 27 at the Judso Campground. Come join with other men in the Congregation for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Mark VanKempen at mark.vankempen@gmail.com.

In The Community

Regional UU Picnic * Saturday

Join the 2nd Annual UU Regional Picnic from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Belle Isle in Shelter 9. There will be games, food, potluck, and a volunteer project. This is an opportunity to connect and relax with others from all over Southeast Michigan. Donations of picnic materials, food, and volunteers are requested to support the picnic. [Sign up to bring items here](#)



Questions? Contact uupicnic@gmail.com or Bob Hospadaruk at hospadaruk@gmail.com.

Church Office News

Building Hours

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm

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

Fridays, 5:00pm-9:00pm

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

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