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February Newsletter

February 1, 2016 - Vol 2, Issue 2

Congregational Links

UUAA Links:

- [Make a 2016 Pledge](#)
- [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!](#)

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Dir. of Worship & Music

Sunday Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

For February, we focus the practice of...well, practice.
Let's talk "Soul Food."



February 7

Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Stone Soup : Body Music

"If music be the food of love,
[sing] on..."

Twelfth Night, Wm. Shakespeare

The ancient imperative yet rings true:
Do what you can with what you've got.



February 14

Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Food For Thought

Frederick Douglas, Carter G. Woodson - pioneers of American philosophy and scholarship.
Near the anniversaries of their birth, we explore the spiritual discipline of seeking more knowledge.

February 21

Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Spiritual Practice

"Return again. Return to the home of your soul.
Return to where you are, to who you are, to what you are - born and reborn again."
Rafael-Simkba Kahn

In a time that teaches our culture to consider even religion as a product to consume,

can Unitarian Universalism offer a glimpse at more mindful living?
Do we? How?
Will we? When?

February 28

Worship | 9:30am & 11:30am

Devouring Love

Theologian and cattle rancher Jim Corbett believed that all life could be boiled down to eating and being eaten.

Worship Associate [theresa rohlck](#) and Guest Preacher [Cassandra Hartley](#) explore what this means for our bodies and our souls.



Upon Reflection

Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister



Over the MLK Day weekend, I was one of the "living books" for an event called "Faces of Faith," organized by the Interfaith Round Table. Leaders from a wide range of faith traditions took part, including Islam, Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, Catholic and Protestant Christianities, Baha'i, and more. We were asked to focus on our particular path to religious leadership.

Over the course of two hours, those who attended - which included several of our Coming of Age youth and their mentors - had the chance to take part in three different conversations in small groups. People asked me good questions, all in a spirit of respect and a desire to understand. I did find myself grateful for Rev. Gail's sermon last fall, which articulated so clearly why

"What do Unitarian Universalists believe?" is the wrong paradigm for how we do church. With that concept at my fingertips, I was able to keep coming back to the importance of covenant instead. I frequently mentioned the radical hospitality implied by our tradition and how deep a commitment that is for me.

I also talked about the breadth of sacred texts we draw on, including those that are not necessarily thought of in those terms (poetry, music, etc.). One person asked, "So does that mean you don't have a central figure as a model for living, the way that Christianity has Jesus or Islam has the Prophet?"

I responded that I'd say the opposite is true - that UUs have a multiplicity of models available to us and an abundance of wisdom to help us make meaning out of our lives. (I assured him I wasn't trying to be cute in turning his question upside-down.) My words flowed naturally, yet they surprised me as they came out, in the way that unexpected truth can do.

In sharing with others how I came to Unitarian Universalism, I was reminded of why I willingly renew my covenant with this faith every week.

What is it about Unitarian Universalism that speaks to you? What keeps you coming

back?

Peace,
Lindasusan



Board of Trustee News

President's Message

Beth Hospadaruk, Board President

Welcome to February! We get an extra day this year because of leap year, so I also welcome February 29 as an extra day to be thankful for this Congregation and all the good work we do together. As I am writing this, I am also preparing for our annual Congregational Meeting to be held on January 31. Some of you will read this before the meeting and some after. I'm wondering how it will go; we have a lot to decide together and a lot of good news to share.



Moving beyond that meeting, your Board of Trustees (BOT) continues with the work we are striving to accomplish; looking long range down the road to assure we are here for another 150 years and beyond. To update you on what's happening currently, I am sad to announce that Jeff Poliner gave the BOT his resignation as treasurer at our December 2015 meeting. Jeff has accepted a job that takes him out of state Monday through Friday and felt he would not be able to serve as treasurer in a way that would be meaningful to the congregation or himself. Jeff joined the Board last June and has been a valuable member whose presence and voice will be missed. I'm sure Jeff will continue to serve in other ways that fit into his packed weekends as he travels back home each Friday-Sunday. Allen Duncan, who has served on the BOT for 18 months now as trustee at large and liaison to the Leadership Development Team (LDT), has stepped forward to take the role as treasurer. He will serve out Jeff's term, which runs until 2017. The Board is working with the LDT to fill the vacant trustee position left by Allen, which expires in June of this year. I have deep gratitude for both men in their commitment and dedication to this congregation. Be sure to thank them when you see them. We are in good hands.

For the first time in many years, the BOT was able to approve a balanced budget in early January without a "second ask" raising a total of \$895,000 as a result of your generous pledges of financial support. This allows us all to carry on the work needed to be done. Thank you all! There are always items that we want to include in the budget but cannot, and that list is front and center as new pledges come in. Of course, this past year has included some major restructuring, reduced staff, and other cutbacks, but I believe our outlook is good. We are committed to living in a sustainable way, within our means, funding our capital replacement account and moving forward on a new parking lot rebuild this summer (assuming a positive vote on January 31), all while supporting the very important ministries that mean so much to us and the world. We are taking care of our home as we are planning for the future. The BOT's work plan includes a new 5 year Strategic Plan, creating a Finance Team and Fundraising Team, organizing the creation of a Council of Ministries, and continuously updating our governing policies and bylaws to guide our work. More details on these and other items will be shared at upcoming President and Senior Minister Q&A's.

Watch for those future dates to be announced. Rev. Gail and I have enjoyed and benefited from these gatherings, sharing what we are doing and listening to your concerns and comments. It really is my spiritual work to be together with you in this beloved community.

Be well friends,
Beth Hospadaruk
2015-2016 Board President
president@uuaa.org



Get to Know the UUA Board * Sunday, February 7

After each service, the President of the UUA Board, Beth Hospadaruk, will answer questions and share information about the Board. This is an opportunity to learn more about who is on the Board, what Board members do, and who can attend Board meetings. Comments and questions are welcome. Questions? Contact Dee Dishon at deedishon@gmail.com or 703-975-6789.



Spiritual Growth and Development News

Program Notes

Aaron Gibson, Programs Coordinator

The new year is a time to "refresh," which SGD teachers and staff practiced at the first ever SGD Teacher Retreat early in January.

Teachers enjoyed breakfast together, reviewed how the year has been going so far, and participated in an Improv class led by Minister Lindasusan. During the retreat, teachers shared their techniques in the classroom and offered improvements that can be made throughout the rest of the program year.



SGD teachers enjoying an Improv class.

I'm also excited to assist in planning for the YRUU Service Trip to Kentucky in July. Service trips are a huge passion of mine, and I am really looking forward to learning with other students as we visit our neighbors to the south. A parent/student informational meeting for the trip will occur Sunday, February 7 at 1:00pm, and all are welcome to attend.

In February, SGD will partner with the Mindful Eating group to participate in the Food Waste Challenge. Information will be available on Sunday, February 7. Be on the lookout for a giant carrot handing out flyers!

In Peace,
Aaron Gibson, LLMSW
Programs Coordinator



News From the Harper Room
Julie Dybdahl, Programs Coordinator



As I write this, YRUU has just returned from a snowy weekend of skiing, skating, and snowboarding in northern Michigan. As in several past years, our hosts were Mark Doman and Jane Allen, who graciously make their comfy vacation home available to us. Many thanks to the Doman family for this wonderful gift! Thank you also to Al Waters and Tim Lock, who bravely drove our vans through white-out conditions, and to Audra Eddy and Kathi Waters, who shopped for and organized our food for the trip.

Plans are beginning for the YRUU's summer service trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. There is much to do in preparation for a trip of this size, but remembering how life-changing and amazing our last trip was makes it all worth the effort. This is something our youth will remember forever.

On Sunday mornings we've begun a series of classes using the OWL for Grades 10-12 curriculum. Many thanks to OWL teachers Gabrielle Tazzia, Lara Brown, John Wakeman, and Bobbi Coluni for volunteering to teach these classes!

Save the date: YRUU-led church services will be on Sunday, March 20.

Julie Dybdahl,
YRUU Coordinator



Activities and Events

Social Justice Council (SJC) Proposal Deadline * Monday, February 1

On Sunday, March 6, the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice will organize a summit titled *Connect and Act: Building the New Movement for Economic and Racial Justice*. The SJC will co-sponsor this event along with other faith communities and advocacy groups. Keynote speakers include:

- Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*, an inspiring leader who has energized many evangelicals for work for social justice.
- Jeannette Huezo, Executive Director of United for a Fair Economy; a nonprofit look at how to make the economy work for the people.
- Dawud Walid, Executive Director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI). Dawud has done work building multi-racial and multi-religious coalitions for social justice.

In addition to these 3 keynote speakers, the planning committee is looking for people to organize workshops. These can be Awareness Workshops that do general issue education, Campaign Action Workshops that focus on current movements, or Skills/Training Workshops. The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 1 for groups interested in putting together a workshop. For a copy of the proposal, contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com or Aaron Gibson at aaron@uuua.org or go to connectandact.org/call-for-workshop-proposals.

Event Details: *Connect & Act: Building the Movement for Economic and Racial Justice* on Sunday, March 6 from 1:00 to 8:00pm at Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor, 2275 Platt

Road. Tickets will be available at the Social Justice Council Table during Social Hours in February. Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com. 

Senior Dinner * Wednesday, February 3

Meet at the Gourmet Garden for a monthly dinner and fellowship at 6:00pm. Come join for serious discussions as well as plenty of laughter among friends, both new and old. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or omaduke7@gmail.com. 

TED Talk * Friday, February 5



Challenging Racism, along with Adult Education SGD, will show and discuss the Bryan Stevenson (author of UUA Common Read *Just Mercy*) TED Talk in Fahs Chapel at 7:00pm. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com. 

One-Time Chalice Circles * Sunday, February 7

Join the upcoming Sunday One-Time Chalice Circles. Location will be in the Jackson Chapel from 1:00 to 2:30pm. Dates and topics will be: February 7, *What's Love Got to Do With It?*, March 6, *Empathy and Compassion*, and April 3, *Inherent Worth and Dignity*. Registration will be the two Sundays prior to each session during Social Hours or at listen-to-children@gmail.com. Questions? Contact Patricia King at am_king@hotmail.com. 

Drop-in Talks About Race * Sunday, February 7



Feel free to bring a bag lunch and join a discussion with Challenging Racism at 12:45pm in the Young Room. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com. 

Alpha House Host Week * Wednesday-Friday, February 8 to 14

The first Alpha House Host Week of 2016 will be from Wednesday-Friday, February 8-14. Alpha House is a shelter for homeless families that UUA has supported for 20 years. About 90 volunteers are needed to provide meals, serve and clean-up for dinner, play with the kids, stay overnight, and to be Day Hosts. Sign-up during Social Hours or [here](#). Questions? Contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com. 



Common Read* Wednesdays, February 10, 17 & 24

Margaret Pekarek and Carolyn Madden will lead a three-part discussion series about the UUA Common Read *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The discussions will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 8:45pm on February 10, 17 and 24. To register, sign up at the Social Justice Table during Social Hours or email Margaret at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com. 

Climate Action Group (CAG)* Thursday, February 11



This is a sporadically occurring social event for persons concerned about the environment. This meeting will be sponsored by Citizens Climate Lobby, Ann Arbor Chapter, but a number of the Climate Action Group members will also be

present. Meet for green drinks at Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main St., downtown Ann Arbor from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu or 734-649-7945.



Interweave Potluck & Film Night * Friday, February 12



All are invited to the Fahs Chapel for a potluck at 6:00pm and then a movie and discussion at 7:00pm.

See the film *We Were Here*. "David Weissman and Bill Weber's brisk, tender, multifaceted, and deeply moving documentary, tells the story of the AIDS crisis through the voices of four gay men ... and one woman, all of whom pitched in - for years - to help the sick and the dying because, as the movie makes clear, the circumstances made it unthinkable for them to do otherwise. They and their comrades are the equivalent of World War II resistance fighters, and the film gives their commitment and courage the celebration it deserves...simply the most compelling history of the major tragedy and epic struggle of our time," Amy Taubin, *Film Comment*.



Sponsored by Interweave. Bring a dish to share. Questions? Contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.



Climate Action Group (CAG)* Saturday, February 13



CAG will host a monthly meeting of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), Ann Arbor Chapter, from 12:45 to 2:45pm. The meeting will consist of dial-in to a national CCL expert talk, followed by local discussion. For more information about CCL, check out citizensclimatelobby.org. Meetings will be held on the second Saturday of each month. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu or 734-649-7945.



Meet Your Farmers * Sunday, February 21



Mindful Eating will host this series. Meet local farmers and hear their stories: Why did they get into farming, what is their philosophy on raising food and families? At 1:00pm in Fahs Chapel, meet members of the Goetz Family Farm who have been stewards of the same land since 1905. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.



General Assembly (GA) 2016 Forums * Sundays, February 21 & 28



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2016 GA will be Wednesday-Sunday, June 22-26 in Columbus, OH. Most events will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The drive is less than 3.5 hours from Ann Arbor.

The theme for GA is *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*. The faith world is increasingly multifaithed. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels: Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist, and non-theist no longer define who or what we love,

or how spirit moves in our lives. GA will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

The Denominational Connections Team will sponsor events to encourage people to go to GA 2016. Two forums will be in February: one on Sunday, February 21, and the other on Sunday, February 28, both to be held between services in the Brown Room. On Sunday, February 21, the focus will be how to be a frugal GA attendee. The Sunday, February 28 meeting will be about registering for GA online. Registration opens Tuesday, March 1 at 9:00am. These forums are a chance to ask that GA question you've always wondered about.

Interested in going to GA? Indicate that on the interest sheet at the Social Justice Table during Social Hours. This list will be used to keep everyone abreast of important GA news. Watch the *Weekly Bulletin* for upcoming events and forums discussing what it means to be a delegate at GA.

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



Climate Action Group (CAG)* Sunday, February 21

Join the forum "After Paris: Follow-up to the United Nations Climate Conference" from 1:00 to 2:00pm, presented by several members of CAG. What can individuals do to maximize momentum after the UN Climate Conference? Learn more and contribute ideas. Questions? Contact Larry Junck at ljunck@umich.edu or 734-649-7945.



Arts and Aesthetics (A&A) * Wednesday, February 24

There is a new meeting time, the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Redman Room. The team welcomes new members interested in issues of aesthetics for the public areas of the building, excluding the SGD wing. A&A takes care of art owned by the Congregation and works with staff and congregants on aesthetics improvements, enhancing the function of each space and reflecting UU values throughout the building. Questions? Contact Barbara Hall at barbaraoliverhall@gmail.com.



Meet Your Farmers * Sunday, February 28



Mindful Eating will present White Lotus Farms at 1:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. White Lotus is an educational, non-profit farm guided by the Buddhist faith. Questions? Contact Cathy Muha at cmuha@att.net.



Announcements and Notices

Adult SGD Spring Term

Members of the Adult Education Advisory Team are working with teachers and facilitators to finalize details of classes and events for the upcoming Spring Term. If congregants would like to offer a class, contact the Adult SGD team for a proposal form. The Spring Term will begin on Wednesday, March 9 and run through Friday, May 27. There are many selections of Adult Ed opportunities this spring.

On Sunday, March 6, the Fall Class Catalog will be available both at UUAA.org and in paper form distributed during Social Hours. Registrations will be accepted both by

email and in-person between services. Most classes and events begin after Wednesday, March 9.

Register up to one day before any class by contacting the email address provided in the Catalog or online.

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



Challenging Racism



Left to right: Lucia Heinold, Mary Ann Hergenrother, Terry Madden, Carolyn Madden, Carol Thomas, and Brandy Sinco represented UUA at the Unity March on Monday, January 10.

Challenging Racism offers several opportunities to expand connections with others sharing a passionate concern for justice.

Join other UUs on Sunday, February 21 at 4:00pm, at the Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for an Our Own Thing Chorale Performance celebrating Second Baptist's 150th anniversary. About 25 UUs participated in their Unity March in January in spite of snow, ice, and winds and carried the new banner. Let's make a better showing for this indoor event.

Save these dates for a series of films and discussions on *Cracking the Codes* of racial inequity to build a Beloved Community: Sundays, March 13, 20, and April 3, after second service. More at crackingthecodes.org. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at heinoldcia@aol.com.



Partner Church News

Over the Christmas holiday the following greeting and good news was received from Partner Church minister, Rev. Istvan Buzogany-Csoma in Kézdivásárhely, Romania.



Istvan sent this photo of the Christmas congregation in Romania.

"First of all we would like to thank you for all your gifts and your greeting card. We were all very surprised. The girls were very excited and just like when I brought the books when I visited you, we have to read from these very often. They take much care of the books.

We hope you had a beautiful holiday. We had a big surprise...On this Christmas we had many more people at church at Kézdivásárhely than in the last three years since I have been in this congregation. This was one of my greatest Christmas gift.

We have a short holiday, but next week everything will continue, first of all the visit of the families. We wish you Happy New Year and that all your wishes to become true.

God bless you! In faith, István"

Questions? Contact Phyllis Valentine at pav@umich.edu.



Boiler News



Two new boilers have been installed. Insulating the pipes will be completed soon. All are invited to visit the boiler room located on the lower SGD wing to the left of the elevator. Just ask for a key from the front office. Questions? Contact Interim Administrator Ed Lynn at ed@uuaa.org.



Church Office News

Building Hours

Sundays| 8:30am-9:00pm

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

Friday| Closed

Saturdays| 9:00am-4:00pm

* Note: To observe Presidents Day, the UUAU building will be closed from Sunday, February 15 at 4:00pm and will re-open on Tuesday, February 16 at 9:00am.

Church Office hours| Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Telephone| 734-665-6158

Fax| 734-665-7895

General Email| office@uuaa.org

Communicating at UUAU|

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

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in the *2016 March Newsletter* is 9:00am on Sunday, February 21. Send 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.



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