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# First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*

## January Newsletter

January 1, 2016 - Vol 1, Issue 1

### Congregational Links

#### UUA Links:

[Make a 2016 Pledge](#)  
[Calendar of Events](#)  
[Social Justice at UUA](#)  
[UUA.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

"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 The work of Christmas begins..."  
 from *When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled*  
 (Howard Thurman)

Our calendar calls us to help grow a new year.  
 Let us tend with care.

New hands weave wider our 150-year-old circle.  
 New covenants wait in last year's learning.  
 New pilgrimage walks on the edge of the ancestors'  
 path.  
 New balance whispers wisdom in the wind just behind.

In January's worship, we mind the practice of  
**generations.**  
*All of you is welcome here, as we gather once again.*



#### January 3, 2016

Worship: 9:30am & 11:30am  
**Generations | Letting Go.  
 Bringing In.**

"[Revere] the past, but [trust]  
 the dawning future more..."  
 from *As Tranquil Streams* (Marion  
 Franklin Ham)

What fresh wisdom can we  
 harvest from old stories?  
 What's left to prune?



**January 10, 2016**

Worship: 9:30am &amp; 11:30am

**Generations | The Necessary Tools****Annual Service of Remembrance****Recognition of New Members**

"We are our grandmothers' prayers. We are our grandfathers' dreamings. We are the breath of our ancestors. We are the spirit of God,"

from *We Are...* (Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell)

We stand on the shoulders of those now gone.  
We lift up the generations of our community just come.

**January 17, 2016**

Worship: 9:30am &amp; 11:30am

**Generations | Seeds for the Sowing, Laying in Store**

"From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new, prophetic voice, Which demands a deeper justice, built by our courageous choice."

from *The Fire of Commitment* (Mary Katherine Morn)

Each new generation brings new tools for the work of social justice.

What do we have to offer these burgeoning movements?

What can we learn?

How do we tend the work together?

**January 24, 2016**

Worship: 9:30am &amp; 11:30am

**Generations | The Village It Takes**

"Witness the mystery of this hour."

from *Gather the Spirit* (Jim Scott)

Many weeks of love mold each minute of worship.  
A chorus of care sings the clean coffee cup into your hand.

Exploring the human miracle  
of one Sunday morning  
brought to life.

**January 31, 2016**

Worship: 9:30am &amp; 11:30am

Congregational Meeting: 1:00pm

## Generations | Yesterday Teaches Tomorrow

"Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?"

from *Where Do We Come From?* (Paul Gauguin)

What does it take to conjure new life?  
Eve's ancient apple,  
The age-old art of one more meeting,  
and other creation stories.



## Gleanings

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



Dear Ones, All,

Happy New Year to All..., and a reminder. As a final gesture of goodwill in 2015, we are invited to make donations to the UUA Minister's Discretionary Fund. This makes it possible for your ministers to respond to folks in need and to capture the energy of emergent ministries. Thank you, All, for your generosity.

\*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*

In the crushing madness of our national discourse..., how to find hope? The Paris Climate talks have adjourned. How to celebrate what is written while knowing it is not going to change enough fast enough or thoroughly enough?

I commend to you the work of the incomparable bell hooks. I have drawn hope from her insights for decades. Hers is a voice strong enough to be in the struggle for the long haul. Any of her books would do..., and there is a recent interview.

December 10, 2015 *Bell hooks: Buddhism, the Beats and Loving Blackness*, by George Yancy and bell hooks. [Here is a link](#) to the full interview.

Here are excerpts - with my responses:

*"grow in (your) willingness to open (your) minds..."*

Unless we can enter into real paradigm changes..., nothing changes!

*"the only way out of domination is love..."*

Our dominant paradigm is power exercised as power-over someone or something else. Human power-over animals and the earth. White power over black. Male power-over female. Our massive military presence in the world is all built on the horrendously impotent notion that power over others ensures safety for us. Just not true. Love and mutual concern offer a different paradigm for power.

*"I can't think of another way to imagine how we're going to get out of the crisis of racial hatred if it's not through the will to humanize."*

Martin Buber was right, "I-Thou" brings us closer to our aspirations than "I-It" can ever provide. But it takes will. Can we muster the "will to humanize" even those who frighten us?

*"we cannot have a meaningful revolution without humor."*

Blessed are the joke makers and joke tellers, jesters, clowns, and self-deprecating funny people, for they shall empower a revolution worth getting out of bed to enjoin.

*"What are you doing for the creation of the Beloved Community?"*

Each day, with each of our decisions, our words, our responses., we can move toward creating a new paradigm. What is your contribution?

Among the many purposes of religious community is the encouragement of one another to find our gifts and bring them to the altar of humanity. What can we do to aid the creation of the Beloved Community?

I go to church to realize that answer. See you there!

My Love to each,  
Rev. Gail



## **Upon Reflection** **Lindasusan Ulrich, Assistant Minister**

In 1648, 65 congregations in New England ratified what's known as the Cambridge Platform, the document that provides the basis for how Unitarian Universalists govern ourselves today. Among its many provisions, the Cambridge Platform recognizes the right of churches to call and ordain their own ministers.

*Officers are to be called by such churches whereunto they are to minister. Of such moment is the preservation of this power, that the churches [mentioned in Christian scriptures] exercised it in the presence of the apostles. ...*

*Ordination therefore is not to go before, but to follow election. The essence and substance of the outward calling of an ordinary officer in the church, doth not consist in his ordination, but in his voluntary and free election by the church, and in his accepting of that election; whereupon is founded that relation between pastor and flock, between such a minister and such a people.*



Originally, ministers were ordained solely to the congregation they served. If you had to move elsewhere, the ordination wouldn't travel with you. While that practice has shifted over time - as has the use of the wildly insufficient pronoun "his" - there's still something powerful in the mutual shaping that takes place when a congregation ordains a minister currently among them.

At the end of January, the members of UUAU will have an opportunity to vote on whether to ordain me to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. As the excerpt above highlights, the most important piece of that entire process rests in your hands: it is the people's consent to have someone like me serve as one of your ministers that ultimately transforms the person into a Reverend.

As a queer multicultural woman whose spirituality resides primarily in the arts and earth-centered practices, I don't take that power for granted. There are plenty of people who would not consent to have me as their minister (including, as Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie likes to note, many of our Unitarian and Universalist forebears). Before I joined a UU congregation, religious leadership never even occurred to me as an available path. What a gift to have found this tradition. And this congregation.

My hope is that the particularity of the relationship "between such a minister and such a people" will help all of us grow more deeply rooted in this place and this time, grounding us for the work ahead

Peace,  
Lindasusan



## Board of Trustee News

### President's Message

**Beth Hospadaruk, Board President**

Happy New Year! 2016, I can hardly believe it. With an early submission deadline, I gladly write this article ahead of time, one more item off my to-do list. But it is with great hope for the New Year that is on my mind. "How can that be?" you might ask. With the news filled daily with words of hate and discrimination toward our fellow humans, violence scattered all around us, how can I feel hope? I'll tell you! I feel hope when I think of our [faith](#). I feel hope when I read about the good work from members of our denomination on the [Standing on the Side of Love](#) Facebook page. I feel hope when I listen to the beautiful voices of our choir. I feel hope when I am inspired by a well-written poem or sermon. I feel hope when I am reminded of all the [volunteers](#) of this congregation who ARE the change they want to see in the world. I feel hope when I look into the faces of our youth. Hope is all around us, we just have to open our eyes to see it. We can choose to ignore it, but hope is everywhere. Where do you find hope?



Your Board of Trustees hopes you will be present on January 31 at our winter Congregational Meeting. We have much to celebrate, much to share, and much to vote on; your voice matters. The proposed bylaw changes are posted on our [website](#) and will also be e-mailed out on January 6, prior to our informational meeting on January 10. If you are interested in bylaws, study them; come on January 10 with your questions. We will also be voting on the proposed capital expenditures for our new parking lot. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter as well as in the weekly bulletin and mark your calendars now.

I personally want to thank everyone who made a financial pledge for 2016. If you have not yet made one, there is still [time](#). Also, thank you to all who have fulfilled their 2015 pledge. If you are a last minute payer, remember that you can mail it in and, as long as the envelope is postmarked by December 31, 2015, your tax deduction is safe. The building will be closed from Sunday, December 27 at 4:00pm until Sunday, January 3 at 8:30am.

Be well friends and I hope to see you in church,  
 Beth Hospadaruk  
 2015-2016 Board President  
[president@uuua.org](mailto:president@uuua.org)



## Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary shortly after the second Service. All are warmly encouraged to attend.



Several Congregational votes are on the agenda. The votes relate to a capital expenditure for the rebuilding of the parking lot, proposed by-law changes, a Congregational application to the UUA Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) program for an AIM certification, and support for the ordination of Assistant Minister Lindasusan Ulrich. The agenda also includes presentations about the 2016 approved balanced budget and the Board of Trustee Work Plan, updates from the Leadership Development Team, the Accessibility Team, and the Comprehensive Campaign co-chairs, and perhaps more.

There will be an information Q & A session about the proposed By-law changes held on Sunday, January 10, 2016, after both Services. Watch for an email on Wednesday, January 6 for more information about the Congregational Meeting and some related documents to review. [Follow this link to access materials for the meeting.](#) Hard-copy versions of the documents will be available for review in the Sunderland Library and on the Involvement Table during Social Hours. Questions? Contact Board President Beth Hospadaruk at [president@uuua.org](mailto:president@uuua.org) or 734- 604-2112.



## Spiritual Growth and Development News

### Program Notes

**Aaron Gibson, Programs Coordinator**

Thankful for 2015, Looking Forward to 2016

With nearly 300 youth, and 100 volunteers signed up in 2015, the Spiritual Growth & Development (SGD) program continues to be a vital part of the UUAU community, and that I am honored to work with such an amazing group of individuals.

There are plenty of events to highlight that happened the first half of the SGD program year. 6th Grade students learned from and visited various religious houses of worship including that of Buddhist, Taoist, Jewish, and Native American background. The 7th Grade Team-Building class invited their guardians to attend a "Food Stamp Diet" potluck, and raised just under \$2600 in the Food Gatherers Rockin' for the Hungry campaign.



9th Grade Coming of Age students volunteered for their first service trip with their mentors to clean up Gallup Park. They also organized the Giving Tree collection for families of Alpha House. YRUU sold out all of their apple dumplings and were able to buy all sorts of presents for children for the holiday season.

I am definitely looking forward to what 2016 has in store for the program.

Thanks everyone,  
Aaron Gibson, Programs Coordinator



## Activities and Events

### QUUest Bookstore \* Sunday, January 3

QUUest Bookstore will only open between services starting on Sunday, January 3. This will enable bookstore staff to participate in Congregational activities that often begin soon after the close of the second Service. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at [heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:heinoldcia@aol.com) or 734-996-2796.



### Challenging Racism \* Sunday, January 3



Join the first drop-in discussions about race in the Young Room at 12:45pm. There will be no required reading. It will be an open conversation about experiences wearing the Black Lives Matter button and other concerns in a safe UU space. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at [heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:heinoldcia@aol.com).



### Senior Dinner \* Wednesday, January 6

Meet at the Gourmet Garden for a monthly dinner and fellowship at 6:00pm. Come to meet or renew friendships among the senior membership. Questions? Contact Marie Duke at 734-769-0467 or [omaduke7@gmail.com](mailto:omaduke7@gmail.com).



### Interweave Potluck & Film Night \* Friday, January 8



Interweave will host a potluck at 6:00pm in the Fahs Chapel. The film *Out in the Night* will begin at 7:00pm followed by a discussion. All are welcome. Bring a nut free dish to share.

About the film: In 2006, under the neon lights of a gay-friendly neighborhood in New York City, a group of African-American lesbians were violently threatened by a man on the street. The women fought back and were later charged with gang assault and attempted murder. The tabloids quickly dubbed them a gang of "Killer Lesbians" and a "Wolf Pack." Three pleaded guilty to avoid a trial, but the remaining four maintained their innocence. This award-winning film examines the sensational case and the women's uphill battle, revealing the role that race, gender identity, and sexuality play in the criminal justice system.

"This impassioned social documentary serves as a strong indictment of tabloid journalism and a prejudicial legal system," *The Hollywood Reporter*.

"Out in the Night asks, 'If you are black, female, and a lesbian, will you get a fair shake in the justice system?' Filmmaker Dorosh-Walther puts together a moving film that smartly makes this personal question universal," *The Examiner*.



"This film could help influence the ongoing LGBT civil rights struggle. Everyone should see it," Roger Ebert.

Questions? Contact Joam Burleigh at [joburleigh@aol.com](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com).



### Q & A Information Session \* Sunday, January 10

All are welcome to join in an information Q & A session about the proposed By-law changes to be held after both Services. Members will be asked to vote on the By-law revisions at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31.



Watch for an email on Wednesday, January 6 for more information about the Congregational Meeting and some related documents to review. [Follow this link to access materials for the meeting.](#) Hard-copy versions of the documents will be available for review in the Sunderland Library and on the Involvement Table during Social Hours. Questions? Contact Board President Beth Hospadaruk at [president@uuaa.org](mailto:president@uuaa.org) or 734- 604-2112.



### Guest At Your Table Ends \* Sunday, January 10

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) human rights work. This year Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people.



The GAYT collection boxes will end on Sunday, January 10, 2016. Rather than turning in cash, make out a check for the amount raised to UUSC and turn it in at the GAYT Social Hour table. To become a member of the UUSC, visit the GAYT table during Social Halls or go to the UUSC web site for more information.

Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup at [QNorthrup@gmail.com](mailto:QNorthrup@gmail.com).



### MLK Parade \* Sunday, January 10

Reverend Gail Giesenhainer and Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Music & Worship, have challenged UUAA to participate in the Annual 2nd Baptist Church MLK (Martin Luther King) Parade. Meet in front of the Washtenaw County Courthouse located at 200 N Main St in Ann Arbor at 2:00pm. The group will march to the church, located at 850 Red Oak. Questions? Contact Lucia Heinold at [heinoldcia@aol.com](mailto:heinoldcia@aol.com).



### Immigration Action Committee (IAC) \* Saturday, January 16

Support Syrian Refugees

The Immigration Action Coalition is working together with Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County to identify refugee families resettling in the local community who are in need of help. There is a Syrian family of seven on the way to the Ann Arbor area and they will arrive as soon as politically possible.

Here's how Congregants can help:

Donate Household Goods: Collect new and gently used household goods, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items to help refugee families set up new homes. Pick up a list of the most needed items at the Social Justice Table during Social Hours in January.

Donate Gift Cards: Purchase a gift card from the Script Table and place it in the Refugee Relief Donation box on the Social Justice Table. The cards will be used to purchase items refugee families need. The purchase and donation of a gift card will benefit both refugee families and this Congregation.



Volunteer: Attend a meeting of the IAC to find out more. The IAC meets the third Saturday of each month from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Jackson Chapel.

Questions? Contact Anne Drake at [akdrake66@msn.com](mailto:akdrake66@msn.com).



### **Intro To Our Faith Workshop \* Saturday, January 23**



An introduction to Unitarian Universalism (UU) for both newcomers and long-time members will be held from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Reverend Gail Geisenhainer will cover the history of Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, how this Congregation is governed, how to get involved, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys.

To register, fill out a registration form found on the Involvement Table, Literature Rack, or Newcomer Welcome Room. Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuua.org](mailto:hannah@uuua.org).



### **Accessibility Team (AT) \* Sunday, January 24**

At the Sunday, January 31 Congregational Meeting, UUAU will consider and vote on the following:

"We, the Congregants of First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan, instruct Accessibility Team to apply on behalf of our Congregation to the UUA Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry program for certification as an Accessible and Inclusive Congregation."

The AT was formed in 2013 under Els Nieuwenhuijsen's leadership. Els was motivated by a new UUA certification program encouraging all UU congregations to address the needs of people with disabilities. UUAU became one of ten pilot sites helping to develop this national program.

Thirty months later, UUAU has achieved enough disability-related progress that, by UUA program standards, the Congregation is ready for certification as an Accessible and Inclusive Congregation. The Sunday, January 31 vote is to support that certification.

The AT addressed local accessibility and inclusion needs, offered varied educational programs, brought disability awareness into worship, created ongoing relationships with many UUAU organizations, and completed two significant social justice projects. Many people have contributed.

Some of the achievements reached include large-print orders of service, appropriate accessible signage, the purchase of a portable sound system, additions to the parking lot redesign plans which include cut curbs, and plans for more exterior lighting. In addition, Jackson Social Welfare Fund made its first disability-related grant in 2015 to

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living. This grant helped CIL train next-generation activist leaders in matters of disability.

The AT is proud of the good work accomplished and looks forward to the Congregational vote.

On, Sunday, January 24 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm in the Fahs Chapel, all are welcome to an informational event that will include an opportunity to guide and influence future accessibility work at UUAA. Questions? Contact Phil Tuchinsky at [ptuchinsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ptuchinsky@sbcglobal.net).



### Interweave Circle Conversation \* Sunday, January 24

The Michigan Legislature is considering a series of religious exemption laws, the "Religious Freedom Exemption Act." Opponents of marriage equality and LGBT civil rights are using "religious freedom" as an argument to justify discrimination through this proposed legislation. How can UUs, a faith community that respects the inherent worth and dignity of every person, respond and engage people on this issue?



All are welcome to a discussion led by Mark Jagner in the Kemnitz Room from 10:45am to 12:00pm. Questions? Contact Mark at [mjagner@yahoo.com](mailto:mjagner@yahoo.com).



### Congregational Meeting \* Saturday, January, 31



A Congregational Meeting will be held at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. The agenda includes a vote on revisions to the UUAA Bylaws, presentation of a preliminary budget, and other items of importance to the democratic decision making for this Congregation. [Follow this link to access materials for the meeting.](#) Questions? Contact Board President Beth Hospadaruk at [president@uuaa.org](mailto:president@uuaa.org) or 734-604-2112.



## Announcements and Notices

### Climate Action Rally

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, dozens of UU's joined with hundreds of folks in Ann Arbor for a Michigan Climate March and Rally at the Diag. The Climate Action Group of UUAA was very well represented. Reverend Gail Geisenhainer was one of the featured speakers. Asked to speak "as a person of faith," here are her remarks in full:

"I believe that all life is entwined. It is mutually interdependent. I cannot thrive while the bodies of black children lie in American streets. I cannot prosper while poverty steals hope and possibility from our neighbors. We cannot be safe..., anywhere..., until all people can be safe. All life is entwined. All life is mutually interdependent.

I believe the planet that cradles us is Alive. The well-being of our planet is mutually



Rev. Gail Geisenhainer speaks at the

interdependent with all life. And I believe that our planet is in desperate need of our care, in desperate need of our passion, in desperate need of our tenacity and in desperate need of our will to persevere.

In our time, evil systems of exploitation and greed promote the lie that hoarding wealth will safeguard anyone from the potential disasters of climate change. Misguided theologies from centuries past encourage the lie that great wealth is a sign of God's favor... while poverty reveals failed moral character.

Never has there been a more urgent call for people of goodwill to resist the lies that separate us from one another. Never has there been a more urgent call for each of us to find our ways to join this struggle.

We need to change everything. We need to change social systems that promote lies about race, ethnicity, gender, and the value of life. We need to change economic systems that privilege greed, materialism, and the hoarding of wealth. We need to change religions that justify hatred, bigotry, violence, and war. And if we are going to change everything..., it will take everyone!

We need new economic systems to promote mutual well-being for all. We need to learn how to feed and shelter one another. We need to find ways to fuel transportation, light, and warmth without fossil fuels.

We need new theologies for this new century. We need theologies to promote kindness, compassion, justice, equity, for all life. We need theologies to remind us that human beings are not lords of power over the earth and all creatures. We need theologies to guide us in knowing there is an interdependent web of all existence, of which we humans are an entwined part, not over-lords.

Our one, fragile, irreplaceable planet earth needs new leaders, new visions of wholeness, to carry all life into deeper balance. We need to change everything to ensure life can continue on our earth.

And if we are going to change everything..., it will take everyone!

The negotiators in Paris, the leaders of the world's big governments will not have the last word. The people will have the last word. Nothing ends with the Paris talks. We are not going away.

People of faith will stand in solidarity with those who suffer the worst impacts of climate change.

We will stand at the edges of the red lines.

We will stay standing until we live on a just, sustainable, livable planet where all communities and all ecosystems can thrive.

The work is ours. And we can do this work. We are One People. We are One Earth.

We have One Goal, a just and equitable future where all can thrive.

We are One People.

We are One Earth."

[Click here](#) to see a video of Rev. Gail speaking at the Michigan Climate March. UUAU member Bob Lippert shared the footage.



## Reflective Conversations Team (RCT)

The Big Question - What are Reflective Conversations?

Healthy Congregations require effective communication. The Reflective Conversations Team (RCT) was appointed by the Board of Trustees (BOT) to develop a program to improve the way UUAU hears concerns. Comments will be written, analyzed, and synthesized. Data will be shared with the BOT, the appropriate staff, and with program leaders to guide future improvements.



The team is preparing for reflection/feedback group discussions for this program year. Sessions will focus on Sunday Worship, Music, and Chalice Circles. Members of UUAU are part of the pool for random selection. Invitees are asked to respond and plan to attend. Attendees will be given questions for reflection and asked to provide feedback about their personal experiences regarding the topic area. Responses will help in understanding what life is like here at UUAU.

Team members Fran Dew, Dixie Hibner, Becky Hoort, Jim Lee, Carolyn Madden, Tricia Mooney, Cathy Olson, Ginny Preuss, Theresa Rohlck, and Erik Stalhandske welcome discussion. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Questions? Contact: Dixie Hibner at [reflectiveconversations@uuaa.org](mailto:reflectiveconversations@uuaa.org) or [dixiehibner@comcast.net](mailto:dixiehibner@comcast.net).



## Immigration Action Committee (IAC)

The Immigration Action Coalition (IAC) learned much during its first year as an organized social justice group. In order to open a dialogue with the larger Congregation about current immigration issues the IAC hosted two adult educational programs.

The first, Immigration: Both Sides examined immigration issues through both the eyes of a border patrol vigilante and an immigrant family from Mexico. After watching a short video, KT Doud led participants in a discussion about responding to those who hold immigration views different from our own. The Saturday, October 18, 2015 session concluded that although it's good to know statistics that dispel immigration myths such as "They take our jobs, they don't pay taxes, they ruin the economy," personal stories are often more compelling and convincing than abstract facts and figures.



The follow-up session held on Sunday, November 22, 2015 asked the question, "Why Not Just Get Legal?" Participants discussed why legal immigration procedures are not an option for most of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the US

today. Cesilie Myers created a power point illustrating the complexities of immigration laws which limit the number of people who actually qualify for admission through legal means. Other participants shared stories about their own experiences with immigration and those of their families and friends. Melanie Harner of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) talked about how effective the IAC's work was in stopping Fredy Mencia's deportation. The group was heartened to hear that its political activism on behalf of Fredy - telephone calls, letters, petitions, and protests - worked.

The program concluded by asking the question, "What can we do as individuals and as a group to affect immigration reform?" Among the actions discussed were voting for immigration friendly candidates, becoming an urgent response volunteer, and supporting the Washtenaw ID Project. IAC will continue to collaborate with other community immigrant rights groups to bring opportunities for action to this Congregation.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Valentine at [cherylnatzmervallentine@gmail.com](mailto:cherylnatzmervallentine@gmail.com).



### **Friends of Restorative Justice (FRJ) Prison Ministry**

Composed of UUA Congregants and other faith-based communities, Friends of Restorative Justice (FRJ) of Washtenaw County recently partnered with Healing Communities. This partnership will help the community understand the court system and engage in discussion with county commissioners and the legal community to bring restorative justice processes to Washtenaw county.

FRJ will meet monthly, the date and time will be announced. Opportunities for letter writing to prisoners are available through the Church of the Larger Fellowship of the UUA.

All are encouraged to see the play *A Tough Case* that will take the viewer on a restorative justice journey. This play will be held on Wednesday, January 6 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Chelsea District Library located at 221 S. Main Street in Chelsea. Sponsored by FRJ of Washtenaw County, Chelsea District Library, and other faith-based communities.

FRJ hopes to bring *A Tough Case* to UUA. Volunteers are needed to take part in the play as well as to help organize. Sign up at the Social Justice table during Social Hours. Help end mass incarceration and bring restorative justice to Washtenaw County.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at [cgmadden@gmail.com](mailto:cgmadden@gmail.com).



### **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News**



Powered by grassroots collaboration, the UUSC is a human rights organization. Believing that all people have inherent worth, power, and rights, UUSC works in more than a dozen countries with people and communities who are denied their rights because of who they are, and who are not served by mainstream human rights organizations.

One long-term UUSC project is continuing work since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti to bolster urban agriculture, sustainable development, and local capacity building. Other partnerships address specific issues of marginalized people in places like Vanuatu, Nepal, Myanmar, and Burundi. UUSC is involved in the refugee crisis and working with partners on the ground to ensure refugees' rights.

UUSC earned the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations. UUSC does not receive funding from UUA and depends on private donations. Join, learn more, and donate at [uusc.org](http://uusc.org). Questions? Contact Becky Hoort for the UUSC News Reporters at [rhoort@umich.edu](mailto:rhoort@umich.edu).



## One Time Chalice Circles

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



## Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)

### Business Resolutions

For the past 65 years, Israel has occupied the West Bank and Gaza. Under this occupation, the human rights of the Palestinians have been systematically denied. In keeping with Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles, UUJME asserts that UUs should not support or profit from these abuses through investments. Consistent with similar proposals that have been passed by Quakers, Methodists, Presbyterians, and members of the United Church of Christ. UUJME will gather signatures on a proposed business resolution calling on the UUA to avoid investing in five corporations that are critically involved in maintaining the occupation and its associated abuses.



The five corporations are Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and G4S. The resolution document includes brief descriptions of the occupation activities these corporations enable that are the reasons for recommending divestment from these corporations.

Business Resolutions are a concrete way for UUs to align personal actions with UU principles. The local UUJME committee, along with counterpart congregations across the country, will gather signatures of UUs to assure that this business resolution is voted on at the 2016 General Assembly. Visit the UUJME table during Social Hour to learn more about this issue and sign this resolution. Questions? Contact Anne Garcia at [awgarcia@wccnet.edu](mailto:awgarcia@wccnet.edu) or Mark Jagner [mjagner@yahoo.com](mailto:mjagner@yahoo.com).



## New Member Bio's

### Darwin and Cesilie Cordovilla

Cesilie is from Southern Indiana. She has her BA in Spanish and International Studies. Her hobbies include volunteering,

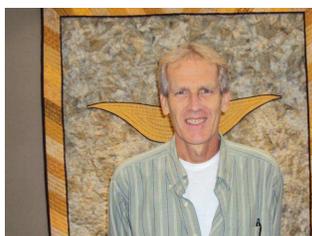


vegetarian cooking, and playing with her puppy, Suca Bella.

Darwin was born and raised in Ambato, Ecuador. He moved to the US in 2010 when he started college. He is passionate about scientific progress and research to better humanity.



## Glenn Harris



Glenn has been attending UUAU since 2011, thanks to his now-wife, Michele Dunnum; the two were married here in 2012. As a minister's son, Glenn grew up, literally, but not comfortably, in church. Glenn is an English professor at Mott C. C. in Flint, and is the father of two 20-something young men and step-son, James, a 10th grader and UUAU member. Glenn has long been "Unitarian" in mind and heart, something he first realized as a devoted student of the American transcendentalists. While not a "joiner" by nature, he looks forward to being more fully a part of this community.



## Church Office News

### Building Hours:

**Sundays: 8:30am-9:00pm**

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

**Friday: Closed**

**Saturdays: 9:00am-4:00pm**

**\* Note: The UUAU building will be closed from Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 4:00pm and will re-open on January 3, 2016 at 8:30am. Services will meet on Sunday, December 27 and Sunday, January 3 at 9:30am and 11:30am.**

**The staff and volunteers give thanks as they use this time to restore their spirits, and be enabled to make UUAU an even more collaborative, affordable, sustainable, and experimental community.**

**Church Office hours: 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 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](mailto:bulletin@uuaa.org).**

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



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