



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

January Monthly Newsletter

January 2018 Newsletter - Vol. 15, Issue 1

Congregational Links

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

Other Links of Interest

UUA.org | MidAmericauua.org | [Standing on the Side of Love](#)

Weaving Worship

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship & Music

*January's worship theme explores what it means to be a people of **Intention**.
All are welcome.*

January's Worship Team

Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth and Development

Rev. Doug Wadkins, Senior Minister

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister

Allison Halertz, Pianist-In-Residence

January 7, 2018 | Beyond Categorical Thinking with Keith Kron
Worship Times: 9:30am and 11:30am

This week, we welcome the Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the Transitions Office for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA).

Rev. Kron visits on behalf of Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT), a UUA program designed to promote inclusive thinking and prevent unfair discrimination during a congregation's search for a settled minister. Better understanding of the ways we evaluate other people can help us recognize and shed culturally-embedded, restrictive categorizations. BCT is a mind-opening experience that the UUA encourages and presents, especially for congregations that are searching for a new minister.

January 14, 2018 | The Premise and the Promise

Worship Times: 9:30am and 11:30am

What would it be like if our UU worship service centered entirely on the voices and the experiences of black Unitarian Universalists? What truths might we hear, however difficult? What might we learn? How might these black UU leaders teach us to be better allies, better siblings in faith, and even better citizens in our community? This Sunday we'll also take a special collection for *Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)*.

January 21, 2018 | with Julie Brock Worship Times: 9:30am and 11:30am

This week, we welcome Julie Brock, Consulting Minister for Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton (CUUB), to join in leading the morning services.

Julie is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, raised as a UU in the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit. She has a passion for spiritual exploration, social justice, inclusive community, oxford commas, and inter-generational worship. From Sufi Dziker, to Catholic Mass, to Pagan ritual, she has reverence for and finds rejuvenation in most all experiences of the divine.

January 28, 2018 | The Best Intentions Worship Times: 9:30am and 11:30am

Setting intentions in the New Year can be a powerful way to shape our lives and our future. Yet so often we quickly lose sight of our goals or feel helpless to make them a reality. What is holding us back? And how could Carl Rogers' "curious paradox" of change help us to move forward?



Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout
Director of Worship & Music
glenthomas@uuaa.org



In the Interim Rev. Doug Wadkins



Callings and Missional Identity

As I have often advocated, times of change may invite us to return to core ideals and seek fresh perspectives. The coming weeks are an important time in the process and offer a prime opportunity for exploring a larger perspective.

Last month in the December 10 service, I began to delve into the interplay between a personal sense of calling and the missional identity of the congregation. I invite all

of you to explore these ideas in a Community Conversation on January 20 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm at UUA.

In the service on the 10th, I offered the idea that the context of one's calling or vocation is deeply connected to a *thread of purpose* that weaves itself through our life. The following poem by William Stafford offers an excellent illustration of this idea.

The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it, you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

This calling is not so much something to be discovered, but something that one recovers and fine tunes. Vocation has an intrinsically interdependent relationship with the world around us. As theologian Frederick Buechner writes, our inner calling is the "the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." In the service, I paraphrased the following Parker Palmer's questions as helpful in exploring your own sense of calling:

1. As I look back on my life, what's the thread that has given me a sense of meaning and purpose? How can I name or picture it in a way that will keep me more aware of it?
2. Once I've reclaimed my lost thread and have it firmly in hand, what mysteries and complexities do I need to enter and explore? For example, what fears do I need to face into and walk through to keep them from shutting me down?
3. In what kinds of situations do I most often let go of the thread? How can I avoid those situations, or go into them better prepared to deal with their risks?

Calling, for an individual, may be understood as *Vocation*, and calling for a community maybe best understood as its *Missional Identity*. I invite you to think about these three questions in preparation for our deeper inquiry regarding the congregation's missional identity at our Community Conversation on January 20:

Who are we?

Whom do we serve?

What are we called to do now and in the next few years?

I invite you to cut and paste or jot these down in a notebook or journal and explore your answers to each. The first question focuses on *identity*. Identity asks us to identify the stories of the past and present that assist us in recognizing the threads of purpose within the congregation.

The second question focuses on *context*. Jot down thoughts that bring clarity about whom the congregation is serving. Who is present on Sunday and for other significant program offerings? How much intention went into shaping the "who" of this current community? Who is missing in your opinion?

The final question is the *purpose* question and seeks to bring focus to our needed actions. Knowing who we are and the stories that shape us, what is this transitional time asking of us? Perhaps it is asking us to develop as a community in ways you have not yet considered. Are there ways we are called outside of our comfort zone?

I invite you to spend some time thinking about these questions in a spirit of imaginative reflection. Think of the larger process as a conversation, as it requires dialogue and multiple voices to do its best work. Even if you cannot join us on January 20, we will likely set a second date in early February and get that information out to you soon. I encourage you to seek conversation about these questions with people within the congregation outside of your usual circle of friends. This work will be very helpful in your communal discernment about your future shared ministry.

Peace and love,
Doug

Rev. Doug Wadkins
Senior Interim Minister
doug@uuaa.org



Upon Reflection

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich



In flipping the calendar from the end of one year to the beginning of another, I don't make resolutions. I set intentions.

For me, the difference feels akin to the difference between a contract and a covenant. If I can't maintain a resolution, it feels like I've broken a contract with myself; it feels like failure. In contrast, if I fall away from an intention, I can renew it and come back into covenant with myself. (I also know that the language of "resolutions" works well for some folks. As ever, your mileage may vary.)

This difference crops up over and over in our lives, but you might be surprised by what actually lies beneath the surface. Sometimes, we need the strictness of a contract, like a kid cleaning their room before getting to watch TV. Other times, we need the compassion of a covenant, like apologizing to a friend and making amends after an argument. Many times, though, we mistake one for the other.

When do you make contracts with yourself and when do you make covenants?

Peace,
Rev. Lindasusan

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
Assistant Minister
Lindasusan@uuaa.org



President's Message

Erik Stalhandske



Snow falls steadily and lakes are frozen-it now feels like the holiday season!

Greetings beloved community. Some brief mutterings follow on:

- Sunderland Society/Planned Giving
- Board Monitoring/Strategic Discussions
- Ministerial Search Teams' (MST) Survey Summary

Sunderland Society/Planned Giving: Several dozen of us have included the UUAA Congregation in our estate plans/wills/bequests. As such, we are part of the Sunderland Society to honor and recognize this commitment. We urge you to consider contributing to the legacy. For new bequests, the UUAA will receive 10% of the estimated value as a cash gift to the congregation from the national UUA. This program has been established to encourage new bequests. Visit uuaa.org.

Board Monitoring/Strategic Discussions: As an outgrowth of the Governance Committee's recommendations, this year the Board has initiated monitoring/strategic discussions with different ministries. The conversations have been meaty and worthwhile. So far we have covered: Men's fellowship, Chalice Circles, SGD, Worship, and Music. Our questions include:

- What is going well?
- What are your goals?
- Challenges that you face
- Efforts at leadership development
- In an ideal world, describe your program/ministry


Results of MiST Survey: What an amazing response to the Search Team's survey—over 60% participation! After hours of review, they have summarized the results by themes and motifs. In addition, specific responses to questions are provided. Make yourself an informed congregant. Visit uuaa.org.

As part of the pledge canvas, we have been phoning people that had not yet made a pledge for 2018. It has humbled me to connect with people, some of whom, due to age and physical limitations cannot join us for services. And yet, because of the importance of our caring and loving community they continue to pledge.

Wishing you some moments of peace, reflection, and shared joy.

Erik

Erik Stalhandske
President of the Board
president@uuaa.org





It has been exhilarating to work through the massive amount of data and wonderful portrait of UUAA we have to offer our ministerial candidates. A final report based on your responses to the Congregational Survey is available in our search page, www.uuaa.org/mst, and it will be made available to the interested ministers in our search website. We will be sharing this website with interesting and interested candidates this month! This has been a rewarding experience, as we have been digging into what makes us us, what makes UUAA the special place we love and want to see flourish. Please look for our table during Social Hour on Sundays, January 14, 21, and 28 to check out the website materials

We want to thank Cristy Cardinal and Emily Drennen who guided us through a shortened version of the Examining Whiteness workshop, which we completed in two Saturdays in November and December. We invite everyone in the congregation to sign up for the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, that will take place Saturday, January 6, starting at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. The workshop, offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister, will be facilitated by Keith Kron. In the workshop we will confront our pictures of the "ideal minister" (as categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation). With these pictures in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our "pictures," we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister. Please make an effort to attend. We will serve lunch and provide childcare, so please sign up using [this link](https://goo.gl/RzZHJa): <https://goo.gl/RzZHJa>. This link is available on the website, too. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 4.

Last but not least, we will hold a Q&A about the whole search process, including the timeline, Congregational Survey, and the search website materials on Sunday, January 21, after the second service. Please join us.

As we begin this most exciting portion of the search, we want to thank for your patience and understanding regarding maintaining confidentiality. Confidentiality is essential for the candidates and for a smooth selection process.

In peace,

MST



Activities and Events

Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group * Wednesday, January 3

The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UUAA Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets regularly the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. It is a drop-in group, open to both members of the congregation and the larger community. Occasionally, invited speakers will present topics of interest.

A support group offers caregivers, family members, and friends of people with memory loss the opportunity to ask questions, share stories, give and receive comfort, and gain practical knowledge. A confidential, positive setting for sharing experiences is known to be an important factor in how well one copes with caregiver

stress. If you have questions about the support group, contact the January facilitators Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com or Meredith Ley at meredith1888@gmail.com. Both have been trained by the Great Lakes Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.



Senior Dinner Out * Wednesday, January 3



Join us for the first Senior Dinner of the year at 6:00pm at Hot Pot Chen (formerly Gourmet Garden) at 2255 West Stadium. See in the new year with good company and good food. No reservation is required. Questions? Contact Marie Duke

at omaduke7@gmail.com or 769-0467.



Friday Fun Night * Friday, January 5

Get into the swing of 2018 by joining us for the first Friday Fun Night of the year! A pasta dinner will be served at 6:00pm, followed by crafts, a euchre tournament in the game room, the movie *Ice Age*, and more. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 (with a cap of \$20 if you have more than four in your family). Also, we are always looking for new members to join our fun planning team. Questions? Contact the Friday Fun Team at fridayfunnight@uuaa.org.



UUA Women's Breakfast * Saturday, January 13

It's time for UUA women to get together and solve the world's problems or at least have breakfast together! Join us and invite your women friends at UUA to come along for the fun. These regularly scheduled breakfasts are held at 8:15am at the Classic Cup Café at 4389 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. If you plan to come, please let Royla Furniss know by Friday morning, January 12, so she can give an accurate count to the restaurant. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Royla Furniss at 734-623-1506 or refurniss@gmail.com.



Faces of Faith VII * Sunday, January 14



2018

FACES OF FAITH

Sunday, January 14, 4-6 pm

(along with other national Religious Freedom Day observances)

Come hear the stories of local clergy & other designated religious leaders from 6 traditions. This year each will speak to the whole group and follow-up conversations will be probing and engaging.

A separate session will be held for students up through H.S.

Muslim

Imam Mufti Abdullah Al-Mahmudi
Muslim Community Association
of Ann Arbor

Jewish

Abby Wells
Temple Echad

Christian

Kelly Dunlap
Catholic

Hindu

Sharada Kumar
Chinmaya Mission

Interfaith

Lauren Tatarsky
Interfaith Center for
Spiritual Growth

Buddhist

Maum
Zen Buddhist Temple

Zion Lutheran Church (Host)
1501 W. Liberty, AA (\$5 suggested donation)

www.irtwc.org 734-424-1535

Missional Identity Community Conversation * Saturday, January 20

Join us from 1:00pm to 3:45pm for a conversation digging deeper into the missional identity of this congregation. Who are we? Whom do we serve? What are we called to do now and in the next few years? This work is essential to this community's discernment of your future shared ministry. Questions? Contact Rev. Doug Wadkins at doug@uuaa.org.

Interweave Social Gathering * Saturday, January 20

LGBTQIA people, their families, and allies, please join us for dinner at 6:00pm at Palm Palace (370 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor). After dinner, at 8:00pm, head over to Outloud Chorus at the Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College for The Enchanted Escape. General admission tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Student and Senior (65+) tickets are \$15 in advance and \$15 at the door. RSVP for dinner to Ronda Hemingway at



Investing Locally * Sunday, January 28

Have you wanted your investments to have some societal impact?

Plan to attend an impact investing information session on Sunday, January 28, 1:00pm–2:30pm in the Fahs Chapel.

Angela Barbash, the featured speaker, presents on this topic nationally and is exclusively dedicated to this type of investing. This is sponsored through the Social Justice Council and will include a discussion with Cathy Muha and Barbara Cherem. Hear more about improving our state and community through impact investing.

Angela Barbash is from Revalue Investing, and you can view their website at <http://revalueinvesting.com/>. Questions? Contact Barbara Cherem at barbaracherem@yahoo.com or Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.



UUAA Alpha House Host Week* Monday-Sunday, February 5-11



The Alpha House committee will meet on Sunday, January 7 after the second service to prepare for the next host week, which is Monday-Sunday, February 5-11, 2018. The committee welcomes new members who wish to participate in coordinating the needs for our Alpha House service weeks. Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing temporary homelessness in Washtenaw County. If you have volunteered at Alpha House and have feedback about your experience, please contact Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



White Privilege Circle * Sunday, February 11

UUAA's Challenging Racism presents a Circle on White Privilege from 1:00pm–3:00pm. Carolyn Christopher and Shirley Beckley, trained Circle Keepers from the Dispute Resolution Center, will lead the discussion.

The White Privilege Circle was developed by Kay Pranis, international peacemaker, to explore constructive ways to promote resilience in the face of trauma. Both Shirley and Carolyn were trained by Kay Pranis. The purpose of this Circle is to raise awareness about the nature and impact of white privilege, and to recognize the harm of privilege to those with and without privilege. The discussion will dive deeper into the societal structures as they relate to race. We know that people of color are subjected to harsher criminal penalties and are disproportionately represented in the criminal legal system, for example. Privileges and deprivations affect where you live, what kind of job you can get, whether you will be arrested, and how people will speak to you.

The Circle process promotes constructive responses to societal injustice and harm in three dimensions:

- Understanding and connecting to your core self, so you can respond to unjust

structures most effectively

- Working to connect to the core self of others so that you do not perpetuate the social rankings that devalue others
- Participating in larger social justice efforts that work toward inclusion, equality, and dignity for all.

For more information, contact Kathy Friedrichs at kamf@umich.edu.



Upcoming Events

Doing Our Own Work: An Anti-Racism Seminar for White People

Doing Our Own Work, a training offered by Allies for Change, helps white people claim and embody an anti-racist identity, understand the privilege they carry, and deepen their capacity to recognize and interrupt racism - so that they can step up with humility and consistency to participate in organizations led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action.

Location: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

Leaders: Dessa Cosma and Melanie S. Morrison

Dates: Three Friday-Saturday sessions, 9:00am–5:00pm: February 23 & 24, March 16 & 17, and April 13 & 14 (attendance all six days is required)

Cost: \$475 (scholarships are available)

For more information and to register, go to <http://alliesforchange.org/doow-ann-arbor.html>.



Announcements and News

Adult AD(H)D Group

The Adult AD(H)D Support Group meets the third Saturday of each month from 10:00am–noon in a UUAA classroom. The event outgrew its café locale but we still call it "A2 Adult ADHD Coffee Chats." Inquire to Doug dougharris@gmail.com or John jerdevig@comcast.net. If you join the Meet-Up list, you'll get announcements, and informative talks of interest.

Volunteers facilitate a gathering of over a dozen adults from all over southeast Michigan. Facilitators bring a list of prepared topics, but the morning's actual discussion typically emerges from comments made during check-ins. We may sit (pace or stretch) and enjoy being around other people who "get" us. Our introduction finishes with "Welcome to Your Tribe."

By meeting at UUAA, we seek to do the following:

- provide a unique opportunity for congregants to find acceptance and support in a convivial setting, with the expectation of mutual confidentiality and
- by our presence, promote, among the "neurotypical" UUAA community, a consciousness of the diversity represented by people with AD(H)D. Cf. UUAA Accessibility Team.

Apropos, folks should know that AD(H)D is a complex spectrum of traits that are experienced, by those having them, as "thinking differently." Workplace and school accommodations, maintaining relationships, even just completing a household to-do list, can require strategies and resilience.

AD(H)D has a prevalence and heritability that suggest that during phases of human evolution (e.g., when hunter-gatherers predominated), the traits were adaptive. There is some evidence that the traits are valued and passed on more frequently in those settings today.

We focus on *AD(H)D in adults* (not children). This is misunderstood, even rejected as "not a thing." Diagnosis often comes after decades of struggling to understand why certain parts of our lives have been difficult, *and* why we're able to sometimes find creative solutions to problems that slow down more neurotypical folks.



Alpha House Thank Yous



We send out a great big thank you to the many people who donated meals, money and/or their time to the Thanksgiving Host Week at Alpha House. Without your contributions, Alpha House would not be able to do all it does for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. Our appreciation goes to the following volunteers:

Day Hosts: Sally Preston, Barb Gales, Diane Fead

Donations of Food: Ilene Beninson, Lorraine Gutierrez, Robin Fowler, Marcia Cameron, Delphine Benard, Constance Bridge, Gwen, Tom, and John Guthrie, Sara Matthews, Sandy Eyl, Carol Cramer, Tom Longworth, Mary Locey, Kathy Edgren, Kathy Friedrichs, Liz Hartley, Bridget Laundra, Betsy Reitbauer, Karl Sikkenga, Lorelle Otis, Elinore Sommerfeld, Diane Connaughton, Claudette Snow, Cathy Muha, Kate Burkhardt

Served Meals and Cleaned Up: Terri Wilkerson, Jim Lee, Gwen, Tom and John Guthrie, Sandy Eyl, Jon Boyd, Brandy Sinco, Cindy Krueger, Lora Girata, Diane and Tom Bauld

Children's Activity Time: Victoria Moessner, Michelle Avery Ferguson and Leif Ferguson, Chris Hurlbut, John Tauchus, Halla, Nawal, and Karen Motawi, Christina Wall, Emmeline Wall, Jon Boyd, Vicki Echegoyen and children, Cassandra Hartley, Kirsten Mogbo, Carey, Zoe, and Felix Swanson, Krysta, Zeek, and Kira December, Rebecca, Ben, and Aaron Chamberlin, Gina, Graham and Davis Boldman, Melissa Armstrong, Mike Grant and Amelia Armstrong-Grant, Amie Anderson and child, Ann Brennan and children, Lara Brown and children, Dan and Lauren Hunt

Overnight Hosts: Jim Lee, Jim Schaefer, Terry Butcher, Ilene Beninson

If we have misspelled or missed any names, please accept our apologies. Thank you everyone! Anyone with feedback about their experience or questions, please contact UUAA Alpha House Coordinator Angela Barber at abarber@gmail.com.



Climate Action

January begins a new year of activities for the Church's Climate Action Group. Here are some of the things congregants can expect in 2018:

- **Climate Action Tabling:** We expect to be tabling in the Social Hall twice each month after each service. On the table we will have interesting articles/ books, suggested actions that can be taken to mitigate global warming, and announcements about upcoming community events
- **Mailings:** We will send approximately two mailings each month filled with valuable information related to climate change if you are on the Climate Action mailing list. Contact me at jaseeley@aol.com if you would like to be put on the list.
- **Special Events:** For the upcoming months, the climate action steering committee will be considering and planning special events, e.g., movies/videos, panels or presentations.

Have you considered...?

- **Good reads including:** *Great Tides Rising* by Kathleen Dean emphasizing the spiritual side of the issue or perhaps *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken and Christopher Solimene.
- **Visiting TED talks** and searching for global warming or climate change. Many talks are informative and even alarming.
- **Writing or calling your congress person(s)** to let them know you are concerned about the issue and urging them to pay attention to the issue, maybe even signing the Gibson Resolution or joining the bipartisan climate solutions caucus in the House, currently 62 members: 31 from each party.

The Climate Action Steering Committee meets on the third Sunday of the month between services in the Kemnitz Room. Our meetings are open and all interested congregants are welcome. We wrap things up so anyone can attend the second service. Questions? Contact John Seeley at jaseeley@aol.com.



Community of Writers

On Sunday December 10, the Community of Writers presented their third Holiday Reading with the congregation invited! Eleven members read from their original works of memoir, poetry, and prose. Their readings were well received by an appreciative audience, and following the program, a time of coffee and conversation was enjoyed by all.

The monthly Community of Writers meetings are held on second Sundays. Join us on January 14 from 1:15pm–2:45pm in the David Room for a session focused on creative writing in the New Year!

Everyone interested in writing is welcome! Questions? Contact Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com.



Immigration Action Coalition (IAC)



Sanctuary Quilt

workshop will give you the knowledge and confidence you need to best help a sanctuary guest RSVP: <https://wcsvolunteertraining.eventbrite.com>

Save the Date: Sanctuary Volunteer Training

Please put Saturday, January 20, 2018, 9:00am-noon on your calendar and plan to attend the Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary Volunteer Training at Church of the Good Shepherd. All who want to be involved in any part of doing sanctuary are encouraged to attend. The program will include an update on the state of congregational sanctuary in Washtenaw County, legal/safety information and logistics, as well as an ally and cultural competency training. As we prepare for the potential of hosting, it is essential that our community is poised and as ready as possible. The

Sanctuary Hospitality Committee

A new IAC committee is researching the logistics of preparing to be a welcoming sanctuary congregation. Marian Horowitz, Mollie Morgan, and Lucia Heinold will inventory what is needed in the Marley Room (the room set aside for housing someone in sanctuary) and the conversation area outside. They will lay out a plan for how and where to best acquire each item. Then we will call for additional volunteers.

Two Volunteer Positions Available

We need a Project Manager for this complex endeavor. That is someone who is able to make sure that all the bases are covered and who will work with the UUAA committees, with IAC, and with WCS to make sure that everything is in place. We also need a volunteer coordinator to manage the 73 UUAA congregants who have already agreed to help. If anyone is willing and able to take on a management role, please contact Cheryl Valentine at cherylnatzermervvalentine@gmail.com or Edie Hough at edytheough@gmail.com.



Sharing the Collection



The Sharing the Collection Committee consists of Bob Dinan, Mary Ann Camron, Barb Cherem, and John Preston. Each month we facilitate the collection of donations for an area non-profit. In December, through the generosity of our congregation, we were able to donate \$2,101 to Ele's Place.

We have been working diligently since November to identify the twelve non-profit recipients for our congregational donations in 2018. The first collection will take place on Sunday, January 7. Watch your *Weekly Bulletin* for more information. The full calendar for 2018 will be published soon on the uuaa.org website.

Bob Dinan, chairperson
bdinan83@gmail.com

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following people who donated to UUAU with Memorial and Tribute gifts in the third quarter of 2017.

In Memory of Joan Buchele

Nelson and Phyllis Pelletier

In Memory of Diane Cooper

Phyllis Valentine
Roberta Allen and Royla Furniss

In Memory of Don Haefner

Cynthia Stewart

In Memory of Gertrude "Trudee" Winsor

Department Computing Organization, EECS, University of Michigan
(Elizabeth Zaenger)

Partner Church Transylvania



Do you like to travel for more than scenery or luxury? Were you intrigued by our Transylvanian visitors last Fall? As Rev. Istvan mentioned during the visit, the Unitarian Church is celebrating the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda this summer. There will be several celebrations, including one in the city of our Partner Church. In the nearly 21 years of our partnership, more than 35 from our congregation have traveled to Kézdivásárhely, (*Târgu Secuiesc* in Romanian), either as part of a group or individually. There are a number of ways to visit:

- As part of a group of UUAU and/or Blacksburg, VA UU congregants. Details TBD, but have included visits to Unitarian historic places and our Partner Church families in the past.
- As part of a group of U.S. UUs on a specialized tour, part of which always includes time with individual congregation partners in their village or town. This year there are three trips already announced:
 - **ROOTS Pilgrimage, July 2018, in Transylvania** <http://uupcc.org/trip/july-2018-mindful-walk-Transylvania>

- **A Mindful Walk: A Pilgrimage on Foot, July 2018**,
<http://uupcc.org/trip/july-2018-mindful-walk-Transylvania>
- **Thanksgiving Transylvania Economy Package, September 2018**
<http://uupcc.org/trip/sept-2018-thanksgiving>

For more specific information about the U.S. tours, follow the links. If you are interested in any of the tours or traveling to Transylvania in general, please contact Phyllis Valentine, pav@umich.edu.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



Many thanks to all who took part in this year's Guest at Your Table fundraising effort for the UUSC. Know that these donations will keep the chalice flame glowing for people in need all over the world, people denied their legal rights, forced from their homes, facing situations of inadequate food, water, clothing, and shelter.

As we partner with our various grassroots workers, we offer them and their communities a seat at our table through our loving concern and our financial aid. UUSC partners are delivering direct aid to refugees from Myanmar now in Bangladesh: 800,000 men, women, and children.

In Africa, our partners are working through various faith communities to build strong voices against discrimination based on sexual orientation, where one's sexual orientation can mean social isolation, incarceration, and even death.

UUSC is also active on Capitol Hill. In particular, through their efforts, they brought the Rohingya plight to national and international attention, labelling it ethnic cleansing. UUSC partners have worked with legislators to introduce two pieces of legislation, S2060 and HR4223, designed to provide humanitarian assistance, make perpetrators accountable, and allow the Rohingya to return home. Further, they have assisted in persuading the UN to launch a formal investigation of rights violations in Myanmar.

Our voice is heard, our actions noted around the world. Keep UUSC strong. Questions? Contact Quincy Northrup qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project



Choose compassionate consumption from our flavorful selection of organic Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts, fruit bars, and Palestinian olive oil, produced by small farm cooperatives globally. All sales are part of fundraising for UUSC Social Justice programs and this congregation. Volunteers are welcome to help keep this program going. Questions? Contact Ilene Beninson at ilene.beninson@gmail.com.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Gabe Linderman



After calling UUAA home for nine years, Gabe has decided to become a formal member. Gabe started in the SGD program in 6th grade and after going through the OWL program got deeply involved with Planned Parenthood and advocacy work surrounding reproductive rights. With a passion for politics and social change, he is studying political science at the University of Michigan. Gabe is an avid rock climber who is madly in love with the great outdoors. If you can't find him in the library studying, chances are he is hanging off a mountain somewhere. Gabe is also a big photography guy who goes few places without a camera in hand. He is excited to finally become a formal part of a community he has loved for so long.

Kaite Young-Kendall



Kaite grew up on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan in Muskegon, MI. After attending undergrad at Central Michigan University, she served a year of AmeriCorps service in west Michigan, worked for the Children's Defense Fund in Detroit, and then moved to Ann Arbor. Now Kaite is a preschool teacher at U of M's North Campus Children's Center. She started coming to UUAA almost a year ago and her heart has been soaring ever since. She enjoys writing letters, reading Brene Brown, and taking cozy naps.

Charissa Urbano



Charissa (or just Charis) is thrilled to have recently moved to the Ann Arbor area after spending the last 29 years teaching at Delta College. She earned her B.S. from BGSU and masters and doctorate from Ball State University.

As a biologist she loves nature and looks forward to her daily walks with her faithful companions Snickers and Rolo. She enjoys skiing, tennis, pickleball, and Zumba. She also enjoys adventure (kayaking or white water rafting the Salmon River, ID) and travel (looking forward to her fourth trip to Kenya in May).

Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines: Note Special Holiday Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org by Wednesday at 5:00pm. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.

February Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the *January Newsletter* should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org by **9:00am on Sunday, January 21**.

Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org



Building Hours

UUA Ann Arbor January Building Hours

Monday, January 1 | Closed for the Holiday

Sunday | 9:00am-4:00pm

Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-9:00pm

1st & 3rd Friday | 5:00pm-9:00pm

2nd & 4th Friday | Closed

Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm

Office: Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-5:00pm



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | office@uuaa.org | 734-665-6158 | www.uuaa.org

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