



Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse  
6726 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802  
231-947-3117  
uucgrand@aol.com  
Fax: 231-947-0726  
(During office hours, call 947-3117 first,  
then FAX.)

**Office Hours:**  
9 am – 3 pm  
Tuesday – Friday

**Interim Minister**

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster  
Home: 231-929-2370  
vaufoe@aol.com

**Director of Religious  
Education**

Shari Jonsson, 228-7649  
sjonssondre@highstream.net

**Minister of Music**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146  
ktarsa@aol.com

**Office Administrator**

Kathleen Zatorski

**Board of Trustees 2003-2004:**

**President**

Bob Walton 946-3171  
bobjw@yahoo.com

**President-Elect**

Penny Ort 932-8766  
Ortjp@aol.com

**Administrative Vice President**

Fred Schaafsma 223-9446  
fred\_schaafsma@hotmail.com

**Program Vice President**

Mary Van Valin 946-2178  
mvanvalinclarke@chartermi.net

**Secretary**

Jim Cook 941-4648  
jcook2@mhc.net

**Treasurer**

Christie McGue 941-1922  
christiemcgu@yahoo.com

**Ex officio**

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, minister

**Sunday, April 3 — 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

UUA Social Action Issues

**Misty Sheehan and Dick Raabe**

Each year a number of social action issues are voted on at the UUA General Assembly as issues that our denomination will focus upon. Each congregation votes on those submitted. This service will acquaint our congregation with this year's issues.

**Sunday, April 10 — 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

"Dharma Rain: Buddhist Environmentalism"

**Misty Sheehan**

Buddhism talks about our connectedness with everything else in life much like deep ecology. As spring draws our attention to the growing processes in nature, let us take a moment to look at our relation with it.

**Sunday, April 17 — 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

"Don't Harm"

**Rabbi Chava Bahle**

Rabbi Bahle talks about Jewish ideas of environmentalism. Rabbi Bahle's talk will conclude a week on the environment.

**Sunday, April 24 — 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

Sermon and visit by a candidate for UUCGT settled minister

**Rev. Keith Kron, UUA**

"Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I'm living with? How will the community respond to our minister?" Reverend Kron will address these and other related questions.

**Sunday, May 1 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

**Vision Sunday:** "The Vision and the Act"

**Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster**

The Vision and the Act, a frank look together at the many facets of service to our congregation to be followed by pledging festivities.

**Sunday, May 8 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"The Two Sides of Love"

**Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster**

On this Mothers' Day we will note that we take love to be essential, but do not often consider some of the stresses that accompany love if we truly open ourselves to its effects.

**We Welcome Your  
Membership**

Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members, who must be at least 16 years old, signify their commitment by signing the Membership Book during a meeting with our minister. It is understood that members actively support their Congregation through attendance, service and financial commitment. To start your process of becoming an official member of our lively, compassionate and challenging congregation, call the congregation office at 947-3117.

**Pastoral Care Advisory Group**

"Love is the center of our church and service is the prayer." This, I feel, is what defines pastoral care in our Congregation. We will continue to serve the needs of our congregants as we learn what the needs are. Should you have, or know of someone else who has a pastoral care need, I encourage you to contact and inform any one of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee Members: Eleanor Beal, 313-8843; Jody Marquis, 941-5158; John Schneider, 223-9299; Liz Bruning, 929-9808; Bonnie Mathias, 935-3715; Arline Howe, 947-9124; Mercedes Kimling, 223-7537; Joan Sheard, 922-1834; Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146.

—Arline Howe, Chair

*the BEACON*

**BEACON Deadlines:** Last Sunday  
of the month, following the last service.

Jim Cook, Editor, 941-4648  
Beacon@uucgt.org

Richard Curtis, Assoc. Editor, 929-9605  
Beacon@uucgt.org

Jody Marquis, Board Liaison  
941-5158  
MamaBear4422@aol.com

Folding, labeling & mailing  
by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

## INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN

April 2005

This is the season of the pledge canvass and here is a story about what it takes to make a religious congregation vital and successful.

A southern preacher was exhorting his congregation, "Brothers and Sisters, there's work to be done. Let us rise up and walk." The enthusiastic people chorused in reply, "Amen. Let's walk." The preacher went on, "Time's a wastin'. We gotta rise up and run!" "Amen, Brother, let's run," came the response. Warming to his task, the preacher shouted, "The Kingdom is callin'. Let's fly, and fly, and FLY!" Thunderous foot stomping and cheers came back to him, "Let's FLY!!!" "But," said the preacher, it takes money to fly." After an awkward silence, a lone voice in the back row spoke up, "Amen ... let's walk."

This preacher and his congregation come back to me every time canvassing for the budget comes around, as it shall on the first Sunday in May (this gives you a month to think about these things). I like this story because it suggests three choices of moving forward that the congregation "Amen'd" in its various ways—ways open to the members and friends of UUCGT. The implication of the story is that the "walk" approach assumed that pledges can be continued at their present rate and UUCGT can walk benignly into the future with the hope that, somehow, just staying as it is won't lose ground as the cost of living increases. Actually, this is

not a likely scenario given the coming of a newly settled minister and the exigencies of the building expansion project. Or, in the "run" approach, pledge contributions can be raised, the cost of living kept up with, and perhaps even a few new activities can be added to the program, especially those that will develop as new space is added to the building. If this second rate of moving forward is chosen, the truth of the White Queen's dictum to Alice (in *Through the Looking Glass*) may become apparent: "Now, here, you see," said the Queen, "it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place."

The third choice, "flying", would keep this congregation moving forward and soaring into higher reaches of program and influence in the community. My experience here makes me think that this is the style of travel most preferred by UUCGT. In fact, it is already flying. Maintaining flight in this way will happen if this congregation really means to everyone what they tell one another it means.

For this to happen everyone must truly believe that free religion should fly. It will require not just an enthusiastic "Amen" (or "Right on"—whichever fits your theology) but also a vigorous flapping of monetary wings. Wings primed with serious pledges will surely bear UUCGT aloft and confidently into the future. But, walk, run, or fly—one will move UUCGT into the future. Let's fly!

— Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

## ALL ABOUT US

We hold in our hearts those who have had losses we are aware of:

Bob Fitch's loss of his father, age 92, of Hillsdale, Michigan. Bob may be reached at 116 Williams Ct. Hillsdale, MI 49242. Bob plans to soon come back up to Traverse City.

Our thoughts for continued recovery and healing go to:

Charley Hansen who recently underwent major surgery. We wish him well.

Boyd Baird who had outpatient surgery for his left elbow nerve.

Penny Ort who had emergency surgery to repair nerve damage from an accidental cut in her hand.

Ali Gribi who recently had some surgery.

Judy Weaver who had a bad fall and facial bruises. However, it did not keep her from sounding beautiful on her violin during the Sunday, March 20th service. Thank you Judy!

For those who may remember Olga Mills whose house burned to the ground this winter, her address is: 503 Greenacres Ave., Bellaire, MI 49615. Olga likes Bellaire and plans to rebuild there and stay.

We are mindful of:

Terri Anne McGuinness

Richard Myer

Joan and Ralph Laird

Joe and Beecy Fraser

Thanks go to all those who continue to provide food and also to those who provide transportation to fellow members. We are most grateful to you for your continued support and I am sure the recipients are grateful too.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

On Sunday, March 6, 2005, Ken and Judy Weaver signed the membership book! Please look for them during coffee hour soon and give them a warm welcome!

—The Membership Committee

## MINDING THE STORE

Spring cleanup

UUCGT Spring cleanup will be Saturday, May 14th from 8:30 to 12:30. Please set aside at least a portion of the morning to stop by and help. There will be plenty to do, both indoors and out! Many UU hands make short work!

Emerson Made Easy

The art works about Ralph Waldo Emerson have been re-installed in the sanctuary, as part of the UU Iconography Series depicting aspects of UU History. If you would like to know more about this important personage, studying this exhibit is a good way to do it.

—Sally Mitchell

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Halfway up the mast.

The interim year, between settled ministers, is a time for our congregation to look around. In the lingo of seafaring we climb the mast to get a good look at where we are going, where we have been, and to get a good look at us as we are. The interim year is like that climb. At first we stand together on the deck assessing us as we are. Then we have a look at our processes from a few feet off of the deck. Climbing ever further towards the 'crows nest' we begin to get a better picture of where we are taking our part of the Unitarian Universalist movement.

Our interim minister, Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster, acts as a kind of pilot for this process. He helps us determine what we are as a congregation, where our processes need to change, and helps us determine for ourselves what our future course shall be.

We are at about half way through our interim year. There is still some work to do to prepare ourselves for our new settled minister. From this point, halfway up the mast, we have revealed enough about our previous course to know the future course has equal parts of

challenge and satisfaction. We can almost see the shoals we need to avoid and know that climbing farther will reveal more.

In the spring of 2004 the congregation voted to form and fund a search to call a new settled minister in 2005. At a recent special meeting your board reaffirmed the decision to seek a settled minister this year. Our settled minister search committee reports progress and has candidates. If this search is successful the search committee will bring the final candidate to the congregation for a vote of approval. If the congregation approves we will have successfully called a settled minister.

We will not rush this process. Our choice will be made with deliberate thought. If the process is complete and we have not called a new settled minister then your board will decide whether to call an interim minister for another year. This is not an outcome we are planning for but one we have always known might lie in our path.

Here halfway up the mast we move towards the completion of our search for the settled minister while continuing to climb high enough to prepare for the new ministry.

- *Bob Walton*

## ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

UU Quilters

The UU quilting group will meet on Wednesday, April 20 from 1-4 at UU in the social hall. Experienced and novice stitchers all welcome. Materials are provided. We're making quilts for congregational fundraisers and are almost ready to actually quilt the first

one. For more info call Bonnie Mathias or Kathy Prentice.

Spring Watercolor class  
It's Spring! Let's PAINT!

A new watercolor painting class will begin April 11<sup>th</sup> and meet for 6 consecutive Mondays in our UU Social Hall from 6 – 8 PM. New painters as well as experienced students are more than welcome. Contact MaryAnn Force

for equipment and fee information. This class is open to the public. Call 941-5024 to enroll.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner at 6 PM Monday April 11 at South City Limits. Watch the Orders of Service on April 3 and 10 for any specific program information. Join us! For further information, call Bob Hicks, 946-8862.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

There are many thanks to be shared this month. We have been very fortunate to have had three wonderful events involving our Muslim neighbors, and now our new friends, the Nadjis, Al-Shammas, and Butts, as well as several Muslim exchange students. On Friday, March 11, H.G. Smith showed the video, "Brothers and Others," which was about how some Muslims and Arabs have been treated since 9/11. We had an open stimulating discussion. Assad Al-Shamma and Manuwar Butt

as well as their wives were willing to talk and share their experiences.

On Sunday, March 13, Taoufik Nadjji talked about why being a Muslim and believing in Islam was important to him. It was very enlightening and revealed the inclusiveness of Islam. Thank you to Kevin Tarsa and Misty Sheehan for their roles in making the Sunday service such a success!

During Sunday services two of the high school exchange students talked with the 7 and 8 graders. They reported enjoying it immensely. We thank Nuna for volunteering and bringing her friend Mohammed Hamdan.

The climax was the Arabic Buffet on Wed. March 16. It was not only delicious, it was extremely enlightening as Al-Shamma and Butt again answered questions and talked freely about their beliefs and feelings. They answered the question we all wanted to understand better; How could 9/11 be done in the name of Islam? All three Muslims agreed that these people were not true believers in Islam. For example, the Qur'an forbids the killing of innocent and therefore 9/11 could not be done by a true believer.

This Wednesday night buffet could

*(Continued on page 7)*

## **BOLD VISION: Keep it Growing!**

### **Envision how much this congregation enriches your life.**

Maybe it's the terrific music every Sunday. Maybe it's the sense of calm that comes when you walk into the Sanctuary. Maybe it's our great RE programs. Maybe it's the opportunity to work with like-minded people to create a more just world. Maybe it's the joy found in being a member of this vibrant, caring community, where hearts are nurtured and minds expanded. Maybe it's the journey you take as you explore the rich diversity of religious thought, with the support of others making their own explorations. These are just some of the ways this congregation brings meaning into the lives of its members. Where is the meaning for you? What is your vision of where we are?

### **Envision how much we plan for the future.**

We stand on the brink of a bold future. We have just voted to expand our building to meet current and future needs. We are preparing to call a new minister to help us continue and extend our mission of the power of compassion and compassionate power.

We have dreams of providing more programming for our youth and adults. We imagine our voices being heard in the larger community, voices speaking of freedom of choice, of loving inclusion, of making all lives richer. We believe that our religious convictions can be an agency for creating a better world. What does your imagination hold? What is your vision of where we're going?

### **Envision making it all come true.**

Together we have found much meaning, have dreamed many dreams, have imagined many wonderful things. Now imagine one more thing—making it all come true. Your annual gift to this congregation makes it all possible. Your annual pledge is the outward dimension of innermost dreams, the concrete form in which vision is expressed, a way in which the mundane becomes suffused in deepest meaning.

### **Keep it Growing!**

This congregation makes it possible for us to grow as individuals and as a religious community. It is through our annual pledge that we make it possible for the congregation to provide us, separately and together, with all the wonderful possibilities of our boldest visions. *Let's keep it growing!*

Together, we are committed to sustained growth in our congregation, its building, its ministry and its programs. This requires commitment to sustained growth in the budget. In order to meet the future and keep it growing, we must increase our operating budget by at least 9% for the upcoming fiscal year. *Let's keep it growing!*

Some say you can't put a price on a vision, but isn't your dream worth increasing your pledge 9%--or more? Isn't our future worth increasing your pledge 9%--or more? Isn't our growth as persons and as a community worth increasing your pledge 9%--or more? Please be generous—*together we can keep it growing!*

# From your Minister of Music

As spring arrives, my appetite for reading about church dynamics has returned.

Okay, I'm always very hungry for information, insight and understanding that will help me be of greatest service to this congregation and thus, the world beyond our walls, but during the middle of the winter, my psyche took a deep breath between reading gulps. Suddenly, with lengthening days and a sun that rides in a higher arc across the sky, my appetite for knowledge and awareness is once again insatiable.

I am sure that the approaching reality of a new settled minister is urging me onward. My mind, my heart and my soul are scrambling to figure out how I best fit into this whole adventure and, as I look around, I see others engaging in similar processes of discernment.

This is what this moment asks of us. This is the value of being in limbo between settled ministers upon whom we might want to place credit or blame for the life of the congregation. We must each search our hearts, minds and souls for our current understanding of this religious adventure in which we participate. We must each consider both what it is, and more important, what it can be not only for us, but for others. Whether or not we find personal clarity, we are each faced with the

decision to recommit to this journey together or to steer our energies elsewhere.

Of course, one can simply stand back to wait and see what happens, but here at this threshold we are offered an extraordinary opportunity to invest our individual hopes and dreams for this congregation into the congregation itself.

*It is your dream for this congregation, and the gathering of and pursuit of our dreams together for this congregation, that will lead us forward into a world that longs for hope and kindness and justice.*

Now is a vital time to bring your vision to the journey. There is no need to wait to see if you'll happen to like what someone else does or doesn't do. This is your congregation. It is your dream

for this congregation, and the gathering of and pursuit of our dreams together for this congregation, that will lead us forward into a world that longs for hope and kindness and justice.

I've begun thinking about writing an "I have a dream" speech—my dream for the upcoming journey of the congregation—but it is your dream that will make the difference, your dream and the dream that we hold together. What an extraordinary time! What is your dream?

Yours,

*- Kevin*

## MUSICAL NOTES

### *Musical Thank You's to—*

- Members of the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble, with amazing soloist Kevin Weber and extraordinary accompanist, Gary Deavel for such an energizing offering of "Cherish Your Doubt" on March 6.
- Ali Gribi, for her very beautiful playing of the Chopin prelude on March 13.
- Members of the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble once more, this time with Joel Heady's moving solos, Judy Weaver's wonderful violin playing, and Gary's always sensitive accompaniment. Both

"Who Will Give Me Wings" and "You Raise Me Up" moved many to tears on March 20.

- Gail Heath for her beautiful and sensitive singing of "Now The Green Blade Riseth" in our Easter services on March 27.

### UU Orchestra - May 1

Our UU (Impromptu) Orchestra will play at our May 1 service. Musicians all, please plan to join us that morning for a 9:00 rehearsal and one 10:00 service. The gathering of our various musical voices is a wonderful symbol of the congregation as a whole.

If there is enough interest, we will hold a special pre-rehearsal rehearsal one week earlier, on Sunday, April 24 at 12:30. The music is available any time.

Contact Kevin at the office: 947-3117, at home: 922-8146, or via e-mail: ktarsa@aol.com

### All-Music Service - MAY 22

Our annual All-Music service arrives on Sunday, May 22. Musicians, please consider making music. We are encouraging groups of musicians to prepare music together, so that many people may participate. In fact, our 'theme' for the service is focused on making "music" with others.

*(Continued from page 8)*

4	Wed	have shaped it: Olympia Brown, 7-8 PM.	9	Mon	Watercolor class, 5 <sup>th</sup> of 6, MaryAnn Force, 6 - 8 p.m.
5	Thurs	Coming of Age, Shari Jonsson, 7-9 PM.	9	Mon	Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup, 7:30 – 9 PM
5	Thurs	Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM	10	Tues	Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM
5	Thurs	Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7 PM	10	Tues	Board Meeting, Bob Walton, 7 – 9 PM
8	Sun	<b>"The Two Sides of Love," Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.</b>	11	Wed	Supper at Six, all welcome, \$4 contribution, Ann Dressel, 6 PM. Program (the grand finale of the season): Music program: Richard Curtis/Grand Traverse Winds, 7 PM
9	Mon	Men's Group, South City Limits, Bob Hicks, 6:00 p.m.	11	Wed	Coming of Age, RE Cmte/Shari Jonsson 7-9 PM

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### A Page and a Half

Some of you have seen my scheduling grid that lays out all of the classes, events, teachers and volunteers for the Religious Education program week by week. At the beginning of the year in September there are six full pages loaded with things to do for the year.

Now, while there is only a page and a half left, there is a lot going on before we switch over to our more laid-back summer RE program.

**Preschool.** Several fun literature-based lessons are lined up. On April 24 the children will try to solve the dilemma of whether or not to step on an obnoxious ant. That's not an easy question to answer for even the seniors among us!

**1 – 3 Grade.** These lucky guys have a party every week as they celebrate holidays from around the world. If the weather is good they will try to fly kites to celebrate Japanese Children's Day on May 15.

**4 – 6 Grade.** More world stories are being studied and re-written by this group for their own "Good Book." Assembly of "The Good Book" begins on May 1.

**7 – 8 Grade.** This group's Sunday field trips are about over but many interesting lessons remain covering Hinduism, Buddhism, Earth-based religions, Fundamentalism and Cults.

**Youth Group.** A busy time of the year for this group, plans are underway for a Spaghetti Dinner and Coffeehouse, a field trip to Chicago and a Bridging service. (See the next article about the Spaghetti Dinner and Coffeehouse.)

**Coming of Age.** An information meeting about the Coming of age

program will take place on April 17 after the 11 AM service at the UUCGT. This program for 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> graders studies and celebrates their transition from childhood into young adulthood. Michael Jarvis is tentatively scheduled to lead this program, which begins the week of May 1 and culminates with a service on Sunday, June 5. All 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to this meeting. Bring calendars!

Also, if you would like to be considered as an adult mentor, please let Shari Jonsson know.

Contact Shari Jonsson (228-7649) for more information and with questions.

**Parent Chit Chats.** A nice way to meet other UUCGT parents is during Parent Chit Chats, which happen on Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM before the 11 AM service when there is Children's Chorus rehearsal. (There will be no Chit Chats when there is no Children's Choir rehearsal.) Visitors are very welcome. This group meets in the minister's office and childcare is provided in the Nursery.

**The Last Page.** As many of you have heard, I am looking at the last page on my scheduling grid. Sunday, June 12 will be my last day of Director of Religious Education.

In December 2000 I was asked to act as the Interim DRE and fell in love with the job. Now, as I "turn the Page" I realize it will be someone else's turn to "fill in the grid." I have had an amazing ride. I couldn't be more grateful to all of the children and volunteers who have made this program so rich and wonderful. There were and are many. Thank you, all of you.

**March RE Volunteers.** These people give up their Sunday services to help teach our children They keep the pages turning. Express your

gratitude if you see them: Abdulrahman Almsawel, Kerry Alspaugh, Lorraine Anderson, Katy Bean-Larson, Carrie Bourdages, Mary Cheney, Susan Cronander, Lisa DelBuono, Sue Hawkins, Mohammed Homdan, Scott Huggins, Jessica Jacobs, Jeff Jordon, Betsie Kortokrax, Trudy Lewis, Emma McCarthy-Stone, Hannah McCarthy-Stone, Nuna, Bill Perkins, Craig Richard, Jeff Sanborn, Kathy Tack, Gail Trill, Myrna Yeakle and the RE committee – Anna Bachman, Nancy Doughty, Gail Trill, Sue Hawkins, Lynne Perkins, Kathy Prentice, Kathy Tack and Marsha Walton.

—Shari Jonsson  
Director of Religious Education  
228-7649

**Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner and Coffee House**  
On Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Youth Group will be hosting their annual Spaghetti Dinner & Coffee House.

Tickets will be on sale in the fellowship area on Sundays. The Youth Group is raising money for their trip to Chicago in May. While in Chicago, the Youth Group will spend time with the Unity Congregation Youth Group and engage in educational and fun activities.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Coffee House features a main course, fresh bread, green salad, dessert, and beverage. The dinner begins at 6:00 PM.

The Coffee House follows the dinner at 7:30. Entertainment at the Coffee House will be in an Open Mic style. The Youth will be offering individual performances and invite others to participate.

For more information or to reserve and Open Mic spot, call Craig Richard at 922-1967.

## Bold New Look to This Year's Canvass

Choice. Convenience. These two features highlight the bold new look to this year's canvass to match UUCGT's bold future.

### Vision Sunday

On May 1, a very special "Vision Sunday" service will be presented at 10 am. After the service, members of the congregation will be offered the opportunity to fill out their pledge cards before leaving the building. Special booths will be set up in the social hall to provide privacy for those who are pledging. A social gathering celebrating our shared vision will take place at the same time.

May 1 will also mark our annual spring/summer schedule change to just one Sunday service at 10 am each week.

The pledging booths will also be available after the Sunday services on May 8 and May 15 for the convenience of members who wish to make their pledges on those dates.

After May 15, members who have not yet filled out a pledge card will be contacted by a canvasser in the usual manner.

"We are excited about this new canvass method," says Penny Ort, Canvass spokesperson. "People will have the chance to fill out their pledge cards at a time of their own choosing. And we will still be doing one-on-one canvassing for those who prefer that method. We feel this is entirely in keeping with our UU commitment to respect people by offering them choices—and we think it could be fun, too!"

### About The Budget

"This year's canvass is special in other ways as well," Ort continued. "We are on the brink of a bold future—a future in which we will experience growth in many directions. We have just voted to expand our building. We will soon be calling a new minister to lead us in our commitment to the power of compassion and compassionate power. We want to grow in membership numbers, in programs offered, in our voice in the community, in our ability to work for peace and justice. All of which makes it particularly important that we meet or exceed our goal of increasing the

budget by 9% or more," Ort adds. "We really need *everybody's* participation, pledge, and commitment to our shared vision for the future."

Ort pointed out the particularly critical importance of having a successful canvass this year because both the plans for expanding the building and getting a new minister are largely dependent on expanded revenues. "Paying the 'mortgage' on the new building will cost almost \$12,000 more next year than it is costing now. And getting the new minister here will cost at least \$8000 in transition costs that are something we don't have to do each year but will have to do next year to get a new minister here," she concluded.

### For more information

You'll find the complete details for the proposed 05-06 operating budget in the insert in this Beacon; and watch your mail in the weeks to come for more information about the new options in pledging; and mark your calendars NOW, you won't want to miss the "Vision Sunday" celebration on May 1.

*(Continued from page 3)*

not have done so well without Maryann Force and the tradition for the Wednesday night suppers. Thank you, Maryann. Also the foundation for soliciting food and planning, we immensely thank Sally Mitchell and Ann Dressel. Sally made a delicious lamb dish and many others brought food. We must thank our guests, Manny and Joanne Butt for a Pakistan/Iranian dish, Joanne Al-Shamma for two delicious dishes. Peggy

Vaughn-Foerster brought mousakkah and an Arabic chicken dish, Penny Ort, Mercedes Kimling, and LE Smith made hummus. LE also made two other dishes. Nancy Doherty also brought some hummus. Janet Reed made a salad. Roy Malarik brought baklava as did the Butts. Maryann brought a date and nut mixture. If I have left someone out or spoken in error, please forgive me. We had over 55 people attending, about 25 not previously connected with

UU. Thank you to all who helped!

On Friday, March 18, Richard Curtis showed the video "The Corporation" for us. We had a lively discussion afterwards! The next video will be Friday, May 13, at 7 PM. "Surplus" is about how we are terrorized into consumerism. Please put it on your calendar and plan to come. See you then and hopefully many times before then. Thank you!

—Emmy Lou Cholak, 943-7999

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Perspectives on Disability

At the close of 2004, the Heartland District received a grant award from the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program to conduct training around a new curriculum, "Perspectives on Disability." This

is an eight-unit piece designed to educate our congregants around issues of disability culture, history, sexuality, and access issues. It is being led by Rev. Lauren J. Thomas, UU Church of Greater Lansing, Congregational & Religious Education Consultant With Disability/Accessibility Portfolio. The Heartland District is

asking for assistance in identifying six individuals from congregations throughout the district who have experience with service to or advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities to be trained in this new adult education curriculum. Rev. Thomas will then train these six people during a weekend this late winter/early spring, and each

of the six will then train three more people to use the curriculum in congregations.

Anyone interested in this project, or if you have someone to suggest, please phone Laurie at (517) 699-8505, or contact her by email at [laurie@match.org](mailto:laurie@match.org). Timely attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Grand Traverse  
6726 Center Road  
Traverse City MI 49686-1802

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN  
PERMIT NO. 320

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Volume 42, Issue 4  
April, 2005

## the BEACON Calendar

Green time again—and tax time. Green to the UUCGT is a fine tax deduction.

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

### APRIL

- |    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|
| 1  | Fri   | April Fools Planning Party (AF Cmte; M. Van Valin) 5-6:30 PM   |
| 3  | Sun   | <b>UUA Social Action Issues, Misty Sheehan and Dick Raabe, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b>   |
| 3  | Sun   | RE Coming of Age, information Meeting, Shari Jonsson, 12:30 – 2 PM   |
| 4  | Mon   | The Art Group, Bill & Bonnie Mathias, Dick Raabe, 6–8 PM   |
| 4  | Mon   | Administrative Council, Fred Schaafsma 7-9 PM  |
| 5  | Tues  | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 5  | Tues  | 5-year planning, Penny Ort, 7 – 9 PM   |
| 6  | Wed   | Supper at Six, all welcome, \$4 contribution, Ann Dressel, 6 PM. Program: Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster: Our Tradition: Those who have shaped it: Olympia Brown. 7-8 PM |
| 7  | Thurs | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 7  | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7 PM  |
| 10 | Sun   | <b>“Dharma Rain: Buddhist Environmentalism,” Misty Sheehan,, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b>   |
| 10 | Sun   | Parent Chit Chats, RE Cmte/Shari Jonsson, minister's office, 10:00 – 11:15 AM  |
| 11 | Mon   | Men's Group, South City Limits, Bob Hicks, 6:00 p.m.   |
| 11 | Mon   | Watercolor class, 1 <sup>st</sup> of 6, MaryAnn Force, 6 - 8 p.m.  |
| 11 | Mon   | Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup, 7:30 – 9 PM   |
| 12 | Tues  | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 12 | Tues  | Board Meeting, Bob Walton, 7 – 9 PM  |
| 13 | Wed   | Supper at Six, all welcome, \$4 contribution, Ann Dressel, 6 PM. Program: Song of the Morning/Buddhist Monk (O'Neil 929-2791). 7-9 PM                              |
| 14 | Thurs | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 14 | Thurs | Crones and Scones, Marge Rundell - 946-7237, 9 - 10 AM, Flap Jack Shack  |
| 14 | Thurs | April Fool's Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7 PM   |
| 15 | Fri   | April Fool's Concert Rehearsal – All Day   |
| 16 | Sat   | April Fool's Concert, matinee 3 PM; evening show 7 PM.   |

- |    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|
| 17 | Sun   | <b>“Don't Harm,” Rabbi Chava Bahle, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b>  |
| 17 | Sun   | Parent Chit Chats, RE Cmte/Shari Jonsson, minister's office, 10:00 – 11:15 AM  |
| 17 | Sun   | “Coming of Age” information meeting, Shari Jonsson, 12:30 – 2 PM   |
| 18 | Mon   | The Art Group, Bill & Bonnie Mathias, Dick Raabe, 6–8 PM   |
| 18 | Mon   | Watercolor class, 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 6, MaryAnn Force, 6 - 8 p.m.  |
| 18 | Mon   | SOS (Secular Organization for Sobriety), Jeff, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, Pastoral Care Group; 7-8:30 PM                              |
| 19 | Tues  | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 20 | Wed   | Nominating Committee, Barb Berry, 10:15 - noon   |
| 20 | Wed   | UU Quilting, Kathy Prentice, 1 - 4 PM  |
| 20 | Wed   | Supper at Six, all welcome, \$4 contribution, Ann Dressel, 6 PM. Program: LE & HG Smith: Slides of Australia and New Zealand. 7-9 PM |
| 21 | Thurs | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 21 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7 PM  |
| 22 | Fri   | Youth Group Coffeehouse, 6-9 PM  |
| 24 | Sun   | <b>Visit and sermon by a candidate for UUCGT settled minister, Rev. Keith Kron, UUA, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b>                       |
| 24 | Sun   | Parent Chit Chats, RE Cmte/Shari Jonsson, minister's office, 10:00 – 11:15 AM  |
| 25 | Mon   | Watercolor class, 3 <sup>rd</sup> of 6, MaryAnn Force, 6 - 8 p.m.  |
| 26 | Tues  | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 26 | Tues  | RE Committee, Kathy Prentice, Shari Jonsson, 5 – 7:30 PM   |
| 27 | Wed   | Supper at Six, all welcome, \$4 contribution, Ann Dressel, 6 PM. Program: Quantum and Lotus discussion. 7-9 PM                       |
| 28 | Thurs | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 28 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7 PM  |

### MAY

- |   |      |  |
|---|------|--|
| 1 | Sun  | <b>Vision Sunday, “The Vision and the Act,” Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.</b>                     |
| 2 | Mon  | Watercolor class, 4 <sup>th</sup> of 6, MaryAnn Force, 6 - 8 p.m.  |
| 3 | Tues | Yoga, Mary Van Valin, 9 – 10 AM  |
| 4 | Wed  | Supper at Six, all welcome, \$4 contribution, Ann Dressel, 6 PM. Program: Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster: Our Tradition: Those who |

(Continued on page 5)