



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse
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Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

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the BEACON

BEACON Deadlines: Last Sunday
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by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

Sunday, January 1 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 AM

"Turning Points"

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster; String music by Judy Weaver, Jean Saalfeld, Chris Williams and more.

The end of one year and the beginning of another is the natural time for review, appraisal, and recommitment. There will be a "burning bowl" in which you may send up in smoke that of this past year you would leave behind.

Sunday, January 8 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Stay Awake for the Revolution"

Tom Shea; Music by Mary Anne Rivers

Tom Shea, a mediator with the Community Reconciliation Service since 1990, has also been active with a number of local Peace and Justice activities for nearly thirty years. He will talk about the search for spirit in social and justice action.

Sunday, January 15 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM; Soup Lunch & Workshop to follow

"Beyond Categorical Thinking"

Jacqui Williams and Annette Marquis; Accompanist, R. Gary Deavel

Anticipating the arrival of a new settled minister, many of our members are wondering and worrying about the new minister, which can lead us to imagine an "ideal minister," categorized by age, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, etc. This UUA-recommended service and workshop are designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in our search process. UUA facilitators Jacqui Williams and Annette Marquis will lead both services, followed by a soup lunch and a three-hour workshop, which will consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns we have about a new minister; present more information about the search process; and explore how categorical thinking can interfere with choosing the best candidate

Sunday, January 22 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"A Minister on Ministry"

Rev. D. Vaughn-Foerster; Accompanist, Gail Heath

What does a UU minister do? After forty years of being asked this question, and after giving a variety of replies when asked, this is, perhaps, a more informed answer than I have sometimes given in the past. In light of the ministerial search underway this service will aim to highlight this question as it pertains to UUCGT.

Sunday, January 29 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Fresh Fuel for Freedom and Justice"

UU Youth Group; Music Accompanist, R. Gary Deavel

Our High School Youth Group will offer their notions of Freedom from their unique perspectives. They will deliver their message through the use of the written word, singing, dance, performance art, and general revelry. They will also take a serious look at local and global issues of Justice, and the lack thereof. Be prepared to be uplifted, surprised, and challenged.

Sunday, February 5 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

9:30 service: "Freedom's Imperatives"

Rev. D. Vaughn-Foerster

Some thoughts on what it takes for religious freedom to work effectively.

11:00 service: All Generational Service

Kathy Tack, Mary Ann Rivers and Mary Van Valin.

This All Generational Service is a culmination of our third theme, Fueling Freedom and Justice. Story, song, and dance will be included. We'll look back at the civil rights movement and forward to the justice issues of today and tomorrow. Come, armed only with your compassionate power to make this world a place of justice and freedom for all!

Sunday, February 12 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"The Transformative Power of True Tolerance"

Maura Brennan

As religious liberals we consider ourselves to be tolerant of others, regardless of their beliefs and lifestyles. We also profess to engage in a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." But, are we *really* free of judgments of others' lifestyles and beliefs? Are we *really* capable of opening our minds and considering the most contrary opinions of our neighbors? As religious intolerance continues to wreak death and destruction around the world, it is important that we explore the roots of intolerance, and strive toward true tolerance and the inner peace it can bring.

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN

The year 2006 C.E. is here. The last page of the calendar for year 2005 C.E. is now in the wastebasket - for whatever that means. Calendars, after all, are arbitrary constructs human beings have devised to give them a sense of managing time which will not stop doing what it is doing no matter what. But calendars do help us think we are in charge of things.

Yes, the last page of 2006's calendar has been disposed of, but the issues of that year, and many years preceding, are still with us. The most pressing for UUCGT is to be ready to work with a new settled minister when one is chosen later this spring. As the Interim Minister who is here to facilitate that readiness, I am quite aware of how quickly will pass the days and months remaining before the climax to the Search Committee's search is reached, their work is done, the UU Congregation of Grand Traverse has voted on their recommendation, and a new minister is chosen.

In the short time remaining, there is much to be done. Under these situations, anywhere I have been (and most places I have heard of), at this stage, there is always a lot to be done. Usual issues on the agenda are: how to reorder finance and budgets, what kinds of program changes should be considered, new ways to approach the care and feeding of volunteers and the integration of new members, whether the congregation's actual priorities synchronize

with its mission, and other seemingly less important matters which, ultimately, may not be less important at all.

None of this is unusual for a congregation in transition. Nor is it unusual for any growing congregation. This is especially true for a congregation transforming itself from a pastoral mode into a program mode, i.e. becoming large enough that informal practices have to be replaced by more formal ones. Especially does it seem true to me for UUCGT. Perhaps the hardest change to which to accommodate is the reality that the past is really past, that old ways of getting things done will no longer work under new circumstances with new members who do not know the old ways.

What's at stake with this change is whether the project is to be truly religious—i.e., to act with social responsibility, ethical sensitivity, intellectual soundness, and spiritual inclusiveness. The alternative is merely to use religion as a means of feeling good—a trap into which congregation after congregation insensibly falls. But, my experience with UUCGT is that, although some of this latter element shows itself, there is a strong desire in this congregation to be both effective and true to its liberal religious responsibilities. I have confidence that the coming months will demonstrate this to be true.

— Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

ALL ABOUT US

Our awareness of our friends and relatives who are either grieving, who are ill or are having surgery is heightened during the holidays. We can only hope for better times and want you to know that friends in the UU Congregation are ready to help in almost any way possible when we can and when we know of your needs.

Jim and Ruth Gamble. We are grateful for Craig Richard who is able to help with the schedule that Jim and Ruth have to follow. This gives Jim's brother, Joe and his wife Mary some relief and quality time at their own home with some family.

To all of you who have taken time to see that Jim and Ruth are able to attend UU Services, we thank you. Call Bonnie Mathias if you can do that from time to time.

Ellen Weber. Ellen is recovering from back surgery and is staying at her sister's home. Name: Verdoorn, 19421 Whispering Trail. Phone: 223-7767. I know she would like to hear from you. We hope for a good recovery, Ellen!

Brad Norris. Brad is in Cleveland and has had surgery for removal of his cancerous kidney. Elizabeth is staying at Brad's daughter's home. You may write Brad and Elizabeth at: Ms. Betsie Norris, 18530 Lomond Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122. After his hospital stay he will be at Betsie's home until he is able to return to his home at Torch Lake. I am told his spirits remain high and he is in recovery, which may take some 10 days from the Dec. 14th surgery date. Our very best to you Brad (and to you Elizabeth) and for a speedy recovery.

Our thoughts are with:

- ❖ Bill and Mary Cheney & parents
- ❖ Beecy Fraser
- ❖ Sue Hawkins & daughter
- ❖ Linda Hebert
- ❖ Peg & Paul Kauffman's daughter - Ann
- ❖ Joan and Ralph Laird
- ❖ Richard Myer

Medical Resource: Are you or a family member seeking more information about a medical condition? The Munson Community Health Center's library may be the answer for you. This fine resource

is located just inside the south entrance, where a knowledgeable staff is ready to help you. Monday and Thursday, 9-12 and 1-5; Fri.day 9-12.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

End of Life Care

The Pastoral Care Advisory Team has spent much of the holidays in conversations with family and friends about the Five Wishes program for end of life care. It has been an amazingly open, loving and intimate experience that has relieved a lot of previously unknown anxieties and provoked some ongoing discussions. We will soon begin to extend those conversations to other members of the congregation.

—John Schneider

Welcome New Members!

Four new members joined UUCGT in December: Maja Bombaugh and Doug LaForest, Mary Kiner and Calvin Boulter. Please look for their new blue Member nametags, welcome them and get to know them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After hearing and then reading the Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster's sermon of December 4 about transition, I woke up at 4:30 a.m. the next morning thinking about my dreams for our congregation. What is it that I want for my beloved church? How does it look when I'm daydreaming and can this dream become a reality?

First I dream we will have a settled minister who has great energy. One who can counsel me when I'm in pain and be joyful with me when life is good. One who sees our congregation's children as the next generation of Unitarian Universalists and takes an active role in their religious education. A minister who inspires me to put my money where my mouth is and become a person who actively lives the Principles; a minister who will speak out when he or she feels that our national, state, or local leaders are taking us in the wrong direction. One who will not only speak from the pulpit but one who will lead us into the community and help us be heard.

I dream of a congregation with a full-time Lifespan Religious Education Director who will develop not only a religious education curriculum for our children, but who will give to us an adult religious education program that will bring adults of every age seeking to know more about our liberal religious community.

I dream of a church building large enough to accommodate the varied programs it offers. A church with a sanctuary that is both inspiring and at the same time a place of contemplation; a church building with its lights on every day and every evening, filled with people learning, working, and playing. In my daydreams I see adequate office space for our staff. An office where there is privacy for staff when needed and enough personal

space for our staff to relieve frustration because there is little elbow room.

I dream of a congregation that works for peace and social justice, not only by sending money to the UUSC, but a congregation that gets involved in local issues of importance to a liberal community.

The message is the most important part of Sunday services, but music aids in making the service a spiritual experience. For me, the music, at times, can be almost meditative in its quality and at other times I want the music and singing to shake the rafters and make me want to shout Halleluiah. In my daydreams a grouchy neighbor calls the police because there is a joyful noise coming from the building. I dream of music that reflects the tastes of every generation.

I dream of a congregation that is fiscally sound, where every member financially supports the church according to his or her means; a congregation where every member sees UUCGT as so important that it is the primary charity to which contributions are made. I dream of a congregation where every member wants to make sacrifices, either monetarily or in kind, so that it is a major force for liberal ideals in the Grand Traverse area.

I dream of a congregation where everyone, member or friend, volunteers his or her time and talents to this religious community, whether it is to occasionally bake cookies for a reception, help with landscaping, teach a RE class, chair a committee, or run for office.

These are some of my dreams for UUCGT. What are your dreams?

- Penny Ort

MINDING THE STORE

Greeter Corps

We send thanks to all the special people who have been Greeters/Ushers for our Sunday Services in 2005. The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to continue as a Greeter or become a Greeter. It's a great way to get to know our UU congregants. If you are interested in greeting for either the 9:30 or 11 AM service, please get in touch with Karen Culp at 947-9416. We welcome new people and ask only that you take one Sunday, at a time that is convenient for you.

Membership Committee

Plans Dinners

To make it easier to get to know our newest members, the Membership Committee seeks current members and friends who would enjoy serving as hosts or guests for small dinners (or dessert, or pizza parties...) for new UUs as they join our Congregation. If this idea appeals to you, please call Judy Halsted at 223-7277. We will keep you in mind and let you know when we have new members you might like to meet.

Directory Updates

Please enter the following changes in your new 2005-06 Directory. If you

have changes, please email (or call) the office - uucgt@charterinternet.com
New Address/phone: Barb Bloomer and Kay Wentzel, PO Box 335, Grawn, MI 49637; 231-276-7655 | email: bbloomer@peoplepc.com
Add email for Jill Chao: chaofamily@chartermi.net
New email for Mary Grover: mmgrover@sbcglobal.net
Contact information for: George Tramp:
Wntr Addr: 4638 McCain Rd, Jackson, MI 49201 | Summer Addr: 11694 Arcadia St NE, Kalkaska, MI 49646 | Email: gtramp4638@sbcglobal.net

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ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Classic Film Series

The 7th Annual Classic Film Series opens with a double feature in the sanctuary and pizza party in the social hall on Saturday January 7. The 1991 English film *Howard's End* will be presented by Gene and Marge Rundell at 4:00 PM; the pizza party will take place at approximately 6:30 PM; and the 2000 Iranian film *The Day I Became a Woman* will be presented by Mark and Solveig Gustafson at 7:30. Note that the rest of the Film Series will be presented on Friday evenings with a start time of 7:00 PM. On January 13, H.G. and L.E. Smith will present the 2004 English film *Yes*; on January 20, *Mostly Martha*, a 2001 Austrian/German/Italian/Swiss film will be presented by John and Pinkie Hoffman; and the last film of the series, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, a 1991 US film, will be presented by Joan Sheard and Myrna Yeakle.

The theme for this year's series is "stories about women." If you have questions, please call Mark Gustafson at 929-9608. If you haven't attended the Classic Film Series before, you have been missing a real treat!

Snowshoe the Old Mission Labyrinth!!

The Old Mission labyrinth is available for anyone who wishes to snowshoe. Contact John Schneider for details. 223-9299.

Green Sanctuary

2006 marks the beginning of our congregation seeking GREEN SANCTUARY certification from the UUA. There will be a steady stream of information heading your way in the coming months. However, your first assignment is to visit www.miipl.org and learn more about the benefits we all now enjoy as members of this great organization. Interested in helping on the GS Committee??? Contact Tom Karas. Stay tuned ...

Quilting Group

Our congregational quilting group will meet on Wednesday, January 25 from 1 - 4 in the social hall. Materials supplied. No experience necessary. We are making quilts for UU fundraisers. The sampler hanging in the sanctuary is currently for sale as part of the art auction.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner and conversation on Monday January 9, 6:00 PM at the South City Limits restaurant. If discussion materials are available, copies will be in the Men's Group folder in the office.

UU Dining Out

We will be having our eat-out at Peninsula Grill on Old Mission Peninsula on Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30. Before dinner, we will be gathering at 5:00 for wine and cheese at Lynn Raabe's home, 8977 Sunset West (Center Road and Wilson Road--in Horizon Hills). Come join us!! For questions, directions and/or reservations call Pinkie Hoffmann (275-3602) or Lynn Raabe (995-5299) Please make your reservations by Monday, January 16th.

UU Bed and Breakfasts

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

Check out our website at www.UUreHome.com, where entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added and you can charge a membership to your credit card. The 2006 edition of the annual paper directory will be available in April and can be ordered by sending a

check for \$18 (or \$23, along with your e-mail address, for both the directory and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Alaskan UU eco-cultural programs

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite other UUs to our eco-cultural programs in June, July and August 2006. See the *REAL* Alaska! Alaskan UU's provide B & B accommodations in their homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka, lead tours and hikes and host parties. Visit with Tlingit, Inupiat and other Native Alaskans. See whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, puffins, eagles and other birds in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south, and visit Denali and other national parks. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Visit website www.wuurld.org, e-mail dick@wuurld.org, or phone toll-free 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure. Taking reservations now.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse



Mission Statement

We are a Congregation creating a better world by nurturing the heart and expanding the mind.

We provide a safe, caring community where all can freely explore diverse religious thought. We work for justice and equality with the power of compassion and compassionate power.

From your Minister of Music

Winter is always an introspective season for me and this year I will seek to enter that introspection as fully as possible. I will be taking four weeks off during the month of January—spending time with Paul, spending time in quiet reflection, spending time with family and spending time in remote solitude.

In the cycle of my life rhythms, it is time to be still long enough to hear the quieter voice that moves within me.

I am blessed to have the luxury of this time—blessed by your support, blessed by the generosity of staff, blessed by the heart and talent of our musicians, blessed by a generous spouse.

Though I am nurtured by quiet solitude in winter, I know that these coming months can be the most difficult of the year for some - the light does not return quickly enough to replenish what has been lost.

May you find the sources of light that sustain you. May you be a source of light for others. And may the dark quiet hours of this season invite you, gently, to listen to the small but persistent voice that stirs in your heart.

Yours,

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

MUSICAL NOTES



Music Thank You's...

♪ To R. Gary Deavel for his exciting piano duet arrangement and playing of the J. S. Bach piece on December 4. What a joy for the listeners as well as his piano partner!

♪ To the musicians and sound artists who added such wonderful aural color to the all-generation service and the telling of 'The Quiltmaker's Gift' on December 11: John Bachman, Don Lessard, Jeremy Treadwell, Paul and Paula Ward.

Plus! thank you to director Marilyn Tilley and the members of the UUCGT Children's Chorus for their wonderful singing at the 11:00 service.

♪ To the generous and gifted musicians who offered the All-Music service on December 18: Kim Gribi, Nan Worthington, Mercedes Kimling, Gary Deavel, Richard Curtis, Neal Endicott, Doug Endicott and Don Vaughn-Foerster, at 9:30; and the Children's Chorus, Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Weber, Acacia Willis, Bob Hicks and Shelley Burnes, The Sylvan Winds Recorder Ensemble - Jocelyn Trepte, Richard Curtis, Mary Lee Orr and Katy Bean-Larson - Jamie Treadwell, Jeremy Treadwell, Don Vaughn-Foerster, Jon Mead, Neal

Endicott, Doug Endicott, Paul Heaton, Gail Heath, and Gary Deavel at 11:00

♪ To Don and Rebecca Lessard, Kevin Brokaw, Judith Lindenau, Paula Ward, Marc and Dede Alderman and Karen McCarthy for offering both beautiful and energizing music at our Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21, and to Marc and Dede of Rhythmic Adventures for leading our drum circle!

♪ Special thanks to those who sponsored the drum circle through donations - Joe and Leslie Cook, Nancy Peterson and Patrick Meuller, Paul and Paula Ward, Judith and Ken Weaver and several anonymous contributors. We could still use a few more sponsors. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to UUCGT and write "Drum Circle" in the memo line.

♪ To Lily Prentice, Alan Tilley, Loraine Anderson, Helen Wells, Gretchen Kronk, Solveig Gustafson, Carol Still, Jane Watts, Bill Wells, and Richard Miller for gracing us with their beautiful music on Christmas Eve.

♪ To Jeremy Treadwell for sharing his love of music and his trumpet playing with us on Christmas Day.

Our UU Children's Chorus will shift gears during January. Director Marilyn Tilley will be off in January and resume conducting in February, but Sheryl Willis is organizing some January singing for the chorus. Contact Sheryl for more info: 398-7930.

Christmas Caroling

A grateful Thank You to Mary Anne Rivers and Nancy Landfair for organizing our Christmas Caroling excursion on December 18. Two groups of singers visited four homes and delivered platefuls of cookies made by Melinda Treadwell.



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: 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

Let us start the year off right by being active in helping others and doing the right things, as President Truman would say.

In Nov., we had the very successful Israel/Palestine Forum. It was video taped for showing on TCTV2. You will have the opportunity to watch it on Tues. **Jan. 3** at 7:30 PM; Fri. **Jan. 6** at 9 PM; and Mon. **Jan. 23** at 7 PM; Sat. **Jan. 28** at 7 PM. We hope that you will watch and learn.

The **homeless** are being housed in various churches throughout the winter. Members of the host churches provide a hot

supper and a breakfast as well as a warm place to sleep. Many of the churches are smaller and could use our help. Do we have enough volunteers to help with a supper and a breakfast? I am also asking other small congregations to help. It is a way to meet people, have some fun, and be of service to deserving recipients. Please let me know if I can depend on you to help. We will set a time in January to provide the meals—depending on the dates available for you, our volunteers. Thank you from the homeless!

The **armchair activists** will enjoy their first event

of recognition with a soup luncheon following the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, Jan. 29. Besides delicious hot soup, we will hear from various members of our congregation about how



they do “armchair activity,” i.e., the websites and telephone numbers they use to try and

influence things in this world for the better. We will also hear from several organizations that receive the email and listen to the telephone calls as well as from Senator Carl Levin’s office. Please come and honor that part of all of us that tries through email and

telephone calls, petition signing and donations to get things done the way we feel is best.

Our first showing this year of a **socially relevant video** will be coinciding with the Wednesday supper, Jan. 25. Call for reservation and then come for supper at 6 PM and stay for the video at 7 PM. We may be viewing Weapons of Mass Deception, or Bloodletting, about our Health care system, or Thirst, etc. We have a lot of excellent videos lined up for the rest of the year. Watch for our announcements.

Please let me know about helping with the Homeless. Hope to see you at our events. Thank you!

—Emmy Lou 943-7999

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Policies Approved

The following new policies were approved at the Board of Trustees’ meeting December 13, 2005:

Snow Removal and Building Closure Policy

Snow will be plowed by our contractor when there is 3” or more of accumulation on a 7 days per week basis. That includes clearing our sidewalk. In the event that blizzard conditions prevail, it is highly likely that plowing will be delayed.

It is the policy of UUCGT to cancel its services, programs and meetings on the days when severe weather occurs. While public announcement of the closure of Traverse Area Public Schools (TCAPS) and/or Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) due to weather conditions during school days may serve as an indicator, the

minister, the person or committee chair in charge of the service, program or meeting is responsible for the decision to proceed with the activity or not. That person is also responsible for communicating the cancellation decision to the Office Administrator and, if possible, communicate to the attendees as best as possible (phone calls, e-mail, note on the door). The Office Administrator will change the greeting/outgoing message, recorded remotely if necessary, on the UUCGT answering machine to reflect the cancellation decision. The local broadcast media are to be contacted for cancellation announcement for events that were publicly advertised and to which the public was invited.

Safety is to be the overriding criterion in the decision making process.

Use of the UUCGT Directory

The directory is a confidential

document for the exclusive use and convenience of UUCGT members and friends for congregation-related communication and business. Consequently, the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are not to be provided to others or used for other than UUCGT business. The use of the directory for communications or solicitations (mailings, e-mail distribution lists, forwarding of non-UUCGT material) is explicitly prohibited unless specifically authorized by a UUCGT Board member or the Office Administrator.

This policy is to be published in the front of future issues of the Directory. In addition, the policy will be published in the Beacon for the January, February and March 2006 issues. It is also to be included in any announcement indicating the availability of future issues of the Directory.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ah! A whole NEW year ahead! The new year certainly offers up possibility to us individually and as a congregation. From a dear, older folkdance friend, I learned the richness in writing one's memories of the year on New Years Day, and now with more than a decade of memorable recording, I can look back with a deeper understanding as I look forward into the newness of the year ahead. From Bob and Christie McGue, I learned to ponder and actually write down goals for the year ahead and share them with another so that intentions are supported along the way. I would invite you to try, as a family, or individually some ritual that gives you the opportunity to reflect back for the learning you might glean and to look ahead with very intentional focus. Welcome to all that 2006 offers!

Looking ahead, here are some inviting dates for your calendar:

Sunday, January 8th:
SLEDDING FUN! Have your warm gear and a sled ready for our hill. If the snowy weather doesn't cooperate, we'll stay inside and have a board game day!

WRC Toy Project

On a snowy December morning, 20 children from our RE program shopped and wrapped dolls, trucks, blocks, art supplies and a wonderful myriad of other playthings for the children spending the December holidays at the Women's Resource Center shelters. The Youth Group was on hand to assist with wrapping. And enough funds were raised to purchase gift cards for the teenagers. Thanks to all who helped make this project happen. Also to those who contributed mothers' gifts. The social worker at the shelter said how excited the children are to have something to wrap for their moms. You have truly helped to brighten the holidays.

Sunday, January 15th: Our new all congregational theme begins: FUELING FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

- Also on the 15th, we'll begin signing up for our special Valentine Pals event. This is a great opportunity for adults to get to know a child in our congregation. You'll be getting more information on Sunday mornings. Let Mary Van Valin know if you'd like to extend your love to a child.

Sunday, January 29th: ALL GENERATIONAL FILM EVENT! We'll see *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* in the mid-afternoon and come back to church for pizza and a discussion of the movie with none other than our own Mark Gustafson! Mark suggests parents see the movie with younger children, as there are scary parts. He will help us understand some interesting connections the movie makes with belief systems. All are invited. If you have questions, talk with Mark Gustafson. If you'd like to sign up to come, please let Mary Van Valin know.

Sunday, February 4th: Our next ALL GENERATIONAL SERVICE! Let Mary know if you'd like to lend your heart and hand to the planning!

There are so many people to thank! For help with the ALL GEN service on December 11th, thanks to Pinkie Hoffman, Scott Huggins, Nadine Elmgren, Gretchen Kronk, Katy-Bean Larson, Barb Bloomer, Paul Heaton, Melanie and Shawn Kreider, Karen McCarthy, our beloved quiltmaker, Bonnie Mathias and the wondrous and funny king, David Halperin, Anna and John Bachman, Maureen Voss, and Gary Singer.

For the work of loving hearts and hands in guiding our children and youth during the last theme, thanks to Solveig Gustafson and Emmy McCarthy Stone, Scott Huggins, Maureen Voss and Sheryl Willis, Lynne Perkins and Jill Chao, Gretchen Kronk and Barb Bloomer, and Craig Richard and Katy Bean-Larson.

A very, very heartfelt thank you to Kathy Prentice for her leadership during our Toy Project for the Women's Resource Center Shelters. When we delivered the gifts, the woman in charge couldn't hold back her tears of appreciation, because she is the one who sees the appreciation of the mothers choosing a gift for their child. Thank you to all of you who so generously gave to this project.

—Mary Van Valin

We Welcome Your Membership

Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members, who must 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.

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



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the BEACON

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Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

JANUARY

- 1 Sun **"Turning Points," Rev. Don Von-Foerster, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 a.m.**
- 2 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 3 Tues Program Council, Jeff Sanborn, Social Hall, 7-9 p.m.
- 4 Wed Supper at SIX!, potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel; program at 7:00: *Discussion with Don.*
- 5 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin, Sanctuary 9-10 a.m.
- 7 Sat Film Series #1, Double Feature, Mark Gustafson, Sanctuary, 4-10 p.m. Pizza provided at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Sun **"Stay Awake for the Revolution," Tom Shea, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 8 Sun Finance Meeting, Phyllis Jessup, 9-10 a.m.
- 9 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 10 Tues Membership Committee, office, 1-3 p.m.
- 10 Tues Board of Trustee, Penny Ort, 7-9 p.m.
- 11 Wed Supper at SIX! potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel; program at 7:00: *Discussion with Don.*
- 12 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin, Sanctuary 9-10 a.m.
- 13 Fri Film Series #2, Mark Gustafson, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- 14 Sat RE 7th & 8th Graders OWL retreats, 1-7:30 p.m.
- 15 Sun **"Beyond Categorical Thinking," Jacqui Williams and Annette Marquis, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 15 Sun Beyond Categorical Thinking—soup lunch and workshop, 12:30-4 p.m.
- 16 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 17 Tues Membership Committee, J&P Hoffman, 1:00 p.m.
- 17 Tues U-U Dining Out - Peninsula Grill, Old Mission, 6:30. Wine and cheese at Lynn Raabe's, 5:00, Pinkie Hoffman (275-3602) or Lynn Raabe (995-5299)

- 18 Wed Supper at Six! potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel; program at 7:00
- 19 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin, Sanctuary 9-10 a.m.
- 20 Fri Film Series #3, Mark Gustafson, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- 21 Sat RE 7th & 8th Graders OWL retreat/overnight, noon-8 AM
- 22 Sun **"A Minister on Ministry," Rev. Don Von-Foerster, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 23 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 24 Tues RE Committee, Kathy Prentice, 4:15-6:15 p.m.
- 24 Tues Sunday Services Committee, Misty Sheehan, 7-9 p.m.
- 25 Wed Quilting, Kathy Prentice, Social Hall, 1-4 p.m.
- 25 Wed Supper at Six! potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel; Program: film, EL Cholak 943-7999, 7-10 p.m.
- 26 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin, Sanctuary 9-10 a.m.
- 27 Fri Film Series #4, Mark Gustafson, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- 29 Sun **"Fresh Fuel for Freedom and Justice," UU Youth Group, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 29 Sun Social Justice Soup Luncheon, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Social Hall
- 29 Sun All Generational Film Event—*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, mid-afternoon followed by discussion at UUCGT. See details in the Children and Youth RE column inside.
- 30 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY
- 1 Wed Supper at Six! potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel; program at 7:00
- 2 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin, Sanctuary 9-10 a.m.
- 2 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.
- 5 Sun **9:30 AM: "Freedom's Imperatives," Rev. Don Von-Foerster**
11:00 AM: All Generational Service, Kathy Tack, Mary Ann Rivers and Mary Van Valin
- 6 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 6 Mon Admin. Council, F Schaafsma, 223-9446, 7-9 p.m.
- 9 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.