



Unitarian Universalist
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Vol. 43, Issue 9 — *the* BEACON — September, 2006

Summer service schedule, May 14 through September 10: ONE service only, at 10:00 a.m.
As of September 17, Sunday services are at 9:30 & 11 am; religious education classes, 11 am

www.uucgt.org

Sunday, September 3 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Earth Tones..."

Lauren Pelon and Gary Holthaus

Musician Lauren Pelon and writer Gary Holthaus of Red Wing, Minnesota alternate music and readings to present "Earth Tones: Perspectives on the Earth and How We Live with It—and with One Another." Pelon is noted for her fine soprano voice and her skill playing an amazing array of wind, string, percussion and electronic instruments. Holthaus is the author of four books of poems and "Wide Skies," a collection of essays.

Sunday, September 10 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Feast of the Resumption"

Rev. Chip Roush; UUCGT Orchestra

We'll reconstitute our congregation—singing our way into the new year, and commissioning our lay and professional leaders. The UUCGT Impromptu Orchestra will contribute joyful music. Come help us build the new year!

NOTE: This is the traditional "Resumption Sunday" we celebrate near the end of each summer. More than that, our new settled minister is conducting his first UUCGT service in that capacity. This should be a wonderful time to get together and celebrate the church year ahead of us and the arrival of our new spiritual leader. Please join us for this long-awaited day!

Sunday, September 17 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"To Boldly Go"

Rev. Chip Roush

The TV series "Star Trek" often talked about the "Neutral Zone." What are the benefits and challenges of living in a "neutral zone" and how do we get through it with as little pain as possible?

Sunday, September 24 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Prayer"

Rev. Chip Roush

What are we doing when we pray? To whom—if anyone—is prayer directed? Why prayer is even more relevant in the 21st century.

Sunday, October 1 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"We Begin Again In Love"

Rev. Chip Roush

As our Jewish friends celebrate Yom Kippur, we'll talk about forgiveness and new beginnings.

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

"The Only Thing That Ever Has"

Rev. Chip Roush; UUCGT Vocal Ensemble

We humans periodically re-discover the spiritual power of small groups—how "covenant groups" can save the world. The Vocal Ensemble will be singing for this service.

Sunday, October 15 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

What is a "Bioneer?"

Maura Brennan

What is a "Bioneer?"

Bioneers or "biological pioneers," seek to unite nature, culture and spirit in an Earth-honoring vision. They are scientists working with nature to heal nature. They are entrepreneurs creating economic models founded in social justice to heal human communities. They are activists standing up to corporate giants to create real change in the world. They are everyday people committed to preserving and supporting the future of life on Earth. Bioneers honor the interconnected web of existence and the natural principles of kinship, interdependence, cooperation, reciprocity, and community. On the threshold of this year's Great Lakes Bioneers Conference, held annually in Traverse City, Maura Brennan will share her personal journey of discovering this international movement and the enlightenment, empowerment, and hope it inspires.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past Sunday morning, Jim Cook inquired if I had anything for the *Beacon*, and for a moment, I was startled. Why is he asking me? Oh yes, now I remember, as of September 1, 2006, I will assume the mantle of president of the UUCGT. In the preparation of this message, my partner and I had a serious discussion about the differences that we have concerning the fundamental issue of belief in a "higher power." She absolutely and unequivocally "knows" that there is no higher power, and I, conversely, stand on the opposite shore. We respect each other's positions, but each finds the other's untenable. How do we thrive when "truths" are so disparate? I believe that this is a dichotomy that is present among many of the members of the UUCGT. It is an issue that is basic to the existence of the Unitarian Universalists as a religious (spiritual) community. Differences are a significant element of who we are as a congregation. That being established, we must also look at our commonalities. Both the differences and the commonalities are our strength.

As we embark on a new year, I am looking to you for support and input so that we may all move together

despite differences. We are grateful for the presence of Rev. Roush. His leadership will help us achieve stability that I believe we all desire. It is he who must address the efforts to serve all who come. And, it is I who will endeavor to lead the administrative engine to make the rest happen. The ensuing year will be one of change and growth. We must all be part of the effort pursuing our collective visions with honesty, compassion, and joy. A sure and certain path to success depends on each of us pursuing consensus... a win-win. My role is to listen carefully, to communicate effectively, and to lead wisely. Your role is to do the same. There will be high seas now and then as we respond to the winds of fortune. Trust of each other will be the life jacket that enables us to weather each storm.

In closing, it is important to acknowledge the inspiration and guidance that Penny Ort has provided in tutoring me for this new role. She has given far above and beyond what had been asked of her and we enter the new year stronger as a result.

—Joan Sheard

ALL ABOUT US

Memorial: We held a memorial service at the UUCGT on August 2nd for Charlene Abernethy's mother.

We were saddened by the death of Ralph Laird who passed away in his sleep after a good day out with his senior companion the day before.

Betty Cronander—who taught our RE program for two years—is suffering with lung cancer and is receiving treatments downstate while still living here in Traverse City. We wish her our best in this trying time.

Stephen Decker suffered a ruptured appendix and was hospitalized on August 9th.

Roy Malarik fell last week and later was hospitalized. We wish him well.

We Hold In Our Hearts: Patty Bauer, Barbara Brokaw, Ruth Gamble, Larry Good, Alice Hansen, Joan Laird and Elizabeth Norris in their great losses.

We Are Mindful Of: Beecy Fraser and Richard Myers

Help is Needed: We usually have at least four people who like to attend

services on Sunday but are unable to drive themselves. If you could drive and pickup someone now and then, would you please call Bonnie Mathias and let her know. Her number is: 935-3715. Thank you!

—Arline Howe

New email, new address

Bob Hicks and Shelley Burnes's email address has been changed to burneshicks@sbcglobal.net.

Gretchen Kronk's new address is 710 East Orchard Dr, Traverse City 49686; phone 935-1798.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

"Wetback" is a quietly commanding documentary video, following the footsteps of immigrants traveling from Nicaragua to America. On their journeys, they encounter gangs and vigilantes, as well as border patrol. These immigrants navigate real-life nightmares with uncanny calm, grace, even humor. Come see this documentary and join the discussion on the immigration issue, Friday

September 15 at 7:00 PM at UUCGT. Leading the discussion will be Gladys Muñoz, originally from Puerto Rico, and very much involved in the migrant community of the Traverse area.

The October video, "Seeing Red, the Moral Divide," is about the hidden agenda of some of the mega churches, concerts, media, etc. Please plan to come on Friday October 13, same time, same place. More information later.

Also in October, we will be showing the video "Iraq for Sale." The name implies the contents of this documentary. A must see before November. More about this later.

September 15 is the *United Way Day of Caring*. There are many projects and needs to be met. An excellent invitation has come to us to join with Ahavat Shalom and do some work for Sara's House of the Women's Resource Center. If you can help with this good deed please let me know and we shall work together. It was suggested that we all go out for dinner afterwards—a pleasant reward (or better—come to the video mentioned above!). Let me know.

—Emmy Lou Cholak 943-7999

The Minister Has Landed

25 August 2006

It feels very good to be in Traverse City, finally. Even though our house is full of boxes, and I would be hard-pressed to find many of our belongings, it already feels like home. I am glad to be here.

I moved a lot as a child, and I loved the adventure of it. Once I was in school, though, it was less fun, because it meant I had to leave friends behind, and work to create new friendships. When I got older, it was even less fun—because I was the one paying for the moving truck, and the one responsible for making all the arrangements.

On the other hand, while my moving is no longer as carefree as it once was, I have a great deal more

influence over the process. As a child in Mount Gilead, Ohio, I had little control over where and when and how we moved. As an adult, I get to make those choices, but I am responsible to make my choices work out.

Even better, as Becky and I each give up a little autonomy—as we share the decision-making—we gain a partner to help with all the details and the work.

I look forward to working with you, as we all learn to share the decisions and the work of moving into the future.

With Spirit,

—the Rev. Chip Roush

MINDING THE STORE

Budget information sessions

- Two information sessions about the proposed 2006-07 UUCGT budget will be held prior to a congregational vote on Sunday, September 17:
 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 (with a potluck dinner occurring at 6:00 PM for those who are interested).
 - Between services on Sunday, Sept. 17 (the day of the congregational vote, which occurs after the 11 AM service).
- Childcare will be provided. Treasurer Leslie Cook and BEST chair Paul Heaton will make brief presentations and be available to answer questions. We encourage participation in these meetings in order to provide answers to questions prior to the Congregational vote on September 17.

Canvass Report: (a bit late)

I wish to express my deep gratitude for the generous pledges from our members and friends for the upcoming year starting this September.

All in all, our pledges are up over last year. Over a hundred persons raised their pledges, another 70 or so stayed the same. In these hard times, I think we did very well. While our needs were

great, we did the best we could under the circumstances. On September 17th we will vote on next year's budget. I hope all members will be there to vote. The Board is listening and we hope we will have consensus so we can go forth with all our programs and hopes for the future of Unitarianism in this community.

I will soon be sending out letters to all the pledgers, reminding them of their commitments for this new year and thanking them for their support.

Call me if you have questions.
—Barbara Bloomer, 276-7655

UU Marketplace—Ready To Serve You.

The “UU Marketplace” (see the yellow insert in this issue) is a way to raise money for the church. Many of us have merchandise that we no longer need or perhaps are looking for items. This *Beacon* insert will publish these articles for you and the moneys (or part of it) will be donated to the church. We will write receipts for the moneys that come into the church this way.

This is our first edition of this fund raising idea. It is a bit rough as yet, but will become more supplicated as we move forward. If you wish to contribute, please call Marsha Bellinger (946-0610) or Barb Bloomer (276-7655).

Forms are also available in the church foyer. Deposit them in the Special Events mailbox in the office. Thank you!

—Barb Bloomer

Gone Missing

Our UU iron and ironing board escaped several months ago. Do you have an extra of these items that you can contribute to our church? Contact MaryAnn Force at 941-5024.

—M. Force, Aesthetics Chair

A Date to Remember

Saturday November 4, Sloppy Joe dinner followed by showing of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Mark Gustafson will lead a discussion following the film. \$5.00 donation accepted. This is a fundraiser for our congregation.

Help Start the New Ministry!

Here is a wonderful opportunity to get the new ministry off to a great start and express your dreams for our future ministry together.

Join members and friends of the Congregation for a family potluck supper, Friday evening, September 8 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. Bring a dish large enough for 8 people to share. Supper will be followed by storytelling about UUCGT's past and hopes for the future.

The Reverend Lisa Presley, Heartland Interim District Executive will facilitate the conversations. Parents who would like childcare for children or pre-schoolers, please RSVP to Gretchen Kronk by noon on September 8: dreuucgt@charterinternet.com or 935-1798.

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Wednesday Night Supper Programs Part 1

The Wednesday Nite Supper Group is gathering as follows: 5:30 social time; 6:00 dinner; 7:00 program

Sept. 13—Potluck—bring your own table service and a dish to share. Program will be Paul Heaton and Leslie Cook presenting the latest information about the proposed 2006-2007 UUCGT budget. This will be important background information for the congregational vote on September 17. Call Ann Dressel 223-9426 for reservations. We will also be signing up for food and help with cleanup for the Sept. 27th supper.

Sept. 27 - Food provided by signup from last gathering. Bring table service. Sally Mitchell will present a program of her paintings and musings entitled “As I grew Older the Universe Got Bigger.” Call Ann Dressel 223-9426 for reservations.

Oct. 4—First official Weds. Nite Supper. Potluck! Bring tableware and a dish to share. Program to be announced.
—Ann Dressel

Wednesday Night Supper Programs Part 2 Call for Entries!

Do you have something in which you are intensely interested which you would share with congenial comrades? Or is there a topic in which you are very interested which could be a subject of a program? **How?** For about twenty to thirty minutes or so followed by discussion. **What?** Poetry, essay - yours or someone else's, article you find of particular interest, art work, music to play or share in listening to, travel experience, hobby, outdoor activity, philosophical, theological, political, historical idea or topic to discuss and so forth. **Where?** At the UU following Wednesday night supper. **When?** Sometime this upcoming season. **Who?** Contact: Pinkie or John Hoffmann, Ann Dressel, Cal Boulter, Mary Kiner, Sally Mitchell.

—Sally Mitchell
faith, reason, tolerance

Water Color Painting Class . . .

. . . coming on September 30th. Six Monday night sessions meeting at our UU social hall from 6 – 8 PM. All levels are welcome. The fee is \$100. Call MaryAnn Force at 941-5024 to register.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner and conversation on Monday September 18, 6:00 PM at the South City Limits restaurant. Mark Gustafson and H.G. Smith will discuss the Toronto Film Festival. Join us!

Bob's Big Band Birthday Bash

Bob Hicks will celebrate his 60th birthday on Saturday November 4 (please note that this is a CHANGE from the original date of September 16). Please mark this date so that you can join Bob and 17 of his friends in a night of Big Band swing music celebrating Bob's 60 birthday, and the event will also be a fundraiser for the Traverse Symphony Orchestra. Stay tuned for more later or ask Bob the next time you see him.

the BEACON

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

Jim Cook, Editor, 941-4648
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Folding, labeling & mailing
by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

From your Minister of Music

Here, at the edge of summer, I pause, looking over at a few more piles from last year that have yet to be put away. I pause, reminding myself to take slow and deep breaths as I turn toward the planning that needs to be underway for the new church year. I pause, marveling at the beauty and the glory of summer here with a touch of lament that I did not dive more fully into more of it. I pause, glancing over with excitement and concern at the stack of twenty-some books that I must read before my master's classes begin in January. I pause, asking myself what is most important now, in this moment, in this place in my

life and in the congregation's life. I pause, in warm and enthusiastic anticipation of our new senior minister's ministry and the life he begins here with his spouse, Becky.

Here, at the edge of summer, I pause, that I may walk with greater fullness, attention and intention into the new season that beckons.

I invite you to take this moment to pause here, at the edge of summer.

Yours,

Rev. Kevin Tarsá

MUSICAL NOTES

UUCGT Orchestra
September 10: 9:00 rehearsal, 10:00 service

Please plan to join us! As always, it is very helpful for me to know whether you plan to play. Drop me a quick note or give a call. I can leave music for you at the church, send it in the mail, or e-mail you a .pdf file!

There is also a place for an orchestra in the Sept 17 services and for various ensembles on Oct 8.

UUCGT Vocal Ensemble

The new year for our primary adult choir begins on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00. Come sing with us!

UUCGT Children's Chorus & a Family Choir

As we begin making plans for this year's Children's Chorus, it will be helpful to know who is interested. Given the fullness of our Sunday mornings at the church, we are exploring the possibility of holding Chorus rehearsals early on a weekday evening—Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30, for example. Your feedback will be helpful.

We will also explore the possibilities

for an intergenerational Family Choir several times throughout the year. Again, your feedback and ideas are welcome.

Music Thank You's...



♪ To Rebecca Lessard for her amazing and energizing hammered dulcimer playing on July 30. Rebecca's enthusiasm is always infectious!

♪ To the members of the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble, Joel Heady, Shelley Burnes and Nancy Landfair, soloists, John Christensen, keyboard and

Gary Deavel, piano, for an inspiring offering of "Home" and to Nancy Landfair and Gary Deavel for a very beautiful and moving "If This is Not a Place" on August 13.

♪ To the Sylvann Winds, the recorder ensemble that includes UUCGT members Richard Curtis, Mary Lee Orr and Katy Bean-Larsen for beautiful music on August 20.

♪ To young violinist Alan Tilley, who thrilled us once again with his incredible playing on August 27, and to his accompanist (and father) John Tilley. (Look for Alan's upcoming performance with the Traverse Symphony Orchestra!) And again, to Nancy Landfair, for an incredible reprising of "If This is Not a Place" with the addition of Alan's "voice."

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Notes from the Interim Director of Religious Education

Hello, everyone! My name is Gretchen Kronk and I feel deeply privileged to be serving as Interim DRE. I want to thank our RE

Committee and our 2005-2006 Board of Trustees for accepting me to fill in this position. Also, I thank *everyone* for your words of congratulations and encouragement. It will be an honor to serve the children of our Congregation and, thereby, our Congregation as a whole. Serving as Interim DRE is a welcome opportunity for me to be more deeply involved in UUCGT and I am excited!

Please know that I am really looking forward to collaborating with everyone who steps up and volunteers to teach Sunday RE. Feel free to contact me at 935-1798 or by e-mail at dreucgt@charterinternet.com if you have any questions and/or comments or, especially, if you wish to share your hopes, dreams and ideas for our children and our RE program.



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the BEACON

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September, 2006

the BEACON

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

September

- 3 Sun** "Earth Tones," Lauren Pelon and Gary Holthaus, **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 7 Thurs Cronos & Scones, S. Gustafson, labyrinth walk and lunch out, 11 AM – 1 PM
- 7 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 7 Thurs Finance Committee, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 8 Fri Start Up Seminar, Lisa Presley & Rev. Roush, potluck at 5:30 followed by storytelling about UUCGT's past and hopes for the future.
- 9 Sat Start Up Seminar continued
- 10 Sun** "Feast of the Resumption" (Resumption Sunday), Rev. Chip Roush, **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 10 Sun Orchestra Rehearsal, K. Tarsa, , 9-10:00 a.m.
- 12 Tues UUCGT Board, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 13 Wed UU Quilters, B. Mathias & K. Prentice, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 13 Wed Potluck & Budget Information, social time & potluck at 5:30, budget information presentation/discussion at 7:00 PM
- 14 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 15 Fri Social Action video "Wetback" & discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 17 Sun** "To Boldly Go," Rev. Chip Roush, **Services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 17 Sun Budget Info Session between services
- 17 Sun Congregational vote on the 2006-2007 budget immediately following the 11 AM service.

- 18 Mon Men's Group, Mark Gustafson & HG Smith, 6:00 p.m., South City Limits
- 21 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 24 Sun** "Prayer," Rev. Chip Roush, **Services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 25 Mon Art Class, Watercolor, M. Force, 6-8:00 p.m.
- 26 Tues Sunday Services, K. McCarthy, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 27 Wed UU Quilters, B. Mathias, K. Prentice, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 28 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

October

- 1 Sun** "We Begin Again in Love," Rev. Chip Roush, **Services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 2 Mon Art Class, Watercolor, M. Force, 6-8:00 p.m.
- 2 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 5 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 8 Sun** "The Only Thing That Ever Has," Rev. Chip Roush, **Services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 9 Mon Art Class, Watercolor, M. Force, 6-8:00 p.m.
- 9 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 9 Mon Men's Group, 6:00 p.m., South City Limits
- 10 Tues UUCGT Board Meeting, 7-9:00 p.m., Social Hall
- 12 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 13 Fri Social Action Video ("Seeing Red, the Moral Divide") & Discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 15 Sun** "What is a 'Bioneer?'" Maura Brennan, **Services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 16 Mon Art Class, Watercolor, M. Force, 6-8:00 p.m.
- 16 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 19 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 21 Sat UUCGT Benefit Concert & Potluck Dessert, G. Heath, 7-9:00 p.m.