



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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9 am – 3 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

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Minister of Music*

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**Interim Director of Religious
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Connie Hoffman
*Ex officio members of the Board

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

"Jestership of All Believers"

Rev. Chip, Holly Knibbs

From the sublime to the ridiculous: the spirituality of humor.

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

"Second Boat of Easter"

Rev. Chip, 11:00 Vocal Ensemble

Seeking contemporary meaning in an ancient tale of resurrection.

Thursday evening, April 12 at 6:30 PM

"Fast, Faster, Fasting"

Rev. Chip

Reclaiming the old American tradition of Fast Day, a counterpoint to Thanksgiving. We'll break our fast together, with songs and stories and a potluck dinner.

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

"Courage to Claim It"

Rev. Chip

The universe offers us all the joy and meaning we could possibly desire—all we need is the courage to claim it.

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

<Earth Day>

Tom Karas and Lisa Franseen

A collaborative effort by Lisa Franseen and Tom Karas will celebrate planet Earth. Please bring along a picture of your favorite piece of Earth to share. Focusing on the positive reactions to our shared environmental challenges, Tom and Li seek to energize you for another year of advocacy for the planet.

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

"Youth Worship"

UUCGT Youth Group

Come discover the spiritual depths and musical talents of our youth.

Sunday, May 6 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

To be announced.

Sunday, 13 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Our Bodies, Our Selves: The Transformative Power of Life"

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Maja LaForest, et al.

This Mother's Day, we honor the transforming power of our significant life experiences—experiences grounded in our bodies and in our emotions, experiences that shift the way we perceive the world and our place within it. While we will look through the specific lens of birthing and motherhood, this service invites you to reflect upon your own transformative life experiences—whatever they have been.

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.

**Sunday evening, April 22 —
5:30 PM**
*the Installation of
the Rev. Mr. Chip Roush*
**the Rev. Dr. Nana' Kratochvil,
preaching**

the BEACON

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

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Folding, labeling & mailing
by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

From Our Senior Minister

25 March 2007

April Fool

Many thanks to the Children's Choir for their rousing concert last weekend. What a fitting way to christen our new Gamble Auditorium. And even though we built it with extra capacity, to allow some room to grow, virtually every seat was full. Thanks to Rev. Kevin, and Lacy Banks, for their usual musical virtuosity; and to our Director of Religious Education, Karen McCarthy, and her staff (paid and volunteer)—the decorations, and the montage of photographs, all put together by the RE classes, really accented the concert.

Our LectUre Series begins next month—there are still a few tickets to see these nationally known religious and philosophical leaders. If you cannot make the first four weeks, be sure to attend the "Sweet Honey in the Rock" benefit concert that will close the series. Don't forget, the Adult RE office will be closed next week, to renovate the office and

install the new database. Youth RE will continue unabated, except that the OWL class has been moved to the Social Hall, to accommodate the large number of students (thank you, Joan!).

Finally, we still need one more member on our Social Justice Council. Paul Heaton has agreed to serve as Interfaith Coordinator, but we still need to replace Mary Kiner's "Safe Harbor" position. Last year, the Council presented seventeen different major events, with a few extra fundraisers and a teambuilding weekend at Boyne. Help support this great work, and call Tom Welch to volunteer.

—*Oh, did I mention, all of this is only possible if we donate our time and money generously?*

The Stewardship Campaign for 2007-'08 begins April 15th. Don't miss it!

With Spirit,

—*the Rev. Chip Rausch*

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Message from the New DRE

"The moral universe rests on the breath of schoolchildren."

I saw this quotation from Rabbi Yehuda Nisiah above the desk of Gretchen Kronk, our Interim Director of Religious Education, while she was showing me her office and kindly helping me to become familiar with the job that she has performed so admirably.

I am thrilled, honored, and grateful to have been hired as DRE for UUCGT! The quotation on Gretchen's wall neatly sums up for me the reason that we offer religious education to our children. Kids are, indeed, the future of our movement and our world! If the arc of the moral universe is to continue to bend towards justice, as Theodore Parker said with such hopeful conviction, it will be because we have taught our children compassion, open-mindedness, peacemaking, generosity, and other values so essential to Unitarian Universalism. It will be because we and our children co-create a moral universe

with each breath.

The mission statement of the UUA Religious Education (also known as Lifespan Faith Development) says that we "nurture UU identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love." Lofty goals, yes, and I believe (with hopeful conviction) that they are possible.

I love this faith, and I love our children and youth, and I look forward with a full heart to serving our congregation as Director of Religious Education!

—Karen McCarthy
Director of Religious Education

(Continued from page 6)

10 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

13 Sun **"Our Bodies, Ourselves: The Transformative Power of Life," Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Maja LaForest, et al., services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

14 Mon Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30p.m.

14 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, HG Smith, 6-8 PM

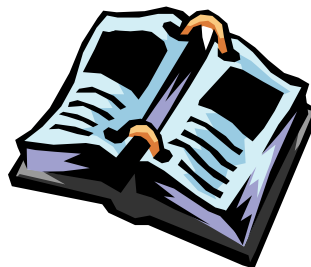
14 Mon SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m.

16 Wed Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: TBA

17 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

20 Sun **TBA, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

20 Sun **Congregational Conversation**, following the 11 AM



service

21 Mon SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m.

22 Tues Sunday Services Committee, Karen McCarthy, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

23 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, Bonnie Mathias, Kathy Prentice, 1 - 4 PM

23 Wed Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: Congregational Conversation

Congregational Conversation, 7-8 p.m.

24 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

27 Sun **TBA, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

28 Mon SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m.

30 Wed Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: TBA

31 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Has this ever happened to you? You start out in one direction and wind up in another? (And, oddly, in the end, you arrive where you wanted to go anyhow.)

I was going to address the season change and metaphorically relate it to congregational transitions. Then came the dictionary! I looked up “spring” in the *Oxford Concise English Dictionary* and found ten definitions. I liked number six (6) the best: “a place where water, oil, etc. wells up from the earth; the basin or flow so formed.” What, I wondered, could the “etc.” be? Could the basin be our local religious community and the “etc.” be us as individuals?

Spring water to me is somewhat of a miracle when

I see it flow cold and clear from some hidden recess within the earth. So it might be for fresh ideas coming forth from us as we emerge out of our winter darkness.

We move toward new ideas in stewardship and governance with trust in each other. With joy, we move toward the installation of our new minister. As your president, I need the basin of the congregation to help shake off the weight of old thinking and “bubble” up and out into creative change. How about you?

—Joan Sheard

ALL ABOUT US

Losses: We were saddened to learn of Shirlee Davidson's death on Saturday evening, March 24th. A memorial will be announced at a later date.

We are also sorry for the loss of Paul Ward's mother.

We Hold In Our Hearts:

Ron Yatich who suffered injuries from a hard fall during hang-gliding while in Florida. He has received rehabilitation following surgery while in Florida and may be moved to Ann Arbor's U of M hospital for further treatment of some partial paralysis. We certainly wish him well.

We continue to hold Margaret Tarsa in our hearts as she continues to heal following surgery for removal of her kidney and now must heal and continue more treatments for cancer in the surrounding tissues.

Bill Scharf's surgery for knee replacement seems very successful. Thanks to all who ministered to him with visits, cards, food and for walking his puppy.

We Continue to be Mindful of:

- ♥ Boyd Baird who is home and doing well following a week in the hospital for a pulmonary embolism
- ♥ Beecy Fraser who is in the Pavilions
- ♥ Ruth Gamble who is in the Highlander
- ♥ Gretchen Kronk who is still healing from her fall and surgery

- ♥ Joan Laird who resides at home
- ♥ Richard Myer also residing in his home
- ♥ Elizabeth Norris as she returns to her Torch Lake home.
- ♥ Deni Everett who continues treatments for cancer

To all those who are doing pastoral care daily helping with food, transportation and such on a regular basis, we are grateful for your care. It does not go unnoticed, and we thank you.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

Our Congregation Grows

We are delighted to welcome new members, Pat Light and Ariel Love. Please look for them during coffee hour and make them welcome. To become a member, please make an appointment for a meeting with the Rev. Chip Roush.

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Community Connection

After the 11 o'clock service Sunday, April 15th in the U.U. sanctuary, Laura Otwell, Program Coordinator for the Fresh Food Partnership (FFP) in Traverse City will discuss how the FFP provides a bridge between local farmers and local food pantries. Please join her to learn about this valuable local effort.

We hope to provide a discussion from one local “helping” organization every other month after the 11:00

o'clock service. The purpose of the Community Connection is to meet leaders from local not-for-profit organizations and learn about their work in our community. Please contact David Halperin (231-392-1811) if you would like to suggest a Community Connection speaker.

—Tom Karas

Peacemakers Needleworkers

The Quilting group has changed its name to “Peacemakers Needleworkers.” Quilters, knitters and crocheters are all welcome. It meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11 at 1 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner and conversation on Monday April 9, 6:00 PM at the South City Limits restaurant. Discussion topic is still open but is always interesting. Join us!

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.

MINDING THE STORE

Installation

Rev. Chip will be installed as our Senior Minister on Sunday, April 22nd, at 5:30 PM. A reception will follow. Childcare will be provided; all are welcome. Come celebrate the next phase in the life of this congregation.

Welcome, Bob & Karen

Bob Fitch is our new Facilities Manager, and Karen McCarthy is our new Director of Religious Education. Our congregation is fortunate to have them on staff.

Spring Cleanup

We want our grounds to look as nice as possible for the installation of the Rev. Chip Roush on April 22. To that end, a cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, at 10:00. I anticipate that most of the work will be raking and the gathering of other debris to be bagged. Volunteers are greatly appreciated. If you can, please bring rakes, trimmers, and other similar tools. The rain date is April 21.

—Bob Fitch

Guest At Your Table

If you don't already have your Guest At Your Table box please pick one up in the hallway today. Your contribution will support UUSC's work to advance human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. The 7th and 8th graders will be collecting and tallying the contributions on April 8 and 15. Make your checks payable to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and return it in your box. There will be a basket near the benches in the hallway to put your boxes in as of April 8. See or call Marsha Walton to make other arrangements.

Socinian Eucharist

Many thanks to Rev. Kevin & Judy Weaver, for playing during the Socinian

Eucharist. The ritual of rededicating our lives to ethical living was made even more meaningful, thanks to their music.

Fast Day

Fast Day was a holiday celebrated on a Thursday in April, in most of the original colonies, and in our nation, as a counterbalance to Thanksgiving. A day of contrition and introspection, it was last celebrated nationally immediately after Lincoln's assassination. Recently, some UUs are re-creating the holiday, by fasting for a full day, then breaking their fast together—with a short worship service, some music, and a potluck meal. How you fast is up to you (and your doctor?!)—a full day, or only during daylight; abstaining from all foods, or allowing liquids, or abstaining only from a favorite food for the duration. Fast as you will, on Thursday, April 12th, and then bring a potluck meal to the church at 6:30 pm. We'll sing and share reflections about our fast. Contact Rev. Chip if you have questions or suggestions.

Meet Your Endowment Fund

What is the UUCGT Endowment Fund? Our Endowment Fund was created in 1996, to provide financial stability and funds for special purposes of our Congregation, subject to our Bylaws and to Michigan and federal law. An endowment fund, by definition, is "...an institutional fund... not wholly expendable by the institution on a current basis...." In other words, only the income can be used, and by our Bylaws, only after the principal has reached \$50,000. Our fund now has a balance of \$30,000.

Why do we have an endowment fund? It was created by the Congregation to provide funds for projects that would not ordinarily be part of current operations or for which current operating funds are not available. Because our fund has not reached the \$50,000 level, it is not yet available for any purpose.

How can we contribute to the Endowment Fund? You can give currently to the Fund, or you can

provide donations in your will or trust. Your donation should be designated for the Endowment Fund. Language to accomplish this is provided on brochures that have been distributed to the Congregation and remain available in the foyer. Any member of the Endowment Committee will be pleased to assist you or your attorney in making donations. Donations are tax deductible.

Where are the Endowment Fund assets invested? The Endowment Committee decided that the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund was safe and productive, and all of the funds continue to be managed there.

Who has contributed to the Endowment Fund? Nearly twenty members of the Congregation have contributed to the Endowment Fund, and the Committee has kept records of the donors and amounts. A donor should receive a letter acknowledging receipt of the donation. We believe there may be some donors who have not yet been recognized, and ask that you contact a member of the Committee if you have not received a letter.

Who are the Endowment Committee Members? Current members are Marcia Bellinger, Phyllis Jessup, and Kennard Weaver. They may be contacted individually or through the Congregation office.

—Kennard Weaver

UU Trivia.

The first person to email Rev. Chip (jchidr@yahoo.com) with the answer to this trivia question will win a gift certificate to Horizon Books, and will have his or her name published in our next *Beacon*.

This UU is the highest-ranking openly nontheistic elected official in the United States. Congratulations to Mary Scholl, for her correct answer last month: Originally a Methodist minister, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker was the president of one of our two Unitarian Universalist seminaries.

From Our Minister of Music

Reverend Henry Meserve asked, “If you were arrested for being a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

I love this question, though (and perhaps because) it raises far more questions in me than answers. What can be recognized as uniquely Unitarian Universalist? What would qualify as adequate evidence? My church attendance? My tithing? My volunteer time in church activities? My public stance on social justice issues? My internal thoughts? My political perspective? What, beyond signing the membership book, would offer evidence that I am a Unitarian Universalist? This is the question that stirs as we hover at this congregational threshold, leaning into our future in such a way that to keep our balance, we will need to take a step forward.

Ironically, this step forward into a vision of our future is well-served by connecting to our past, to our religious heritage and tradition. As religious liberals

we have spent so much energy breaking free from the restrictions of past religious structures that we tend to let go of that connection altogether. We are more likely to accumulate evidence that “I am ME” than that “I am WE.” It is an age-old tension in liberal religion and theology: an openness to ever-new information and understanding makes it difficult to commit too deeply to anything; a focus on individual autonomy makes it difficult to sustain a group identity.

Yet WE are a congregation creating a better world... WE create a safe caring community... WE work for justice and equality...

If WE were arrested for being Unitarian Universalists, what body of evidence would we want to be able to bring forth?

Yours,

Rev. Kevin Tarsá

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

We are really impressed with the outpouring of help that went to the homeless shelter, **Safe Harbor**. We fed and served, providing nutritious, warm dinners on March 8 and 9. Good, great job everyone! Congratulations on a job well done!

Our thanks to: Lorraine Anderson; Katy Bean-Larson; Lori Boothroyd; Joyce Braeuninger; Linda Carps; Ann Dressel; David Halperin, Carol Schifman, son Joel Halperin; Judy Halsted; Muriel Jones; Anne-Marie, Karl, Ariel, and Chloe Love; Bill Mathias; Richard Miller; Craig Richards; Rev. Chip Roush; Melissa Ryntz and friend Samantha (Ahavat Shalom); and Nan Worthington. And special THANKS to Organizer and DOER Mary Kiner!! If we left out anyone's name please forgive us. It was done in error.

Movie and documentary

A fabulous opportunity is coming our way! Where else can we see an Oscar award winning short and another winner too? A fabulous double feature,

all at the UU and NMC! *West Bank Story*, Oscar award winning video, disarming and insightful musical comedy, gets everything right from the song parodies of West Side Story to the fun house mirror of Middle East politics and allegiances. *Encounter Point*, a true story about the everyday leaders who refuse to sit back as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates. The film explores what drives them and thousands of other like-minded civilians to overcome anger and grief to work for grassroots solutions.

Schedule of Screenings: Monday April 23 at 7 pm, Auditorium rm. # 109, Scholars Hall, Northwestern Michigan College (NMC); Tuesday April 24 at 7 pm, Auditorium rm. # 217, Scholars Hall, NMC campus; and Friday April 27 at 7 pm, UUCGT. Discussions will follow each showing. These videos are co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Action Committee and Diversity Services, NMC. Free and open to the public but **donations are needed** to cover costs—please help us! Thanks and hope to see many there!

Thank you!

—Emmy Lou 943-7999

MUSICAL NOTES

Music Thank You's...

- ♪ To Neal Endicott for his amazing sax playing, and to Gary Deavel & Gail Heath, for offering 4 of six hands at the piano on March 11
- ♪ To Don Pyne, Richard Miller, Calvin Boulter, Holly Knibbs, Gretchen Kronk and Mary Kiner for beautiful singing on March 18; and to Judy Weaver for beautiful violin playing at the Socinian Eucharist. Special thanks to Gretchen (and her dad) for teaching us the Polish pronunciation.
- ♪ To Vocal Ensemble members, with Laura Kortokrax, Chloe and Ariel Love, Jamie Treadwell and Ali Gribi for great singing on March 25 (Bill Cheney's birthday!) and to William Ward, Jean Saalfeld, Jeff Hawkins, Jeremy Treadwell and Gary Deavel who made a dynamic instrumental ensemble.

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the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 44, Issue 4

April 2007

the BEACON

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted
April

- | | | | |
|----|-------|--|--|
| 1 | Sun | "Jestership of All Believers," Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | |
| 2 | Mon | SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m. | |
| 4 | Wed | RE Committee--CHANGED | |
| 4 | Wed | Supper at Six (potluck) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: Cal Boulter, "You can never have enough of something you don't really want." | |
| 5 | Thurs | Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30 PM | |
| 5 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 8 | Sun | "Second Boat of Easter," Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | |
| 9 | Mon | Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30 PM | |
| 9 | Mon | SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m. | |
| 9 | Mon | Men's Group, South City Limits, 6-8:00 PM | |
| 10 | Tues | UUCGT Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 11 | Wed | Peacemakers Needleworkers, Bonnie Mathias, Kathy Prentice, 1 - 4 PM | |
| 11 | Wed | Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: <i>Manor House</i> conclusion | |
| 12 | Thurs | "Fast, Faster, Fasting," Rev. Chip, 6:30 p.m. | |
| 12 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 13 | Fri | Social Justice Action video, Emmy Lou Cholak | |
| 15 | Sun | "Courage to Claim It," Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | |
| 16 | Mon | SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m. | |
| 16 | Mon | RE Committee (extra meeting), Marsha Walton, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | |
| 18 | Wed | Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: | |
| | | Jennifer Jay with Troy Naperalala, Boardman River Dams project | |
| 19 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 22 | Sun | Earth Day, Tom Karas and Lisa Franseen, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | |
| 22 | Sun | <i>Installation of Rev. Chip Roush as Settled Minister of UUCGT, 5:30 PM</i> | |
| 16 | Mon | RE Committee, Marsha Walton, 6-8 p.m. | |
| 23 | Mon | SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m. | |
| 24 | Tues | Sunday Services Committee, Karen McCarthy, 7:00-9:00 p.m. | |
| 25 | Wed | Peacemakers Needleworkers, Bonnie Mathias, Kathy Prentice, 1 - 4 PM | |
| 25 | Wed | Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: The Rev. Nancy Doughty, discussion involving "our capacity to receive the good that is in existence." | |
| 26 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 27 | Fri | Social Justice Action video/discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-10 p.m. | |
| 29 | Sun | "Youth Worship," UUCGT Youth Group, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | |
| 30 | Mon | SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m. | |
| | May | | |
| 2 | Wed | Supper at Six (potluck) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: TBA | |
| 2 | Wed | RE Committee, Gretchen Kronk, 4-5 p.m. | |
| 3 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 6 | Sun | TBA, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | |
| 7 | Mon | SOS meeting, Jeff (946-8680), Office, 7-8:30 p.m. | |
| 8 | Tues | UUCGT Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9:00 p.m. | |
| 9 | Wed | Supper at Six (RSVP for dinner to Ann Dressel 922-0483) (social time, 5:30), Program at Seven: TBA | |

(Continued on page 2)