



Summer service schedule, May 27 through September 9: ONE service only, at 10:00 a.m.

www.uucgt.org

Please note UUCGT's NEW email address: uucgt@sbcglobal.net

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse
6726 Center Road
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(During office hours, call 947-3117 first,
then fax.)

Office Hours:
9 am – 3 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

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Rev. Chip Roush, 947-3117
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*Minister of Music**

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*Director of Religious
Education**

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* *Ex officio* members of the Board

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Sunday, August 5 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"2,500 Years of Liberal Religion in 25 Minutes"

Rev. Chip; Holly Knibbs, piano and Chris Williams, fiddle

Two millennia of spiritual history and inspiration in less than half an hour.

Sunday, August 12 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"God, In Other Words..."

Richard Kraemer; Nancy Landfair, voice and R Gary Deavel, piano

The ways we search in the realms of faith and belief says as much about us as what we might believe. Tidbits from Chip's recent Bible class will be used as examples for how sacred texts can be interpreted with intelligence.

Sunday, August 19 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Shofar, So Good..."

Rabbi Chava Bahle

During the holy month of Elul, we prepare for the High Holidays that are a little less than a month later. It is customary to sound the shofar and work some specific spiritual practices during that lunar month. We'll explore the universal aspects of these practices, particularly the teachings on t'shuva - return/restoration in relationships, etc. "We forgive ourselves and each other, we begin again in love..."

Sunday, August 26 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"A Taste of Education"

Rev. Chip; Marin Tack and Jamie Treadwell, voice

Why (and how) our religious education is different—and better!—than public or private schools.

Sunday, September 2 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

Personal Credos

Cal Boulter

Once monthly, for several months now, members have been presenting their personal Credos...statements of belief. If there ever was a question of our diversity, that can be dispelled.

Yet there is a core of unanimity evident. This Sunday we will hear, even possibly rehear... with revisions, too...perhaps a half dozen Member Credos.

This ensemble performance will delight, challenge, even perturb us. Ask yourself, "What do I truly believe...and do I live those beliefs?"

Cal Boulter will coordinate the service. If you are willing to dare your Credo it is not too late to check with Cal to present it. Contact Cal: calvinboulter@charter.net

Sunday, September 9 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Resume; to Whom?"

Rev. Chip; UUCGT Orchestra

Resumption Sunday—we'll kick off the new program year by exploring the word "worship"—what do we mean by it; is it directed to something or somebody, and if so, to whom?

Sunday, September 16 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"By Their Associations"

Rev. Chip

Our ability to choose which groups we join is the cornerstone of our faith tradition. According to some, it is also our best tool to save our world from tyranny.

Sunday, September 23 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"For Giving Forgiveness"

Rev. Chip; UUCGT Vocal Ensemble

If comedy = tragedy + time, can it also be true that forgiveness = suffering + time? What else might be necessary in that equation?

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

Wicker Man

29 July 2007

While at summer camp, Becky and I participated in a modified *Lammas* ritual. With a circle of 100 other people, we gave thanks for the harvest by sacrificing the first fruits of that harvest. We each took a piece of bread, baked from the summer's first wheat crop, and burned the bread with a wicker man (woven from the same wheat as the bread was baked). The leader explained that people once demonstrated their gratitude for the harvest by sacrificing some of the grain, much as we were doing. Because we humans are competitive folk, the sacrifices grew more elaborate over time—from grain to small animals, and on to larger animals. Finally, they felt that only the sacrifice of a human would do, to show how thankful they were for the life-giving crops. Now, because most pagans recognize that their gods and

sacrifices are all *metaphors*, they did not kill a real human being. Rather, they wove a wicker man, and burned it.

I wish that more humans could recognize that our gods (Jehovah, Allah, Capitalism, Freedom, etc.) are all metaphors, and need careful translation into our actual lives.

After lighting the wicker man, we danced with joyful abandon. Well, actually, we sort of shuffled around a bit, until the leader encouraged us to really let go and DANCE. Then we expressed our gratitude with exuberant gladness. What fun. I would love to have more rituals like that around UUCGT—anybody willing to organize them?

With Spirit,

—the Rev. Chip Roush

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"In summer, the song sings itself."

~William Carlos Williams

This summer, the song of Religious Education has been singing itself with joy! We've had lots of fun adventures, from playing interdependent-web games with naturalist Emmy Lou Cholak and Linda Carps, to musical activities with Nancy Landfair, to tying flies with fly-fisherman Joe Cook, to yoga with Melinda Mitchell, to baking cookies for Tuesday lunch with Ariel Love, to a spiritual garden tour with landscaper Dan McKeen. **Many thanks to these generous members of our congregation!** More fun is to come:

Aug 5 – Intergenerational Worship Service with Rev. Chip

Aug 12 – "Gullah, Gullah" with Solveig Gustafson

Aug 19 – "Ganesha the Elephant-Headed God" with Karen McCarthy

Aug 26 – "SCUBA Diving" with Paula Hartmann

Sept 2 – "Tie-Dyeing Fun" with former UUCGT Youth Group member Traci Griggs

Sept 9 – Resumption Sunday! Intergenerational Worship Service

with Rev. Chip

Rendering order out of chaos is one of life's great pleasures, and doing so with caring and humorous people doubles the delight. Lynne Rae Perkins and Kathy Tack have devoted many hours to helping sort the generations' worth of RE wonders stored in boxes in the office. Thank you both! (Do YOU want to pitch in? Call me!)

A gift for you: If you taught RE during the last school year, there's a gift waiting for you in the office – stop by during office hours to pick it up!

Do you have an old **digital camera** you're willing to donate? Or are you willing to buy one to donate? We'd love to record RE adventures. Please let me know!

May your summer be filled with the songs of children,

~Karen McCarthy, DRE

UUCGT Youth Group News Book Fair!

- What? Brand-new, high-quality art and photography books for sale!
- When? Before and after Sunday services throughout the summer.
- Why? To benefit our congregation!
- How? The books were donated

anonymously for the youth to sell.

- Who? Our youth will be selling them by silent auction.
- So What? ... So, check out the books, and bid generously!
- Questions? Contact DRE Karen McCarthy or advisor Katy Bean-Larson.

Workshop for the Future of Our Youth Group:

- What? A meeting and workshop – with food! – to discuss what to do in youth group next year.
- When? **Monday, August 27, at 6:00 p.m.**
- Why? So our youth group can be as effective and cool as possible.
- How? We'll use a workshop that Karen learned at General Assembly!
- Who's invited? Any high-school-aged youth; their parents; and anyone interested in helping with, leading, advising, or *knowing about* our youth group.
- So What? ... So, if you're a youth, come and see how awesome Youth Group can be. If you're not a youth, come and see how awesome our youth are!
- Questions? Contact DRE Karen McCarthy.

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

My computer desk faces Arbutus Lake, our bird feeder, and the white and red pines of the slope to the beach. It is a scene which fills me with gratitude. I hope all of you have had time to relax and reflect this summer on whatever “beach” fills your vision. That “Beach” might be a ballgame, a cherry orchard, a mountain stream, a festival venue, a family reunion, or simply the swing on the front porch in the evening of a summer night.

Your Board is on hiatus after a busy spring. We will resume again with a retreat late in August. We needed time to think and recharge our batteries after the July Annual Meeting. If you could not be with us for the vote, know that the bylaws, budget, and candidates for office were approved as proposed. That does not mean, however, that we are putting those tasks behind us. The bylaws require further refinement, the budget is always a work in progress, and both Board and Committee members must set goals for the coming year.

This last paragraph is by way of acknowledging human error. After the July 8 meeting, Paul Kauffman reminded me that I had forgotten to include the folks who volunteer for the sound system in my President’s report to the Congregation. That forgetfulness on my part indicates both my failure to recognize the significance of that work and the effectiveness of that work. Those volunteers facilitate the sacred work of our staff so that listeners both inside and outside the main meeting room can be more fully present. *Mea culpa*, Paul... I hasten to add that come this fall, we will search for others to aid in the provision of “sound.” And rest assured...you ARE important to the health of our services and meetings.

Who else have I forgotten? Let me know and I will report as best I can on the contribution you make to the joy of attending UUCGT!

Yours in faith,

—Joan Sheard

MUSICAL NOTES

Music Thank You’s...

- ♪ to Ariel Love, Keegan Schrider and Jamie Treadwell, three of our talented teen musicians, for leading us in song and delighting us with “Bigger, Bigger, Bigger” on July 1.
- ♪ to Shelley Burnes and Cindy Edmonson for (with Kevin) creating such an exciting vocal trio in the July 8 Buddhism service.
- ♪ to Gary Deavel (in his UUCGT cello debut!), L.E. Smith and Paul Heaton for playing in the string quartet, and to Gary (at the piano this time), Jean Saalfeld and Judith Weaver for a wonderful offering of “Stormy Weather” in the July 15 “Divinity School” service.
- ♪ to amazing Adrienne and Andy Evans (windchimes and string bass, respectively) for such sensitive and evocative playing on July 22. (another service rooted in Buddhism) Andy brings a wealth of talent and spirit—and jazz—to the congregation.
- ♪ to Nan Worthington for more beautiful singing on July 29 in a service about living fully.

Vocal Ensemble

Rehearsals Resume...

...on Thursday, September 6. The Vocal Ensemble is our adult choir and teens are welcome too! Mark your calendars and plan to come sing with us! Rehearsals begin at 7:00 and end by 8:45. If you are not yet on the email list, please let Kevin know and we'll keep you informed.

UUCGT Orchestra

Plan to join us for our annual ritual and the playing/singing of “Wake Now My Senses” (and more) on Sunday, September 9—“Resumption Sunday”. 9:00 rehearsal for the single 10:00 service. Contact Kevin for music.

Other Musical Possibilities...

UUCGT Children’s Chorus | UUCGT Family Singers | UUCGT (Pop/Rock) Band | UUCGT Brass Ensemble | UUCGT Strings | UUCGT Chamber Singers | UUCGT Celtic Music Crew | UUCGT Percussion Ensemble | UUCGT Dance Ensemble | UUCGT Youth Choir

...all are very real possibilities, *ad hoc* and/or ongoing. Our musical ensembles arise as interest, need and leadership arise. What music-making type of role would feed you and your family? Please contact Kevin with your interests, ideas and thoughts.

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Sean Kosofsky at Benzie Satellite

On August 15 the Benzie Satellite will be hosting Sean Kosofsky, Director of Triangle Foundation, and since early 1994 an active participant in the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community. Sean, a nationally recognized figure, is the most sought-after GLBT diversity trainer for law enforcement professionals, as well as educators, social workers, attorneys, and service providers. His talk will be preceded by a potluck beginning at 5:30 at the home of Bob and Mary Scholl who live on Deadstream Rd, just off M-22 in Benzie. (Look for the rainbow flag). Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Please bring a dish to share. Phone the Scholls at 231-325-0085 to RSVP and for more detailed directions to their home.

Wednesday Night potluck—August 15

The August 15 Wednesday Night potluck will be held at the home of MaryAnn Force. MaryAnn has provided the following details: “We will be eating

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MINDING THE STORE

A Note of Thanks...

Fred Schaafsma will leave the Board of Trustees at the end of August. His steady work to maintain and improve our facilities will be sorely missed. Thank you, Fred, for the many hours you have devoted to UUCGT.

Yours in faith,

—Joan Sheard

Congregational Conversations

UUCGT facilities – ideas, needs and options

It has been four years since we last assessed our facilities needs. That needs assessment resulted in a capital campaign and plan for a building expansion that has not occurred, due to insufficient funds. These conversations will be used to:

- Identify new or revised facilities needs
- Determine information needed in order to make decision
- Brainstorm all possible options to meet our facilities needs

Two meetings will be held specifically for those who gave so generously to the capital campaign. Depending on outcomes and recommendations, all who gave to the capital campaign will be contacted in order to have an opportunity to have input.

Fifteen people attended our first conversation on July 29. Additional conversations will be:

- Wednesday, Aug. 29, 6 p.m. potluck, 7-8:30 p.m. conversation (All are welcome)
 - Thursday, Sept. 6, 7-8:30 p.m. (for capital campaign donors only)
 - Tuesday, Sept. 11, 5-6:30 p.m. (for capital campaign donors only)
- (Additional conversations will be scheduled as needed)

Also: Interested in serving on a Facilities Committee that will work with the Trustee for Facilities Management to gather information, shape our process and make recommendations? Contact Paul Heaton at 922-8146 or heatonpc@charter.net.

The Endowment Fund: An Update

Your Endowment Fund now has a balance of \$30,574.12. You may remember that until the Fund reaches a \$50,000 balance, none of the income can be used for any purpose. So we should encourage contributions to the Fund in order to permit the income to be used.

During this past fiscal year, the contributions to the Fund have totaled \$480, of which \$400 was invested in the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund, with the remaining \$80 left in the collection checking account administered by the UUCGT office. If this growth rate were to continue, we would wait about forty years before we could use any of the Fund's income.

Please keep the Fund in mind when you are planning your estate, and remember that you can easily make a donation at any time as well. Please contact the UUCGT office or any member of the Endowment Committee. The members are Marcia Bellinger, John Bachman, Joe Cook, Phyllis Jessup, and Ken Weaver.

Thank You for a Big Gift

Who says a successful business can't be generous and humane! Max's Service has donated a new, modern refrigerator to our Community Meal Kitchen at Friends' Church. Spread the news and other such enterprises may follow suit.

—Candace Lee, *et al*,
UU Community Meal crew

Beacon Online? Please RSVP!

In an effort to effect additional budget savings in the coming fiscal year, UUCGT is exploring the possibility of making *the Beacon* available online to those who would be interested in receiving it that way, thereby reducing our printing and postage costs some-what. To guide us in this effort, if you have email available to you, would you please indicate your preference among the following choices: ► prefer to continue receiving *the Beacon* in printed form via US Mail; ► prefer to continue receiving *the Beacon* in printed form but would be willing to pick it up at UUCGT each month rather than having it mailed; ► prefer to have *the Beacon* sent via email in .pdf format or

some other format that would be readily available to most members with email; ► prefer to have *the Beacon* available online (UUCGT's website—www.uucgt.org); ► not interested in receiving or having access to *the Beacon*.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. Please send your email to UUCGT's new email address: uucgt@sbcglobal.com and write "Beacon survey" in the subject line. In the message, indicate your preferred choice from the above, and be sure to include your full name, your email address, and your postal mailing address if that is your preferred method of distribution. If you re responding via letter, please address your correspondence to the office.

—Jim Cook, editor

(Continued from page 3)

outdoors on my patio; if bad weather occurs, we'll move indoors. Short directions to 809 Sheridan Rd are: Go through the traffic light at the intersection of Center Road (M37) and Peninsula Drive (as you do coming the UUCGT). Slow down! Take the first road on your left (coming from TC; or the last road on your right coming south on Center Rd); this is Sheridan Road. Go one block to North Orchard—a stop sign—and proceed about 100 ft to the first driveway on your right. Park along the roadside. I do hope to see you!"

—MaryAnn Force, 941-5024

Attention: Art People

There will be painting and drawing going on for a while on Sundays after the services. Pencils and paper available if needed.

—Sally Mitchell and Chris Williams.

Men's Group

The UUCGT Men's Group will meet for dinner on Monday, August 13th at South City Limits, 6-8 p.m. To be discussed is "The Talk of the Town" column from the June 11 & 18 2007 issue of the *New Yorker*. You may pick up a copy to read before the meeting from the yellow MEN'S GROUP folder (located right next to the computer printer on the reception desk in the office). Join us! If you have any questions, please call Mark Gustafson at 929-9608.

From Our Minister of Music

As part of my seminary study I am required to spend ten hours per week building new skills in a real, live, structured setting. My “praxis” goal for this coming church year is to learn how to facilitate theological reflection and conversation—how to help people think and talk about their lives in terms of what matters most, in other words, in spiritual terms.

To that end, beginning in September, I will co-facilitate a range of chances to explore our personal and our collective spiritual identities. Each series will be an opportunity both to engage in deeper personal reflection as well as to build connection and intimacy within a small-group setting. Over the course of the year we’ll explore, at both the personal and communal levels, our past, our ongoing journey and, finally, ways to articulate our current faith. We’ll begin by seeing where we’ve been:

“OWNING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST” is a five-session series that invites us to re-member thoughtfully our personal spiritual past—to let go of what no longer serves us well, and to claim that which can still feed us. Plan to join us on five Monday evenings, from September 17 to October 15, as we engage heart, mind and physical senses in a

look back en route to a look forward. You will find more information and sign-up opportunities at church and in the September *Beacon*.

“YOUR PLACE IN “OUUR” STORY” is a five-session exploration of Unitarian Universalist history through the lens of your own spiritual journey. In late October and November I’ll be teaming up with UU historian and artist extraordinaire Sally Mitchell to offer a visual and informational overview of inspiring persons and lines of spiritual understanding from our liberal religious tradition. We will ask you to listen and watch for the places that ring familiar, for the motions that parallel portions of your own path, and we’ll “end” by asking what value, if any, an awareness of our history offers us as we live our current story. Stay tuned for info.

And that’s just the fall lineup!

I am looking forward to learning and growing with you, knowing that you bring extraordinary experience, knowledge, insight and wisdom to this journey together.

Yours,

Rev. Kevin Tarsá

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

The Social Justice Action committee will commence regular meetings beginning in September. We will meet at 7 PM in the social hall, first Tuesday every month, beginning Sept. 4, the day after Labor Day. Come with ideas and eagerness to help heal our world; share your ideas with other like-minded and concerned congregants. We are not alone. Together we can overcome.

Mary Kiner will be taking over the organization and direction of the Tuesday lunch program. Thank you, Mary! Please see her for details about helping.

We have some exciting films for this fall. **Friday Night Movies:** We hope to obtain some documentaries about Iraq, of course. We have one about the abuse of natives in order to steal the market for the diamond trade. There is another about the inhumane killing of sharks, just for their fins. And we have more lined up. Tell me what you would like to see, and come to

learn and discuss with others; hopefully we can have our voices heard for peace and justice. The first film is Friday, Sept. 28. Please watch for details in *the Beacon* and the Orders of Service on Sundays. See you before then!

—Emmy Lou Cholak, 943-7999

ALL ABOUT US

Congratulations: Mark and Jen Bishop have a new baby girl named Sinead!

Farewell: We bid a sad farewell to Tom Albrecht who left Traverse City to follow his profession in the art world.

We Hold In Our Hearts:

- ♥ Ellen Pisor whose mother recently passed away. A memorial was held in CA.
- ♥ Phil Rosi who is home following hip surgery on July 16th. He is doing well.
- ♥ Charlotte Shea's mother who re-

cently had surgery. Her mother is 95.

- ♥ Ron Yatich who continues to receive therapy residing in Tendercare.

We Are Mindful Of:

- ❖ Deni Everett in her ongoing radiation
- ❖ Beecy Fraser who resides in the Pavilions
- ❖ Ruth Gamble who resides in the Highlander
- ❖ Joan Laird who resides in her home
- ❖ Richard Myer who resides in his home
- ❖ Elizabeth Norris who resides in her home
- ❖ Bob & Kay Reinhardt who are residing in a new facility in Bay Ridge

To all those whose suffering and problems we are yet unaware of, we hope you keep connected, remain hopeful, and know we care and can be contacted to help.

—Arline Howe

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the BEACON

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August 2007

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Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

August					
1	Wed	Supper at Six, details TBA	28	Tues	RE Committee, Kathy Tack, Karen McCarthy, 6 p.m.
5	Sun	"2,500 Year of Liberal Religion in 25 Minutes," Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.	28	Tues	Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan (941-9158), 7-9 p.m.
5	Sun	Community Connection, David Halperin (941-8364; 392-1811), 11:30 a.m.	29	Wed	Wednesday Night Supper, potluck, 6:00 p.m.
6	Mon	SOS meeting (Steve Decker, 929-9836), Office, 7-8 p.m.	29	Wed	Congregational Conversation: building needs; Paul Heaton, 7-8:30 p.m.
8	Wed	Peacemakers Needleworkers, Bonnie Mathias, 1-4 PM			
8	Wed	Membership Committee, John & Pinkie Hoffman, 2:30-4:30 PM			
8	Wed	Wednesday Night Supper, South City Limits, Pinkie Hoffman (275-3602), 6 p.m.			
9	Thurs	Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:00p.m.			
12	Sun	"God, In Other Words..." Richard Kraemer, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.	September		
13	Mon	Men's Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM	1	Sat	Connemara Concerts, Seamus Shinnars, 8-9:30 p.m.
13	Mon	SOS meeting (Steve Decker, 929-9836), Office, 7-8 p.m.	2	Sun	Personal Credos, Cal Boulter, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.
15	Wed	Wednesday Night Supper, potluck, MaryAnn Force's home (941 5024), 6 p.m.	3	Mon	SOS meeting, Steve Decker, Jeff Sanborn, 7-8 p.m.
19	Sun	"Shofar, So Good..." Rabbi Chava Bahle, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.	4	Tues	Social Justice Action, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9 p.m.
20	Mon	SOS meeting, Steve Decker, Jeff Sanborn, 7-8 p.m.	5	Wed	Supper at Six, details TBA
22	Wed	Wednesday Night Supper, Mercedes Kimling (223 7537), 6 PM	6	Thurs	Building Needs: Discussion with Capital Campaign donors, Paul Heaton, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
23	Thurs	Vocal Ensemble (tentative), Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.	6	Thurs	Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30p.m.
24	Fri	Board Retreat, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.	6	Thurs	Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
25	Sat	Board Retreat, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.	9	Sun	"Resume; to Whom?" Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.
25	Sat	Connemara Concerts (tentative), Seamus Shinnars, 8-9:30 PM	10	Mon	Men's Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM
26	Sun	"A Taste of Education," Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.	10	Mon	SOS meeting, Steve Decker, Jeff Sanborn, 7-8 p.m.
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27	Mon	Youth Group, Karen McCarthy, 6:00 p.m.	11	Tues	Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
27	Mon	SOS meeting (Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 p.m.	12	Wed	Supper at Six, Sally Mitchell, details TBA
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