



Regular service schedule resumes September 16: Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

www.uucgt.org

Please note UUCGT's NEWEST email address: office@uucgt.org

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802
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office@uucgt.org

Fax: 231-947-0726

(During office hours, call 947-3117 first,
then fax.)

Office Hours:

9 am – 3 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

*Minister**

Rev. Chip Roush, 947-3117

revchip@uucgt.org

*Minister of Music**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146

revkevin@uucgt.org

*Director of Religious Education**

Karen McCarthy, 935-1570

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Trustee for Outreach

Linda Wickle 938-1333

trickle@gtii.com

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 share 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?

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

"Of Rumi and the Heart: Re-membering our Soul"

The Rev. Kevin Tarsa

On this day, the 800th anniversary of the birth of Mawlana Jalalud'din Rumi - the great scholar, Sufi mystic, Persian poet of exuberant love and ecumenical wisdom - we'll explore and experience some of Rumi's poetry and turn our conscious attention toward a reclaiming of the heart in our own faith tradition, an awareness of the emotions that underlie all religious experience, and a recovery of the feelings that our head-strong liberal religion tends to disregard as it focuses on the mind. Our souls are the bridge.

Sunday, October 7 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Integral Life Practice: Maps and Quadrants"

Rev. Chip

Integrating science and religion, philosophy and technology, mind and body--Ken Wilber presents a practical approach to saving ourselves and our world. The first of five "Integral" services throughout this year.

Sunday, October 14 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Singing the Journey"

UUCGT Vocal Ensemble and Friends, with Rev. Kevin Tarsa

On Unitarian Universalist "Association Sunday" we will explore and celebrate our faith tradition through the music in the "new" hymnbook supplements, "Singing the Journey." We have invited choir members from UU congregations along the west side of Michigan to join us for a weekend of music, meaning, and community. We will also celebrate in gratitude the vision and generosity of John and Penny Ort, who organized the purchase of the hymnbooks, and we'll honor the generosity of all of you who contributed to buy the many copies.

Sunday, October 21 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Who We Are Not"

Rev. Chip

UUs--and other human beings--often define themselves by what they are not. Who are we, if we do not resort to such divisions and hierarchies?

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

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Past, Present, and Future

I've been contemplating lately the past, present, and future of Religious Education at UUCGT. Many of you know that we have had several different DREs in the recent past—I count six (including me) since I joined the congregation in 1998. Some held the position for several years; some for less than one. (One of our former DREs, Betty Cronander, left this life at the end of the summer. We hold her family tenderly in our hearts, and offer gratitude for Betty's service to our congregation.)

Despite so much change in leadership, there has been consistency in the program, thanks to the dedicated work of the RE Committee. Several members have served for years, including two former DREs!

I've been reflecting on the balance between change and constancy while cleaning out the boxes of RE materials and moving into our lovely new office. We've found many treasures, and many things that left us wondering whether they were treasure or trash. My personal approach tends to be "Pitch it and clean it out!"

Yet, a conversation with Peg Kaufmann, our congregational archivist, has changed my approach. She shared with me an email from the archivist of the Unitarian Universalist Association, who warns that churches who clean out and purge RE materials are losing an important part of their history. Many congregations, he says, have no idea

what has been taught to their children in RE, because that information is stored only in the memories of the people who've been directly involved. I venture to say that this is true of UUCGT.

So, as we gear up for the busy back-to-school season, we'll be archiving our educational history, and we'll be choosing which elements to continue using and which to replace. We haven't chosen our specific curricula yet, because we're waiting for delivery of some new materials that I found while at General Assembly.

Many of you have heard me say that children are not just our future—they are our present, too. Now I am reminded that they are also our past—we were all once children, and many of us closely nurture the child still alive inside us, a practice that leads to joy.

Please contact me if you would like to contribute to nurturing the children and youth who are presently alive in our congregation. It would be a present to them, to the congregation, and to your own spirit. You could ...

- ... help with our archiving project.
- ... join the RE Committee.
- ... lead activities on Sunday mornings.
- ... become a youth advisor.
- ... buy a book from the Youth Group!

Also, several folk who led RE activities last year still have gift waiting for them in the office!

Finally, a big "thank you" to Mary Lee Orr and Duane Marcotte, who both donated digital cameras to the RE program! Watch for photos in the future, as soon as I figure out how to use the cameras!

~Karen McCarthy, DRE

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

Fall Plans

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.

Friday Night at the Movies begins Friday, Sept. 28, at 7:15. The movie *Iraq in Fragments*, American director James Longley spent more than two years filming to create this stunningly photographed, poetically rendered documentary of the war-torn country as seen through the eyes of Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds. Discussion following the movie. Donations accepted to help cover our increasing costs.

Friday Oct. 19 at 7 PM, we will watch and discuss, *Road to Guantanamo*. And on Saturday Oct. 26, at 7 PM, Diet Eman will talk about Resistance during WWII. This talk was cancelled last year due to emergencies and is rescheduled now. More details in the next *Beacon*.

Carol Still is working with Interfaith Peace and Justice Network, Grand Traverse—October is the month for supporting Global Network Against Weapons in Space, Bruce Gagnon, Director. The DVD, *Arsenal of Hypocrisy, the Space Program and the Military/Industrial Complex* will be shown at some location in the area. Volunteers are needed to help distribute flyers. Please contact Carol at ipjn.1@juno.com or call 941-0646.

Thinking ahead for Xmas gifts? Please check out the web and spend your money to help others. Here are

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MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Your Board went into retreat on August 24 and 25. We were hosted by Paul Heaton and Kevin Tarsa in the cathedral room at their home in the woods. As Christie McGue said, "This is like being in an Ansel Adams photograph." We undertook to seek our identity as a Board and to define what our purpose is and whom we are to serve. After nine hours of introspection and conversation we agreed that our task is to inspire others as well as ourselves so that we may be a "Beacon" to all who live in this area, and to honor our interconnectedness and multigenerational community with vitality, courage, and heart. How to put those concepts into action? We begin by signing petitions against discrimination

in the workplace, by participating in the October CROP Walk, and by washing windows at Munson Hospice House in September. The "living message" from the Board is this: It is time to move from serving only ourselves and move out into the wider world. We hope you will want to join us in this endeavor.

I close with a quote from the Reverend Chip: "We all want the best for our congregation. We all work very hard to make it the best it can be. AND we will all need a little forgiveness and a little grace and a little humor, as we work together this year."

—Joan Sheard

ALL ABOUT US

Help Wanted

Ron Yatich is seeking to hire someone part-time to assist him with filing, phone calls, and errands. 5-15 hrs per week, \$8 per hour (negotiable). For more information contact Ron at 929-2179 or 947-9511.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome three new members who joined UUCGT this summer: Andy and Theresa Evans, and Duane Marcotte. 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.

—Judy Halsted

Community Lunch Update

We serve a lunch on Tuesdays from 11:30-12:30 at Friend of the Light Church where our congregation used to meet. At least four volunteers are needed to set up, serve entrée, salad, fruit, beverages, dessert and clean up.

During the past eight weeks we have averaged 34 people. On August 21, Patrick Keller, O.D., donated 15 pizzas; coleslaw was also donated to serve 45 people that day. Most entrees are purchased or homemade with costs being reimbursed.

Starting in September Mary Kiner will be our Coordinator. Please call her (935-3050) if you'd like to learn more about the Lunch or to volunteer. You can volunteer occasionally or more regularly according to your schedule and energy. It is a rewarding experience and these are great volunteers.

Thanks to Jill Chao for being our coordinator. She is returning to college in September.

Thank you all for your volunteer efforts. One half of the yellow basket donations each Sunday support this program. Please continue to be generous.

—Marge Rundell

Phone # Update

Sylvia (Sally) Mitchell will be using 231 620 2798 as her primary telephone number.

knew the music was in good hands while he was away!)

♪ to Rabbi Chava Bahle for her rich and wonderful presence, teaching and music on August 19.

♪ to Marin Tack and Jamie Treadwell, who continue to WOW! us with their voices, and to Jeremy Treadwell for his wonderful guitar playing on August 26.

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.

MUSICAL NOTES

Music Thank You's...

♪ to Holly Knibbs for both playing the piano and organizing the music on August 5. (Kevin knew the music was in good hands while he was away!)

♪ to Gary Deavel and Nancy Landfair for both organizing and offering the music on August 12. (Again, Kevin

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.

Your Music?

Our musical ensembles arise as interest, need and leadership arise. What music-making role would feed you and/or your family? Please contact Kevin with your interests, ideas and thoughts.

MINDING THE STORE

Important News from the Office

We will be sending *the Beacon* via email this month to those of you who have furnished us with an email address. *The Beacon* will also be available on our website, www.UUCGT.org. We will be mailing the Beacon **only** to those for whom we have no email address. A major adjustment in the budget for this coming year was a reduction in the \$\$ spent on printing paper copies of *the Beacon* and postage. Future issues will be printed and mailed only to those who do not have the ability to receive it online or via the website. And for all who are in that situation, you will be able to save the congregation further money by letting the office know that you will pick up your addressed copy at the church. If the office does not have your current email address, please send that information to them at office@uucgt.org. Contact the office with any special needs you might have, but please keep in mind our need to minimize costs by using the free technology that is available.

Please note the NEWEST email addresses for the UUCGT staff:

- Chip Roush – revchip@uucgt.org
- Kevin Tarsa – revkevin@uucgt.org
- Karen McCarthy – dre@uucgt.org
- Church Office – office@uucgt.org
- Bob Fitch – fmgr@uucgt.org

Linda Carps is taking some well-earned vacation time until the end of August, when her position will end. When you see Linda, please give her

a big hug and thank-you for all the work she has done for the congregation in her position as Office Assistant.

By the time you receive this Beacon, we should have a new Congregational Administrator. Please stop by the office to meet her and introduce yourselves!

Used Book Sale

Mark your calendars for a Used Book Sale, Oct. 12-13 at UUCGT. Gather your books, CDs and DVDs and bring them to the church Oct 7-11. We will not be accepting text books nor technical books. All proceeds will benefit our congregation.

—Pinkie Hoffmann and Penny Ort

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.

Two meetings have already been held. Additional conversations will

be:

- 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.

(Continued from page 2)

a couple of websites that help the women of Rwanda, and other places in the world, to work independently and earn money for their families. A world economy gives us the opportunity and obligation to help around the world, and with ease. I'll say thank you for them: Thanks!

<http://www.rwandaknits.org/about.html>

<http://www.madeforpeace.com/>

<http://www.amberchand.com/>

—Emmy Lou
943-7999

Raise \$\$ for Hunger!!

The members of the board have decided to join with local churches to participate in this year's CROP Walk on the afternoon of October 14th 2007. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. The money raised goes for hunger relief projects worldwide as well as in our local community. We hope you'll join us!! More details will follow in the Order of Service ... or call Christie McGue at 941-1923.

From Our Senior Minister

After “Hello”

29 July 2007

So, what comes after “hello”?

We’ve spent a year together, learning a bit about each other—our names, and backgrounds, and that sort of thing. It’s been sort of an extended “hello.” Now, we can begin to go beyond the formalities, and really learn who we are, both as individuals, and as a collective.

This year, we’ll explore who we are, through a number of different formats. We’ll have congregational conversations, and covenant groups; adult religious education classes and informal chats; sermons and surveys. Our goal is to

better understand who we are as a congregation, here in 2007-’08, and learn what it is we’d most like to be doing with our time. There are many ways we could be serving the world; which are the ways that excite us and move us the most, and the ones we are best equipped to address?

I look forward to exploring these issues with you. I always learn more about myself, as I engage these questions, and I learn more about the people who are also engaged in the effort. Let’s deepen our conversation. After hello, we can ask, “tell me about yourself.”

With Spirit,

—the Rev. Chip Roush

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

“OWNING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST” is a five-session series that invites us to re-member thoughtfully our personal religious past—to let go of what no longer serves us well, and to claim that which can still feed us. Plan to join Rev. Kevin 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. It is an opportunity both to engage in deeper personal reflection as well as to build connection and intimacy within a small-group setting. See the sign-up sheets at the church, call or e-mail Kevin, or leave word in the office to sign up.

“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 Rev. Kevin will 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.

Wednesday Suppers

The new season of Wednesday Suppers and Programs is about to commence. These will begin in the UU building on October 3 with a potluck at 6 pm, preceded by a social time at 5:30. There will be a program at 7 pm titled “Ideas for Growth,” a video presentation, followed by discussion. We will have the traditional format of potluck the first Wednesday followed by on ensuing Wednesdays, \$4.00 per adult suppers. As is our custom, these suppers depend on assistance from us all.

—Sally Mitchell

Labyrinth Walk

The Old Mission labyrinth walk is available at any time for anyone interested. It is located at 3469 Old Mission Road. Contact John Schneider (231 223-9299) for directions.

Crones and Scones

The “Crones and Scones” group will meet at Denno’s Museum at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, September 12. We will plan on taking an outdoor sculpture stroll so wear comfortable walking shoes. We will have lunch following our museum activity at Mable’s Cafe. For more information about our group please contact Solveig Gustafson (929-9608), Marge Rundell (946-7237), or Shari Cope (947-0357).

Men’s Group

The Men’s Group will meet for dinner and conversation on Monday September 10, 6:00 PM at the South City Limits restaurant. Discussion topic is still open but is always interesting. Join us! If you have any questions, please call Mark Gustafson at 929-9608.

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



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the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Volume 44, Issue 9
September 2007

the BEACON

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

September

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 1 | Sat | Connemara Concerts, Seamus Shinnery, 8-9:30 p.m. |
| 2 | Sun | Personal Credos, Cal Boulter, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m. |
| 3 | Mon | SOS meeting, Steve Decker, Jeff Sanborn, 7-8 p.m. |
| 4 | Tues | Social Justice Action Committee, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9 PM |
| 6 | Thurs | Building Needs: Discussion with/for Capital Campaign donors, Paul Heaton, 7 – 8:30 p.m. |
| 6 | Thurs | Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:00p.m. |
| 6 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 9 | Sun | “Resume; to Whom?” Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m. |
| 10 | Mon | Men’s Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM |
| 10 | Mon | SOS meeting, Steve Decker, Jeff Sanborn, 7-8 p.m. |
| 11 | Tues | Building Needs: Discussion with/for Capital Campaign donors, Paul Heaton, 5 – 6:30 p.m. |
| 11 | Tues | Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM |
| 12 | Wed | Supper at Six. Potluck at Penny & John Ort’s – 932-8766 |
| 13 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 16 | Sun | “By Their Associations,” Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
| 17 | Mon | SOS meeting, Office, 7-8 p.m. |
| 17 | Mon | “Owning Your Religious Past,” Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 p.m. |
| 20 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 23 | Sun | “For Giving Forgiveness,” Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
| 24 | Mon | SOS meeting, Office, 7-8 p.m. |
| 24 | Mon | “Owning Your Religious Past,” Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 p.m. |
| 27 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 28 | Fri | SJA Friday Night at the Movies, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-10 PM |

30 Sun

“Of Rumi and the Heart: Re-memembering Our Soul,” Rev. Kevin Tarsa, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

October

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 1 | Mon | SOS meeting, Office, 7-8 p.m. |
| 1 | Mon | “Owning Your Religious Past,” Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 p.m. |
| 2 | Tues | Social Justice Action Committee, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9 PM |
| 3 | Wed | Supper at Six: potluck. Program at 7: Ideas for Growth |
| 4 | Thurs | Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:00p.m. |
| 4 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Sun | “Intergal Life Practice: Maps and Quadrants,” Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
| 8 | Sun | Community Connection, David Halperin, 12:30-1:30 PM |
| 8 | Mon | Men’s Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM |
| 8 | Mon | SOS meeting, Office, 7-8 p.m. |
| 8 | Mon | “Owning Your Religious Past,” Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 p.m. |
| 9 | Tues | Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM |
| 10 | Wed | Supper at Six: \$4 per adult, everybody help. Social time at 5:30; program at 7: Ideas for Growth |
| 11 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
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| 19 | Fri | SJA Friday Night at the Movies, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-10 PM |
| 21 | Sun | “Who We Are Not,” Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
| 22 | Mon | SOS meeting, Office, 7-8 p.m. |
| 25 | Thurs | Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 27 | Sat | SJA – Diet Eman/Holocaust Resist. Emmy Lou Cholak & Temple Beth El, 7-8:30 p.m. |
| 28 | Sun | TBA, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
| 29 | Mon | SOS meeting, Office, 7-8 p.m. |