



Sunday services 9:30 & 11 am; religious education classes, 11 am

[www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org)

email: [office@uucgt.org](mailto:office@uucgt.org)

Summer service schedule, May 25 through September 7: ONE service only, at 10:00 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
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Tuesday through Friday

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Vacant

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

Open mike service—"How Do You Play?"

**Alice Hansen & Emily Mitchell; R. Gary Deavel and Holly Knibbs**

Playing is essential to our well-being throughout life. It offers respite from the stresses of our world and everyday lives and, it nurtures us from within. Come to this open-mic service, share your thoughts and hear the many ways we play.

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

"Faster than Feeling"

**Rev. Chip; Vocal Ensemble members**

Reviving an ancient custom—fasting as a community spiritual practice.

**Sunday, April 20 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

"Plagued Frogs"

**Rev. Chip; Intergenerational Orchestra with Judy Weaver**

**Intergenerational Service.** Celebrating Passover and Earth Day—next year, in an ecologically more pure world! *Please bring (new) leavened food products, to donate to the food pantry.*

**Thursday, April 24 <yes, Thursday 4/24>**

"Breaking our Fast; Breaking our Habits"

**Rev. Chip**

Our annual Fast Day observance. Fast during the day, bring a potluck dish to break our fast together **(6:00 PM)**. Our Vocal Ensemble is invited to participate.

**Sunday, April 27 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

"Spiritual Predators"

**Rev. Chip & Lucky McKeen; Vocal Ensemble**

Our UU virtues, such as open-mindedness and commitment to a better world, can make us more vulnerable to spiritual predators. How to detect and avoid destructive cults.

**Sunday, May 4 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

"Integral Life Practice: States of Consciousness"

**Rev. Chip; UUCGT Jazz Band with Bob Hicks**

Exploring the three different--very different!--uses of the word "spiritual."

The fourth of the "Integral Vision" sermon series, although you need not have heard the previous four to appreciate it.

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

"The 'Good Enough' Mother"

**Rev. Chip; Musical Mothers and their Children**

Nobody's perfect—and, according to leading researchers, a little imperfection is exactly what babies need. Celebrate "good enough" living!

**Sunday, May 18 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

"Covenant: 'Cross my Heart...'"

**Rev. Chip; Vocal Ensemble; UU Orchestra**

Is a covenant different from a promise? Do either have the strength to compel moral action?

**New Member Sunday**

**UUCGT Annual Meeting following the second service**

**Sunday, May 25 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

*(We move to our summer schedule—one service only at 10 AM.)*

"Returning Veterans"

**Pastoral Care Team**

Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan need radically different care than veterans of previous wars. What is necessary and how can we help?

*the BEACON*

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

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## ALL ABOUT US

### Losses and Memorials

**Beece Fraser**—We were saddened to learn that Beece passed away on Feb. 28th. She was under the care of hospice at the Pavilions where she had been residing for a few years. Her memorial service will be at the UU Congregation at 1:30 p.m., June 17th, with Chip and Chaava Bahle presiding. An obituary with more details will be published close to that time.

**Julie Coté**—We were also saddened at the death of Julie Coté, a fairly new member of the congregation. She was a young mother of three children, Autumn and Celeste and Linden. She is survived also by her husband, Daniel Coté Jr. as well. Her memorial is to be held in the Upper Peninsula this summer.

**Ruth Gamble**—please note that the memorial for Ruth is to be held at our congregation following the services (1:30 p.m.) on Sunday, April 20th. She passed away on Feb. 15th and the family felt it would better serve them to hold it when the weather was better. They hope to also have the interment in our memorial gardens and for those who care to be part of that ceremony the family would welcome them to do so. Again, more information will be published in the way of an obituary closer to that date.

### Member News

**Michael and Christiane Dent** and family have relocated to Grand Rapids. Michael was laid off then fortunately immediately found a new job in Grand Rapids. They were also fortunate to sell their home and have another home in Grand Rapids. We wish them well.

**Joan Laird** is now residing in the Orchard Creek Assisted Living facility. She contracted pneumonia this winter and, after living at home alone after recovering, she felt it was time to try this arrangement. She said it is very good for her to have the company of others yet have her own privacy and it helps her to eat better when it is prepared and she eats with others.

### Healing Wishes For:

**Tom Albrecht** who suffered a concussion after a fall on ice. Also our best wishes to his brother and his sister who are dealing with health issues;  
**Cal Boulter** who had hip surgery March 17th (and went home the 18th) and then attended the Kick-off Stewardship event on the 22nd for a short while;  
**Judy Lindenau** in her continuing hip healing situation;  
**Rafael Williams** who continues with radiation treatments.

### We Are Mindful Of:

**Barbara Bloomer** and her upcoming surgery;  
**Nancy Peterson**—whose mother suffers from end-stage lung cancer. Nancy is in Hawaii with her at this time;  
**Becky Roush**—who is in Tennessee with her dying stepfather and family;  
**Charlotte Shea**—who learned her sister has pancreatic cancer. Charlotte drove down to be with her in Florida.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

Welcome, new members  
We are pleased to welcome and introduce new member Kay Sturgeon to our Congregation! Kay became a member in February, and usually attends the 9:30 am service. She is now

retired (maybe) from social work, teaching, office administration, and working in retail. Kay has an adult son and two grandsons living in Portland, Oregon. She enjoys snowshoeing, bird watching, beach walking, yard keeping, walking her dog and reading. Her favorite recent books include *The Peoples History of the US* and *A three Dog Life* and favorite new movie *The Bucket List*. What brought Kay here was “The Grateful Dead Trilogy” and what led her to become a member was the feeling of acceptance and UU principles.

We are pleased to welcome and introduce our newest members, Paul and Heather Seyfarth. Paul and Heather became members in February. They have a 5-year old daughter, Mairead, who likes coloring and art. Paul is a direct care worker; and enjoys going to the beach, games, reading, movies, music and writing. His favorite book is *Diamond Age*. Heather works as a community planner; and also enjoys going to the beach, as well as walking, travel, soccer, quilting, movies and sledding. Her favorite book is *Mother Daughter Wisdom*. Social justice and faith brought Heather to UUCGT, and she brought Paul (as well as his sister’s recommendation).

Thank you!

The following letter of thanks was received from the Women's Resource Center in response to our contribution for the Doula Program:

Dear Friends:

On behalf of our Board, staff, volunteers and clients, the Women's Resource Center thanks you for your generous gift of \$383 to be used in our Doula Program for diapers and baby items. We are very grateful for your support of our agency and the women and children we serve. Please find a receipt attached.

In these trying budgetary times, we can continue to keep pace in providing vital services to our clients; specifically our Doula program which provides volunteer mentors and support services to young parents and their babies during pregnancy and for three years following birth, thanks to your help. Together we are promoting a culture of security and safety in our community.

Your continued acts of kindness are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Jo Ballis*

Executive Director

# MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

In February and again in March, the Board began to consider the true role of a Board in a congregation our size. I share with you the following questions that currently guide our thinking:

1. Who is responsible for the programs of the church?
2. How do our decisions affect what happens here on Sunday morning?
3. Is there a mission felt by the congregation?
4. What is our central focus?
5. What/who are the underserved?
6. What does UUCGT do/stand for?

We will address these questions at the April Board meeting by grappling with the following: WHAT do we do? WHY do we do it? WHO is responsible for WHAT we do and WHY we do it. Articulate answers to these questions can move us forward as a Board and

a Congregation in our spiritual growth. I quote from a sermon given by the Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs last June at General Assembly: "The ongoing effort to reconsider the purposes of (UUCGT) is not an idle exercise, but serves to give greater focus to congregational life and ultimately to deepen our practice so that we might live more loving, more effective, and more joyful lives."

We hope to extend this conversation into the wider congregation as we move toward our annual meeting on May 18, the special budget meeting in June, (date to be determined), and our vigorous return in September after a summer of much needed rest. Be with us as we journey!

In Faith,

—Joan



## The RE SCOOP

### OWL is Flying!

The spring session of OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders is underway! Final enrollment is at 18 students, about half from our congregation and half from the wider community.

OWL is a unique and vital program for these teens and their families, because it offers a comprehensive approach to sexuality, addressing emotions, relationships, and identity as well as anatomy.

The next sessions will be April 12 and 26, and an overnight May 10-11. The course is led by volunteers: four specially trained OWL facilitators – **Gail Trill, Katy Bean-Larson, Ron Yatich, and John Bachman** – and one certified sex educator, **Paula Hartmann**. Let the congregation say "Thank you!"

You can help, too, by donating healthy snacks, so we can keep these young folk well fed while they learn.



### Frosti the Survivor



Our Youth Group worked with volunteer organizers (thanks to you all!) to create a wonderful community-building and fund-raising evening with Michael "Frosti" Zernow. Mike, a UUCGT Youth Group graduate and contestant on "Survivor: China" who now has a busy career as a parkour

athlete, spoke to a crowd of almost 200 in Lars Hockstad Auditorium. Final numbers are still being tallied: we raised close to \$300 for Pete's Place, the youth wing of the homeless shelter, and some money for our congregation, too.

Mike also spoke at UUCGT the next morning, along with another UUtH graduate, Emily Tack, in a meaningful worship service. Mike and Emily are fine examples of the young adults who go forth from our congregation!

### RE Keeps On Keepin' On

In the midst of special programs like OWL and Frosti, we continue to have a busy time in the RE spaces.

- April 6: All-Ages RE Games in Celebration of Spring Break
- April 13 and 27: Each group returns to regularly scheduled RE programming
- April 20: Intergenerational Worship Service: Earth Day and Passover

Leaders are always needed! If you'd like to come and play with our kids, contact me!

Stay tuned for plans for Coming of Age, Bridging, and spring community service projects.

—Karen McCarthy, DRE  
dre@uucgt.org



### Bowling Night!!!

I'll bet you haven't been bowling for a while, have you? It's time to change that. Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, a couple of lanes at Timber Lanes in Traverse City will echo with the sounds of UUs having a good time while wearing funny shoes. There is the option to have pizza or other items from the snack bar, and bumpers can be placed in the gutters for younger bowlers. RSVP to Anna Bachman, 946-7310 or annerlb@earthlink.net by April 23<sup>rd</sup> if you're in!

## MINDING THE STORE

Building addition: It's within our reach

The Facilities and Building Team has been assembling information and plans for a smaller addition to UUCGT. Based on our available funds and unpaid pledges, we expect to be able to fund a roughly \$225,000 project—IF we are able to meet our operating budget goals for the coming year.

The suggested budget includes funds for debt service that will help pay for the expansion. Your annual financial commitment to UUCGT will determine whether we can build this year.

A finance team is assembling mortgage information as plans for the addition are finalized. We anticipate sending the project out to bid yet this spring, so that the Congregation will have ample information prior to voting, hopefully, at the annual meeting.

We also have been assembling estimates for repairs and maintenance of the existing building, and anticipate recommending that \$18,000 from the Building Fund be spent in this area. The remainder would be spent on construction of the addition.

We will schedule another round of informational meetings once detailed information is available. Your continued feedback and questions are encouraged.

—Paul Heaton  
Trustee for Facilities

### Beacon Mailing

I want to thank all those who have helped with the Beacon mailing over the past years. We met once a month in a crew of about six (the people varying each month) to assemble, fold, tape and label the Beacon, and we had fun doing it. The crew included: John and Penny Ort, Mary Lou McGue, Nancy Pihlcrantz, Kay Wentzel, Shari Cope, Ellen Weber, Helen Sullivan and Ann Chinn and probably others whom I don't recall.

Since the advent of the e-mailed Beacon, only about 60+ are sent by post. Nancy Pihlcrantz now does this mailing alone, for which we give a big helping of appreciation.

—Peg Kauffman

### Chametz for a Good Cause!

Please bring chametz—food products with leavening—to our April 20th Passover/EarthDay service. Our Jewish cousins empty their house of chametz every year, to

## From Our Senior Minister

### Party!

30 March 2008

What a great time! The food was delicious; the music was beautiful; and the water table was a blast. I've been to a lot of stewardship drive kick-off parties, but I don't think I've ever been to one that was more enjoyable. I've heard about all the fun things our congregation used to do; now I've seen for myself. I've heard that some folks had such a good time, that they're already planning another event for our congregational community. We do a lot of good work, together, and we all live busy lives—and we can play together some, too. Thanks to John & Pinkie Hoffmann, and the other volunteers who put on the stewardship party, and thanks to all of us who will throw our future events.

With Spirit,

—the Rev. Chip Roush

prepare for Passover. We may or may not need to clean our kitchens, but we can take the opportunity to do something good for the world. Please bring new containers of pastas, breads, cookies, cakes, corn syrup, or anything else with wheat in it, and we'll donate them to the food bank.

### Used Book Sale

A used book sale fundraiser will be held again in September. Please save all those good books for resale. The date will be announced later.

### Call for Artwork

Each season, we sing "Round and Round" at a Sunday Service, and take down an icon of the old season, replacing it with an icon of the new season. We've been using icons made of construction paper, but they're a bit small. So we're inviting the many artists in the congregation to create new icons. Please submit your idea, or the finished product (one each: spring, summer, fall, winter, between 18 and 36 inches across), to the office by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Chalice Lighters

Celebrate your birthday or anniversary, or commemorate some other important date, by lighting the chalice on Sunday morning. Volunteers will have a chance to tell why they have chosen that date. Please see the sign-up sheet outside the office, or call or email.



### The Marketplace

For sale: Malaysia antique wood cake molds. They were used for the Moon Festival. These would make great wall decorations. The wood is dark and very dense. Selling for \$100 and \$20 goes to the church. Call Ellen Weber at 223-7235.

—Barb Bloomer

## ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### New Member Orientation Scheduled

The Membership Committee along with Rev. Chip Roush has scheduled a New Member Orientation session for two Wednesdays, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (following the Wednesday Night Supper). This orientation is for newer members who have not already attended one and for those individuals who are considering becoming members of the UUCGT. At the orientation session we will discuss the Congregation's history, program & activities, organizational structure, and have plenty of time to "get to know each other." Rev. Roush will discuss UU principles, and his thoughts regarding the future plans for our Congregation. A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Table in the hallway; if you have questions please see a

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# From Our Minister of Music

## A Place in the Choir

I sing tenor.

In the choral spectrum that runs from low, grounding bass voices to high, transcendent soprano voices, my range is smack dab in the middle. With altos, we tenors navigate internal patterns, round out harmonies as needed, and bridge the extremes. We are catalysts, we internal voices, able to duet safely and satisfyingly with any of the other voices, offering points of connection. Once in a while a composer charges us with the melody, but most often we move in the middle.

Beyond my vocal range, governed in large part by my genetic inheritance, I am a middle-voice person in temperament as well (perhaps also governed in large part by my genetic inheritance). I prefer moving in the middle, on the inside of the collective sound,

unique and daring in other dimensions, but wary of the surface edges. I am coming to understand that not only do I prefer this territory, but that I am often of greatest service here—a catalyst facilitating chemical reactions and synergistic connections, once in a while charged with a melody, but most often navigating the rich expanse of the center.

Where is your voice in this choir of ours? What is your natural range? your comfortable range? your achievable range? Where is your voice in the transcendent harmonies we create together?

The journey at hand requires all of our voices. What part do you sing?

Yours,

*Rev. Kevin Tarsá*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

### Health Care for Michigan Campaign

Emmy Lou Cholak has informational handouts and petitions available to get health care reform for Michigan on the November statewide ballot. She encourages everyone's participation and invites people to learn more about this important social issue at public meetings in our area in April as follows:

- **Monday, April 14** in Traverse City: 11:30 AM to 2 PM, Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St; 4 to 9 PM, Traverse City Public Library on Woodmere Ave.
- **Tuesday, April 15** in Leelanau County: 12 noon to about 2 PM at Leland Public Library; 5:30 until close at Silver Tree Deli in Suttons Bay.
- **Wednesday, April 16** in Benzie County: 11:30 AM to 2 PM, Benzie County Township Hall in Benzonia.

These meetings are continuous and open to all—come at any time you are able and learn and ask questions. If

the meeting is over a mealtime, feel free to bring your bagged food.

Further information available on the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network website: [www.healthcareformichigan.org/](http://www.healthcareformichigan.org/). Locally please contact Emmy Lou Cholak, 231-943-7999, [sjtc@charter.net](mailto:sjtc@charter.net) or Northwest Michigan Organizer Kim Halladay 231-845-6790, [khalladay@charter.net](mailto:khalladay@charter.net). We thank each site for allowing the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network to hold a public meeting on their premises, but please note that the ideas expressed at the meetings do not necessarily represent the ideas held by the hosting organizations.

If you would like to help, please contact me at the above number. Thank you!

Movies that Matter the Most  
The UUCGT "Movies that Matter the Most" program has moved! In April at the State Theatre, UUCGT will be sponsoring the Monday Community movie, *The Corporation*. It will show on Monday, April 28, at 7:30 PM. Plan to be there. We need more volunteers to help with ushering. Please let me know if you can do this.

Otherwise just come and enjoy. Discussion will be held afterwards at Horizon Books. We plan to have some experts discussing the issues. Join in.

*The Corporation*, a documentary and winner of an impressive number of film awards, explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Footage from pop culture, advertising, TV news, and corporate propaganda illuminates the corporations' grip on our lives. Taking its legal status as a "person" (in accordance with a ruling of the US Supreme Court) to its logical conclusion, the film puts the corporation on the psychiatrist's couch to ask, "What kind of person is it?" Provoking, witty, sweepingly informative, *The Corporation* includes forty interviews with corporate insiders and critics—including Milton Friedman, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, and Michael Moore—plus true confessions, case studies and strategies for change. The film is based on the book *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power* by Joel Bakan.

See you at the State- and at the Health Care meetings!

—Emmy Lou Cholak.

Membership Committee person (look for the “Ask Me” yellow tags attached to name tags on Sunday mornings).

—John Hoffman

### Men’s Group

Welcome back, Snowbirds! UUCGT Men will be meeting and eating at 6:00 p.m. in the back room at the “Cottage Café” on Monday, April 14. All interested males and their friends are cordially invited to join us for a friendly meal and convivial conversation. We will be considering future meeting sites; please bring any new ideas.

—John Ort

### Crones and Scones

Please meet Wednesday April 9 at 11:00 at Marge Rundell’s house. We will walk to Minerva’s or you may meet us there at 11:30. For discussion, please read Spring 2008 *UU World* article (page 16) on Congregational Life, relating to music in our services. For further information, call Marge Rundell, 946-7237. On Wednesday April 23 we will view the 11:00 AM film at the State Theatre and then have lunch at Agave, 851 S Garfield, with film discussion. For further information, call Mercedes Kimling, 223-7537.

—Marge Rundell

### Celtic Nature-spirituality Potential?

Several members have expressed interest in getting together to enhance their own spirituality by participating in Celtic nature-based rituals (such as our annual Winter Solstice ceremony). Not knowing the extent of interest, but willing to explore this further, we’d like to get an idea of how many members might consider such an opportunity. Are the seasonal celebrations of interest? Perhaps a “seed-group” that meets regularly to discuss/learn/explore? Please contact Jeff Hawkins (via email, preferably, [yodashawk@aol.com](mailto:yodashawk@aol.com), or by phone at 267-5759 if you don’t have email) if this area of nature-spirituality intrigues you. No prior experience is assumed—just an open mind, a love of nature, and a willingness to experience (rather than simply discuss) the Divine in nature from a Celtic perspective.

—Jeffery Hawkins /\\

## MUSICAL NOTES

### *Warm Music Thank-You’s...*

- ♪ To Mitch Treadwell, oboe and to string players Kim Gribi, Paul Heaton, Pohai Mueller, Nancy Peterson, Jean Saalfeld L.E. Smith, and Judy Weaver for a beautiful “Gabriel’s Oboe” and Bach’s “Air,” on March 2.
- ♪ To Neal Endicott for his amazing etude and blues playing on that tenor sax in the Youth service on March 9.
- ♪ To percussionists Neil, Adrienne, Theresa and Andy Evans, Jeff Hawkins, Cubby Knox, Gretchen Kronk, Marin and Kathy Tack, Melinda Mitchell and Jeremy Treadwell who brought great rhythmic energy to the “Frosti” weekend.
- ♪ To the Vocal Ensemble and Gary Deavel, for a rousing “Joy and Hallelujah” with composer and soloist Mary Anne Rivers and extraordinary bass player Andy Evans, and for a lovely “Alleluia.”

### Musicians...

Your ideas and your music are welcome. Give me a call and let me know what music is moving you these days and what music you would hope to share with this community.

### Intergenerational Orchestra

Sunday, April 20. Join seasoned teacher Judy Weaver in an intergenerational orchestra. If you (or your child!) play an instrument and would like to be included, please email or call Judy Weaver at 947-0947, [weavmusic@aol.com](mailto:weavmusic@aol.com).

### Jazz Band

Sunday, May 4! Feeling the urge? Join us for “Green Onions” and “Bad Attitude.” Contact Rev. Kevin at 922-8146 or [revkevin@uucgt.org](mailto:revkevin@uucgt.org)

### Men

Celebrate Father’s Day, June 15, by making some music at UUCGT. Male singers and Whistlers, as well as

instrumentalists are invited to join in Joe Jencks’ song, “Men Are Good,” plus you may have additional ideas for music you would enjoy making. Contact Rev. Kevin at 922-8146 or [revkevin@uucgt.org](mailto:revkevin@uucgt.org)

### More...

“spirit in the bone: embodied communal experiences”—the first and third Tuesday of each month, 7:00-8:15 pm.

April 15 – Chanting: The Sound of your Heart

Another evening session of simple chanting and toning, designed to attune us to each other and to our own hearts. No experience necessary. Facilitated by Rev. Kevin.

May 6 – Drumming/Percussion Circle: Feel the Beat. No experience necessary. Join us for an intimate drum circle, using any of the various percussion instruments we have, or your own instruments. We’ll begin with some explorations of the sounds at our fingertips and a chance to tune our listening ear, then we’ll save a good segment of time to see where the beating of our hearts take us. Contact Mary Van Valin, Marilyn Madison or Rev. Kevin for more information.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Five Wishes

What is our biggest concern, after the war, in the politics-saturated world we are in today? It seems to be “the economy, stupid” all over again. The non-supervision of Wall Street activities and its mortgage companies has brought on a crisis in home ownership for millions of Americans. Present health care is totally out of reach for the foreclosed people as well as so many other citizens. The meteoric rise of costs should be an incentive, for we present and future users of its over-extended capabilities, to feel an obligation to help our families make responsible decisions, should we become seriously ill or incapacitated.

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There is a user-friendly process to accomplish this, called Five Wishes. Many of us can vouch for our families' approval and acceptance of our actions in micro-managing our future care. Given the sometimes-extraordinary measure for prolonging what could become a tragedy for our families, we urge young and old alike to examine the Five Wishes material, available in our reception hall, and at hospitals and doctors' offices.

We've had successes in making a difference in Traverse City. With our united efforts of will and energy, and an understanding of the challenges and rewards of extending the Five Wishes program in our and the greater community, we can provide an avenue for the continued growth and health of our congregation.

—Mercedes Kimling

#### ICUU thank-you

Thanks to our Christmas Eve collection, and other donations from congregations around the country, the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists' conference in Kenya was a huge success. The Rev. Ms. Jill McAllister expects that there will be more Unitarians in Africa than in the rest of the world, within ten years. On behalf of the ICUU, thank you!

#### Finding Your Spiritual Home— *A Summer Retreat in Wyoming, June 29-July 5, 2008*

Join with other UUs from Michigan and around the country at the beautiful Ring Lake Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming for a week of rest, recreation and spiritual renewal. In addition to a great program, great companions and spectacular scenery, there are daily opportunities for walking, hiking, yoga, river rafting, petroglyph hunting, canoeing and trail-riding. Families with older children and teens have enjoyed this retreat together in years past. In addition, participants can choose to join an evening program provided by the Ranch, titled "Mid-Life/Long-Life Directions for People 35-65+", to focus on issues of transition in mid-life. Cost per person: \$650, includes lodging, meals, and daily program. Some outings and extra-

curricular activities (such as rafting on the Snake River) may be extra. Registration due by May 15—forms are available at [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net), or contact Jill McAllister.

#### Gary's new address

Gary Singer has been moved; his new address is #591421 Marquette Branch Prison, 1960 US Hwy 41 South; Marquette, MI 49855. Maggie Zimmerman's address remains #591413 Huron Valley Complex 3511 Bemis Road Ypsilanti MI 48197. They really appreciate receiving mail (in a plain white envelope with no stickers of any kind). They may or may not reply, but they are grateful.

#### AMUUSE Singles Camps

Summer vacation fun for single adults! Three Camps are sponsored by AMUUSE (Adult Midwest UU Singles Enrichment) this summer: Saugatuck, MI: June 15-20; Williams Bay, WI: July 13-19; Saugatuck, MI: Aug. 10-16. Mornings at AMUUSE camps offer you the opportunity to truly connect with a small group of campers with similar interests in a week-long group interacting on various topics. Afternoons are open for a wide range of activities (recreational, social, crafts) or perhaps to just relax and enjoy the idyllic surrounding. Evenings offer a variety of fun activities: a coffee-house, costume parties, campfires or a camp show, followed by high-energy dancing, hanging out at the informal hospitality area or other activities of your choice. For more details see the AMUUSE website at: [www.amuuse.org](http://www.amuuse.org) <<http://www.amuuse.org>>. Or pick up a brochure from UUCGT's kiosk in the social hall.

#### Nuclear Power in Space

April 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, Carol Still will attend "Strat Com: The Most Dangerous Place on the Face of the Earth," a conference put on by Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, in Omaha, NE. Bruce Gagnon and the Global Network will be heading this conference. Carol will have a table in the lobby after Sunday services to distribute information about the conference and to collect free-will

donations to support her attendance there. Her hope is to bring back further information to publish in the local press. Please talk to Carol if you would like further information.

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### General Assembly Update

General Assembly (GA) is fast approaching! GA will be held from Wednesday, June 25 through Sunday, June 29, 2008, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. GA's theme this year is "Common Threads", and will focus on the strength of the denomination's and UUA's member congregations through their shared interests, beliefs, and commonalities. There are plentiful opportunities for ministers, lay leaders, and members to come together and experience our living heritage in workshops, lectures, group work, worship, and fellowship. It promises to be both stimulating and fun! In addition, the "UU University" will be held again this year, with Nick Carter—the President of Andover Newton Theological School—offering the keynote. The topic this year will be "Ministry in the Borderlands", about how we reach out to ourselves and others, appreciating and drawing upon the strength of diversity of thought, opinions, theologies, etc.

Discounted housing rates will apply on reservations made by May 15, 2008, so it's time to consider going now! We also have open slots for voting delegates to GA. If you'd like to be considered as an official voting delegate from our congregation, please contact Jeff Hawkins (ph 231-267-5759, email: [yodashawk@aol.com](mailto:yodashawk@aol.com)) soon! Further information on GA is at: [www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml), or you can email their office directly at: [generalassembly@uua.org](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org). Note that you will need to have a government-issued picture ID (driver's license, passport, etc.) to access the GA site this year.

—Jeffery Hawkins //

Trustee for Denominational Affairs

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road  
Traverse City MI 49686-1802



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April 2008

**Calendar**

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

**April**

- 1 Tue Social Justice Action Cmte, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7:00-9:00 PM
- 1 Tue spirit in the bone: embodied communal experiences, Kevin Tarsa, 7:00-8:15 PM
- 2 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 2 Wed Supper at Six, potluck, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: "The Six Words" with Mercedes Kimling
- 3 Thur Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 3 Thur VE BYOD, Mary Cheney, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 3 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 3 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.
- 6 Sun *Open mike service, "How Do You Play?" Alice Hansen & Emily Mitchell, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 6 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 8 Tue Board of Trustees, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
- 9 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 9 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 9 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 3-5 PM
- 9 Wed Supper at Six, \$4 per adult, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: "Aspects of Religious Humanism—a painting," Sally Mitchell
- 10 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 12 Sat OWL, 9 AM – 6 PM
- 13 Sun *"Faster than Feeling," Rev Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 13 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 14 Mon Men's Group, Cottage Café, John Ort, 6-8:00 PM
- 15 Tue spirit in the bone: embodied communal experiences, Kevin Tarsa, 7:00-8:15 PM
- 16 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 16 Wed Supper at Six, \$4 per adult, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: "Poetry Examined" with poet Fleda Brown
- 17 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 17 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.
- 20 Sun *"Plagued Frogs," Rev Chip & young persons' orchestra (intergenerational service), services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 20 Sun Ruth Gamble Memorial Service (tentative), 1-3:30 PM
- 20 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 22 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM
- 23 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 23 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 23 Wed Supper at Six, \$4 per adult, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: "Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Transcendentalists Continued," HG Smith
- 24 Thur *"Breaking Our Fast, Breaking Our Habits," Rev Chip, potluck, 6-7 p.m.***
- 24 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 26 Sat OWL, 11 AM – 6 PM

- 27 Sun *"Spiritual Predators," Rev Chip & Lucky McKeen, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 27 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 30 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 30 Wed Supper at Six, \$4 per adult, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: "Outdoors Experiences at Their Best" with Bob Fitch and friends
- May**
- 1 Thur VE BYOD, Mary Cheney, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 1 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 1 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.
- 4 Sun *"Integral Life Practice: States of Consciousness," Rev Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 4 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 6 Tue Social Justice Action Cmte, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7:00-9:00 PM
- 6 Tue spirit in the bone, K Tarsa, M Van Valin, M Madison, 7:00-8:15 PM
- 7 Wed Supper at Six, potluck, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: TBA
- 8 Thur Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 8 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 10 Sat OWL, 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- 11 Sun OWL overnight, 12:00 AM – 8:30 AM
- 11 Sun *"The 'Good Enough' Mother," Rev Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 11 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 12 Mon Men's Group, Cottage Café, John Ort, 6-8:00 PM
- 13 Tue Board of Trustees, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
- 14 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 14 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 14 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 3-5 PM
- 14 Wed Wednesday Dining Out: TBA
- 15 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.
- 15 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 18 Sun *"Covenant: 'Cross my Heart...'" Rev Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.***
- 18 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 20 Tue spirit in the bone, K Tarsa, M Van Valin, M Madison, 7:00-8:15 PM
- 21 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 21 Wed Supper at Six, \$4 per adult, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: TBA
- 22 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 25 Sun *"Returning Veterans," Pastoral Care Team, ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m.***
- 25 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 5-6:30 PM
- 27 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM
- 28 Wed Meditation Group, Catherine Dancer, 12-1 PM
- 28 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 28 Wed Supper at Six, \$4 per adult, social time 5:30, program 7-8 PM: TBA
- 29 Thur Vocal Ensemble rehearsal, Kevin Tarsa, 7-8:30 p.m.