



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

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802
231-947-3117

office@uucgt.org

Fax: 231-947-0726

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

Office Hours:
9 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday through Friday

*Minister**

Rev. Chip Roush, 947-3117

jchipr@yahoo.com

*Minister of Music**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146

revkevin@uucgt.org

Director of Religious

*Education**

Karen McCarthy, 935-1570

dre@uucgt.org

*Congregational Administrator**

Linda Martin, 947-3117

office@uucgt.org

Facilities Manager

Pat Phelan, 947-3117

fmgr@uucgt.org

Bookkeeper

Connie Hoffman, 947-3117

bookie@uucgt.org

*Ex officio members of the Board

Board of Trustees 2008-2009:

President

Joan Sheard 922-1834

joansheard@aol.com

Vice President

Christie McGue 941-1923

christiemcque@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Leslie Cook 938-1466

cookles@chartermi.net

Secretary

Jim Cook 941-4648

jcook2@mhc.net

Trustee

John Noonan 935-1570

john.noonan@charter.net

Trustee

Jeff Hawkins 267-5759

yodashawk@aol.com

Trustee

Cal Boulter 935-3050

calvinboulter@charter.net

Sunday, February 1 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Reclaiming Our True Nature of Pure Love: Toltec Wisdom"

Maura Brennan

The Toltec were "scientists and artists" who formed a society in southern Mexico thousands of years ago to conserve the spiritual knowledge and practices of "the ancient ones."

Though not a religion, Toltec knowledge arises from the same essential unity of truth as all the sacred esoteric traditions around the world. We will discuss the teachings of Don Miguel Ruiz, a nagual from the Eagle Knight lineage, and his teachings of how we can recover our faith in the truth, and reclaim happiness, joy and love, by refusing to believe in the lies we have told ourselves.

Sunday, February 8 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Thank God for Evolution"

Rev. Chip

Our naturally evolving universe is every bit as awe-inspiring as a supernaturally-created one. Referencing the work of Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow, this intergenerational service will explore how the spirit of evolution is acting in us and through us right now.

Sunday, February 15 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Monogamy and Avocado Sandwiches"

Rev. Chip; Vocal Ensemble

From the passionate embrace of Valentine's Day, to the mature commitment of a Golden Anniversary, how do we humans navigate the journeys of love?

Sunday, February 22 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Turtles: A Report from the Field"

Max OldBear

Experiencing natural order through observation from life in the out-of-doors...and through selected readings. Take a hike. Saunter along with a Park Ranger and friends Ralph W., Henry D., Emily and J. Fenimore.

Sunday, March 1 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Appetite for Pudding: Berrying with Thoreau"

Rev. Chip

We'll hear from two different Unitarian ancestors: Henry David Thoreau and Norbert Capek (bring a cut flower to church this morning!).

Sunday, March 8 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Free"

Rev. Chip

Free...freedom...free will..."freedom is not free"... "freedom's just another word..." In this fifth of our series on our UUA's Seven Principles, we'll explore principle #4: "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

Sunday, March 15 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

To be announced in the March issue

Sunday, March 22 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Spring Returns!" - All-Music Service

Rev. Kevin, Vocal Ensemble, and musicians of the congregation

This annual gift of music and reflection arrives with the Vernal equinox this year. After the long cold, beautiful months of winter, come celebrate the arrival of spring in both our inner and outer landscapes.

the BEACON

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

Jim Cook, Editor, 935-5891
Beacon@uucgt.org
Mary Kiner, Assoc. Editor, 935-3050
Beacon@uucgt.org
Linda Carps, Calendar, 946-8726
Beacon@uucgt.org

Folding, labeling & mailing
by Nancy Pihlcrantz

Musings of Our Senior Minister

Sabbatical Preaching

25 January 2009

Their minister is on sabbatical, but the members of the Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church, in Cincinnati, Ohio, are still hearing high-quality sermons every week. In addition to talented lay people, HUUC is hosting a diverse stream of professionals. Because the UU ministers of the Heartland District have covenanted together, to fill in for each other's sabbaticals, these professional clergy preach at HUUC for free. I'm one of those clergy—I'll preach at HUUC on February 22nd. I'm also filling

in for the congregation in Fort Wayne, on March 22nd. Last year, I preached while the minister in Midland was on sabbatical, and I'm already scheduled in East Lansing, next year. Someday, when our congregation is looking for pulpit supply during my sabbatical (in 2010-2011, at the earliest), we should be able to find enough clergy to supplement our talented lay preachers—for free!

With Spirit,

the Rev. Chip Roush

ALL ABOUT US

Our Joys:

- ❖ Lynne Perkins who celebrates the global release of her latest picture book.
- ❖ LE and HG Smith who celebrated their 50th anniversary on Jan. 24.
- ❖ Chris Williams whose Traverse Community Music is an asset to our community.
- ❖ Marilyn Mayo whose son Jeff is getting married in February.
- ❖ Barbara Berry whose granddaughter was born in a car in January.
- ❖ Luke Shumaker who took his first step in the UU nursery on Jan. 25
- ❖ Greg Boothroyd whose prognosis is excellent for his melanoma.
- ❖ Sally Mitchell who was our December Care Giver of the Month.
- ❖ Kathy and Bob Prentice who are our January Care Givers of the Month.
- ❖ Myrna Yeakle who had successful eye surgery.
- ❖ Mercedes Kimling who quickly recovered from walking pneumonia without anyone knowing about it.
- ❖ The UU's who provide care to one another, often without anyone else knowing about it.

Our Concerns

Margaret Tarsa who is now in Hospice Care.

Lucky McKeen who had successful surgery and is bravely dealing with severe pain and plans to be back in church in Feb.

Dan McKeen whose 96 year old mother is now in Hospice Care.

Marilyn Mayo who broke her wrist and may be wearing a brace for her son's wedding.

Gail Trill who is experiencing a lot of pain as she awaits hip surgery March 2.

Gene Rundell whose sister-in-law died in Florida.

Rick Shumaker whose father had a heart attack.

Helen Sullivan who has had dermatology surgery and is recovering at home.

Linda Dunigan whose son Shane is recovering from his surgery.

MaryAnn Force whose daughter-in-law Cindi is hospitalized in Ohio as she battles cancer.

Maggie Gingras who continues to battle Lupus and Congestive Heart Failure.

George Ball who had open heart surgery.

Emmy Lou Cholak whose sister-in-law is in Hospice Care in Cincinnati.

In our hearts and minds:

- ♥ Paul Ward
- ♥ Mary Cheney
- ♥ Connie Hoffman
- ♥ Kim Gribi
- ♥ Mary VanValin
- ♥ Barb Bloomer
- ♥ Arline Howe
- ♥ Kirk Rowe
- ♥ Mary Mintz
- ♥ Jalene Moore
- ♥ Richard Myer

- ♥ Bob Reinhardt
- ♥ Gary Singer, his daughters, and Patty Pelizzari
- ♥ Jim and Mary Ellen Thero
- ♥ Maggie Zimmerman and Joe and Danielle Tiedeck

—The Pastoral Care Team

Welcome, New Member!

We are pleased to welcome and introduce our newest member, Barbara McClellan, to our Congregation!

Barbara became a member in January, and usually attends the 9:30am service. She works in sales at an art gallery. Barbara enjoys exercising at a gym, reading, and doing hand work. Her favorite book is *Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama. Barbara came to UUCGT because of friends, and a sense of belonging led her to become a member.

Basketry Art in the Hallways

I continue to find different ways to weave with natural materials in my eight years of weaving. Willow and bulrush are more than plants along the water's edge; for centuries they have been transformed first into usable and more recently decorative objects. Likewise cedar bark and black ash trees have been cut, stripped and prepared for weaving delicate as well as strong utility baskets. The material preparation, frequently time consuming, is integral to the weaving of objects and for me equally creative.

—Rev. Nancy Doughty

A Note from the President...

Your Board took several action steps at the January meeting. I am listing them here so that you are aware of the "Business" of the Board. A healthy Board needs to constantly review its purpose and function in order to govern wisely. Therefore, we are seeking the assistance of a consultant as we attempt to grow from a management to a governance based Board. We desire guidance as we review our responsibilities.

After receiving the report of the treasurer, we knew that the input of the congregation was vital in the establishment of budgetary priorities for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. To that end we are "hosting" a soup lunch and congregational conversation after the second service on February 8. Leslie Cook, treasurer, and Phyllis Jessup, Chair of the Finance Committee, will lead that discussion. Paul Heaton will also provide an update on the proposed building addition. Sara Montgomery has graciously accepted the responsibility for organization of the event.

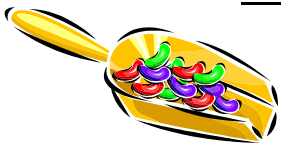
Additional action items:

- *Approved the design for a new entrance sign on Center Road. Design submitted by Emily Mitchell and Carl Bean-Larson of the Nielsen Design Group. Moved that bids be sought from two or more vendors for construction of the sign.*
- *Moved to support the \$700 fee for an endowment committee audit. (Such audit is required by the bylaws.)*
- *Moved that Peg Kauffman, John Hoffman and Joe Cook comprise the Committee on Ministry.*
- *Moved that UUCGT nominate Peter Morales for Presidency of the UUAC.*

All motions carried.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. We will have had the opportunity to hear your concerns, recommendations, and desires for our congregation by then. We hope the soup lunch/conversation can work for you!

—Joan



The RE SCOOP

Youth Ministry

Recently, the Unitarian Universalist Association conducted an in-depth consultation on how our congregations minister to youth. The task force surveyed 1,400 youth, and held conversations with 88 congregations, as well as District gatherings, stakeholder conversations, and a Summit on Youth Ministry.

The summary of the consultation states that there is a widespread desire in Unitarian Universalism to shift from "youth programs" to *youth ministry*.

How are *we* ministering to the teens in our congregation? How do we help them feel welcome, meet their spiritual needs, strengthen their Unitarian Universalist identity, and empower them as they mature?

Beginning next month, we will hold a Coming of Age program for any youth age 13 – 18 who has not yet come of age in our congregation. Led by young adult volunteer Paul Seyfarth, the program will meet on Sunday mornings

during RE and culminate in a Coming of Age Sunday Service in April. Paul and I have surveyed the congregation and families with eligible children, and are tailoring the program to suit their needs, using a new curriculum written by the DREs in the Lansing UU church.

Do *you* accept the premise that youth ministry is an integral Unitarian Universalist ministry and part of our collective past, present, and future?

If so, how can *you* minister to our youth?

- Invite a youth to join your committee.
- Become an advisor to our Youth Group and guide and support our high school members in their chosen activities.
- Volunteer to support Paul Seyfarth and me in the Coming of Age program.
- Simply seek out teens before and after services, get to know them, and let them know that you're glad to see them.

On January 20, I was privileged to spend an evening with some of our youth, eating Thai take-out and watching a videotape of the inauguration of President Obama. I was

struck anew by how intelligent, witty, knowledgeable, and passionate our kids are! They deserve our best effort as they find their paths as emerging adults and committed Unitarian Universalists. I can't minister to them alone.

Together, we can improve our youth ministry, and honor our teens' vital importance to our congregation and our denomination.

Mystery Friends

This wonderful program helps to create a multi-generational community in our congregation. Adults are paired with children, and send those children cards and letters over the course of several weeks. The children will discover the identity of their Mystery Friends at a special luncheon after the service on Sunday, March 15. This is a delightful, safe way for adults and children to get to know each other! Sign-up will begin Sunday, Feb. 1 for adults who want to be a Mystery Friend for a child, and for children to be paired with them. For more information, contact Anna Bachman (946-7310) Joan Leppek or Heather Shumaker.

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Safe Harbor

Our Safe Harbor ship is sailing and fast approaching the UU harbor. Please call or see Ann Dressel 922-0483 or Pinkie Hoffman 275-3602 to get on board. We are asking for captains and crew for March 14th (Saturday) night thru March 20th (Friday) night. Being captain involves getting volunteers for a chosen night to provide the items on the menu. Captain and crew then bring food at 5:00 pm, serve and stay until 8:00 pm for cleanup and perhaps some socializing. There are people on a list who would be willing to be crew. Reimbursement is available upon request. Ask for details. Also, anyone who would like to stay on an overnight would be welcomed and should contact Ann Dressel for details. We will be happy to take donations of food or money for the project.

Men's Group

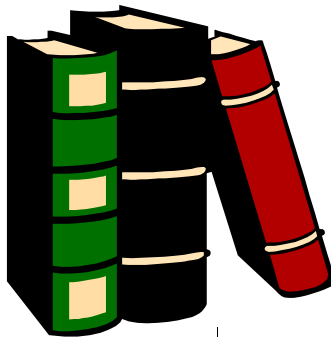
UUCGT Men's Group: Attention UU Men! Mark Monday, February 9, 6:00 p.m. on your calendar. We may discuss, "Does UUCGT have a Mission Statement or a Congregational Vision or not?" Of course! Of Course! It is neither a cow nor a horse!!!! And we may find something of greater interest! See you at Ruby Tuesday's back room. Please come help us find our way!???????

—John Ort??? 932 8766

Book Club—

2009 Schedule

January 4, 2009 –
2:00 p.m. Suite Française by Nemirovsky. Host Mark Gustafson.
 February 1, 2009 –
2:00 p.m. March by Brooks. Host Ann Dressel.



March 1, 2009 – **2:00 p.m. Song of the Lark** by Cather. Host H.G. Smith.

April 5, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Johnny One-Eye* by Charyn, Host Mary Lou McGue.

May 3, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Harriett & Isabella* by O'Brien. Host Mercedes Kimling.

June 7, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Gilead* by Robinson. Host Barb B.

July 12, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Divisadero* by Ondaatje. Host Marcia Belanger.

August 9, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Intuition* by Goodman. Host Harriet W.

September 13, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Forgetfulness* by Just. Host MaryAnn Force.

October 4, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. *Mayor of Casterbridge* by Hardy. Host HG Smith.

December 6, 2009 – **2:00 p.m. Out Stealing Horses** by Petersen. Host Mark Gustafson.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

We have NOT yet worked hard enough. The work has just begun. President Obama, a landmark president of our United States of America, has been working for years. His dreams for us are large, hard to obtain, and essential for us all! We must all rededicate ourselves to following him for the salvation of our Democracy, Economy, and our Environment. We cannot falter! We can discuss, argue, differ, disagree, but we must move with the majority, the best we can, to save this world for our children's children. If we do not—there is no future for them or us. Please join us all, together we must stand!

If you disagree, let's have discussions and learn from each other. Certainly let us listen. But let us hurry,



for time is running out. When I was a child I thought our great country could put a man on the moon and give all health care, free and available. I am still that dreamer, but I now know it will not just happen. We must make it happen, and we must make sacrifices to make it happen. If you want to talk about it, please let me know. I too have questions, more questions and fewer answers. Maybe you have the answers. But let me know you want to talk. And then let us set up a time at the UU, maybe after a Sunday service, or some evening, and let's talk about your concerns, their's, mine, whomever's. If I hear from enough people, I will set up a time. Call me 943-7999 or email me sjatc@charter.net. I look forward to it!

Meanwhile our UU and congregants are still talking about how

to stimulate ourselves into more action. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Please join us and bring your ideas.

And we are also forging ahead helping others who are less fortunate than

ourselves. Help at the Tuesday lunches please. If you have questions or want to talk about it, please call Mary Kiner. Also speak to Anne Dressel or Pinkie Hoffman about the Safe Harbor program. We are providing the meals for a week in March. This is an important and necessary program. More and more people are in need of assistance. We look forward to seeing you pitch in and help. Thanks a ton!!

Our jobs are clear. We are all needed to help each other. Can we depend on you? Call; speak to the people already involved. See you there!

—Emmy Lou Cholak, 943-7999,

MINDING THE STORE

Report to the Congregation: Endowment Fund

Despite today's economy, the Endowment Fund still exists. The original members of the Endowment Committee selected the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund as its investment vehicle. Like all balanced funds, it has declined in value. None of the principal has been lost: the decline has all been from past earnings. The current value of the UUCGT account with the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund is \$20,338.30 as of January 15, 2009. This Fund has done better than many balanced funds.

Joe Cook has agreed to receive and deposit all contributions for the Endowment Fund, avoiding any commingling with UUCGT operational funds. Phyllis Jessup has worked with existing and past Endowment accounts to prepare them for an audit. The Committee proposed in 2007 to eliminate the annual audit requirement due to cost, but it remains in the Bylaws. Dennis Gartland & Niergarth has agreed to audit the Endowment Fund for \$700, a very reasonable fee, and the Board of Trustees has authorized the expenditure. This will be the first audit ever performed for the Endowment Fund or for any of UUCGT's accounts.

New procedures were drafted by Phyllis Jessup, and adopted by the Endowment Committee and the Board of Trustees. In the course of preparing for the audit, a number of contributions were found which had been placed in UUCGT's operating statements over the past two years. These funds, totaling about \$3,500, will be placed by Joe Cook into certificates of deposit with Fifth Third Bank. *The committee has decided, for the time being, that all current donations will be placed into certificates of deposit with the bank.* The Bank has offered us favorable

TREASURER NEEDED

Leslie Cook's able and generous stewardship as our Treasurer is rapidly drawing to a close. Your Board must have a treasurer and to date the Leadership Development Committee has not been able to find a candidate.

Your Treasurer is the custodian of the Congregation's General and Building funds and is responsible for administering the funds as directed by the Finance Committee and the Board. A fuller description of the Treasurer's responsibilities can be found in the Manual On Committees.

Please contact a member of the Leadership Development Committee if you are interested in being a candidate for Treasurer or wish to learn more about the position.

Members are: Dave & Judy Halsted, Peg Kauffman, Price Watts, Max OldBear, Charlotte Shea, Gretchen Kronk, and Mercedes Kimling.

rates on these deposits. Paul Heaton, on behalf of the Committee, has agreed to send thank you notes to contributors over the past two years. Following the new procedures will ensure that contributions are properly handled and donors receive thanks in a timely manner.

When our endowment reaches \$50,000, we will begin using earnings in support of church programs. You can talk with any member of our committee to learn how to make current donations or to leave gifts by trust or will.

—Kennard R Weaver, Chair

Smart Church Save-the-Date

Our congregation will host a "Smart Church Conference" on April 18, 2009. Similar conferences have been held in Lansing, Indianapolis and Louisville, but we get to save on travel expenses and host this one! Other congregations from our Heartland District will send attendees, and we may even see some folks from the Central Midwest District. There will be more information forthcoming, but mark your calendars now: Saturday, April 18, from 10 AM – 3 PM.

—Rev. Chip

UUA Dues

Like all UU congregations, we are asked to pay \$56 per member to our Unitarian Universalist Association; and another \$20/member to our local Heartland District. We receive many benefits from these organizations—religious education materials, trainings and seminars, help finding religious professionals, hymnals, national press coverage—and it is good to do "our part" to advance the work of our liberal religious movement. Unfortunately, we were only able to budget HALF of our "Fair Share" amount this year (so we're paying \$28/member to our UUA, and \$10/member to the District). Many of our members pay their own dues—they write an additional check for \$76, above and beyond their pledge. In this way, we were able to pay 62% of our "Fair Share" amount last year (the 50% as budgeted, plus the money donated by individuals and families). If you would like to help pay our fair share this year, write "UUA Dues" in the memo line of your check. Thank you!

—Rev. Chip

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Traverse City MI 49686-1802



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 46, Issue 2

February 2009

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

February

- 1 Sun** "Reclaiming Our True Nature of Pure Love: Toltec Wisdom," Maura Brennan; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. **Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 1 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group: Silent meditation; Fleda Brown, 5-6:30PM
- 3 Tue Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 4-5:30PM
- 3 Tue Social Justice & Action; Rev. Chip, 7-8:30PM
- 4 Wed Wednesday Dinner, Potluck; social time @ 5:30PM, supper @ 6PM, program @ 7PM: Jim Carruthers, Commissioner, City of TC discusses developments in TC's "Warehouse District"
- 4 Wed Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 7-8:30PM
- 5 Thur Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 10:30AM-12PM
- 5 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM
- 8 Sun** "Thank God for Evolution," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. **Childcare @ 9:30, RE 11:00**
- 8 Sun Congregational Conversation / Soup Lunch; UUCGT Board / Sarah Montgomery, following 2nd service
- 8 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group: Silent meditation; Fleda Brown, 5-6:30PM
- 9 Mon Men's Group, John Ort, Ruby Tuesday's, 6:00 PM
- 10 Tue Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 4-5:30PM
- 10 Tue Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
- 11 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 11 Wed Wednesday Dinner, \$4, social time @ 5:30PM, supper @ 6PM, program @ 7PM John Schneider leads discussion of end of life issues
- 11 Wed Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 7-8:30PM
- 12 Thur Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 10:30AM-12PM
- 12 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM
- 15 Sun** "Monogamy and Avocado Sandwiches," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. **Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 15 Sun Mystery Friends Lunch, Anna Bachman, 12:15-1:30 PM
- 15 Sun Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 12:30-1:30 PM
- 15 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group: Silent meditation; Fleda Brown, 5-6:30PM
- 17 Tue Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 4-5:30PM
- 18 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 4-5 PM

- 18 Wed Wednesday Dinner, \$4, social time @ 5:30PM, supper @ 6PM, program @ 7PM: discussion "350"
- 18 Wed Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 7-8:30PM
- 19 Thur Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 10:30AM-12PM
- 19 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM
- 22 Sun** "Turtles: A Report from the Field," Max OldBear; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. **Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 22 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group: Silent meditation; Fleda Brown, 5-6:30PM
- 24 Tue Chalice Circle; Rev. Chip, 4-5:30PM
- 24 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM
- 25 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
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- 12 Thur Chalice Circle, Rev. Chip Roush, 10:30AM-12PM
- 12 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM
- 14 Sat Meditation Retreat; Fleda Brown, 7AM-6PM