



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

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse
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Tuesday through Friday

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Sunday, January 4 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Our Living Tradition"

Rev. Chip

This intergenerational service will review 2008—we'll mourn our losses, name some lessons, and celebrate the joys of the past year. All attendees will have the opportunity to name a significant event in their life, from 2008.

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

"Spiritual Experience"—yours, mine, ours"

The Rev. Kevin Tarsa

"Spiritual" means different things to different people, and yet we use the word as if we each know what the other is talking about. The marvel is: At a level beneath words, we really do "know" what the other is talking about. As conversations stir about whether our services are too spiritual or not spiritual enough, let's deepen our sense of what is "spiritual," even to naturalists and other non-theists.

Sunday, January 18 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Leaving Egypt: Encouraging Growth"

Rev. Chip; UUCGT Vocal Ensemble, with Marin Tack and Jamie Treadwell

We affirm and promote "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth." How do we encourage ourselves—and each other—to embody our best selves? The fourth in our "UUA Principles" series.

Sunday, January 25 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Fall of Monkey"

Paul Seyfarth

The infamous apple of Original Sin came from the "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil." You're invited to explore Daniel Quinn's take on this extremely famous and possibly extremely misunderstood story. We'll talk about the religious aspects of the book, "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn, and what it takes to know good from evil.

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?

the BEACON

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

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Folding, labeling & mailing
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Musings of Our Senior Minister

Living Better With Less
02 January 2009

“Living better with less” is not only a financial necessity, it can also be a spiritual practice. Helping each other live rich lives on poor budgets is one way we can be a religious community together. We can share everything from tips and tricks, to hand-me-down clothing, to babysitting and pet-sitting occasions. Even better, as we find ways of supporting each other, we can extend some of these practices to our wider community. This could be another way of

pursuing our year-long justice initiative of helping the poor and hungry in our local area.

Check out the website wisebread.org (“Living large on a small budget”), or see www.slate.com/id/2207305 for an article on several such frugal resources. This is an opportunity to help each other, and help our local neighbors.

With Spirit,

the Rev. Chip Roush

WRC Toys

Thanks to all – shoppers, wrappers and those who generously made donations to help continue our Congregation’s tradition of providing a toy for each child spending the holidays at the Women’s Resource Center shelter(s). This year we raised \$2288 which went to purchase art supplies, trucks, dolls, blocks, Legos and other wonderful gifts for the children at the primary shelter and the two satellite shelters – Helen’s House, Madeline’s House and Sara’s House. We also provided gift cards for the many teens who were in residence this year. Thanks for helping to brighten the holidays....

—Kathy Prentice, Mary Van Valin,
Sarah Montgomery,
Kathy Tack, Karen McCarthy

Autumn Affair Wrap-Up

This year’s Autumn Affair was a success in many ways: the attendance was bigger than ever, the number of donations huge, and the food, wine and entertainment got rave reviews. On top of that we made a profit of nearly \$12,000—surpassing our goal by nearly \$2,000!

The Autumn Affair Committee met last month to make sure to capture your comments and our collective ideas for future parties. Some of our thoughts:

- The donations were over the top—everyone was so clever and generous! Unfortunately there were not enough guests to bid the true value of many of the items. In the future we need to advertise twice as much and seek more attendees from outside our congregation
- Overall, there was too much entertainment. While all of it was fun, the UU entertainers were by far the most

popular—we should stick to their fabulous music in the future.

- While the food and wine were good and plentiful, we need to be mindful that much of it was donated. At full value, our profit would have been considerably less.
- There were a few complaints about the admission price prior to the evening, but after guests experienced the event, most thought they got good value for their money. In the future we should continue to make tickets available to those less able to contribute.
- We should publish the list of offerings in advance so those unable to attend can bid. We should also better publicize table closing times so people can better gauge their evening and bidding.
- Since the event is very labor intensive, we should not try to do it every year.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this party such a success!

—The Autumn Affair Committee
(Judy Weaver, Rebecca Dobler,
Judy VanDeWeghe, Leslie Cook,
Barb Bloomer and Christie McGue)

Recommendations

Was there a Sunday Service that you particularly appreciated in 2008? Would you recommend it to a friend who was embarking on a long drive? If so, please email the office and tell us which service (name or date or subject matter), and please include a one- or two-sentence summary of why you recommend it. We record most services onto CDs, with plenty of tracks so you can easily skip to the parts you want to hear. CDs may be signed out from the church office. Recommendations will be published in the “Flash.”

—Rev. Chip

UUCGT Airline Miles

Well, not exactly—but you can pay your pledge online, with your credit card, so you will earn airline miles or whatever rewards your card provides. Go to uucgt.org and click on the blue “contribute on-line” button at the upper left. It’s a win-win opportunity!

—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

A Note from the President...

Your Board did not meet in December, as the weather and roads prohibited safe travel. All items of business scheduled for that meeting will be addressed at the January 13 meeting.

Since the President's message in the last Beacon dealt only with fiscal stewardship, I write now of the action items addressed at the November Board meeting.

- Moved and seconded that the Bookkeeper open an interest-bearing account to separate Special Funds and Capital Improvements Reserve from the Money Market Agency Account. Carried.
- Moved and seconded that an Endowment Fund resolution be approved which identifies those individuals who may take official action with respect to the fund. Carried.
- Moved and seconded that an updated policy and

procedure for non-designated contributions be adopted. Carried.
(Please note: Exact wording of the last two motions is found in the minutes.)

The Board created an ad hoc "Healing Committee" to explore appropriate ways of addressing congregational conflict and to assist in the re-creation of a Committee on Ministry. Members include: Price Watts, Mary VanValin, Peg Kauffman, John Hoffman, Cal Boulter, Joan Sheard, and the Reverends Roush and Tarsa.

The Board directed your President to ask Ken and Judy Weaver, and Larry and Rebecca Dobler to co-chair the upcoming Stewardship Campaign. They have graciously accepted.

Respectfully,

—Joan



The RE SCOOP

Does this path have a heart? If it does, the path is good; if it doesn't it is of no use ... One makes for a joyful journey, as long as you follow it you are one with it.

—Carlos Castenada

What path have you chosen for 2009? Does it have a heart?

I invite you to consider whether your path for 2009 includes offering your heart to Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse.

Leaders for RE experiences are needed for 3 weeks each in January and February.

- **The Beatrix Potter Group** (preschool - 1st grade) will work with a lovely new UUA curriculum, "Wonderful Welcome" – **2 leaders needed**
- **The Christopher Reeve Group** (2nd - 5th grade) will work with the "Superheroes"

curricula (UU heroes and Bible heroes) – **1 leader needed**

- **The Susan B. Anthony Group** (6th - 8th grade) will work with "Traditions with a Wink," and with Bill Scharf's lessons on population biology – **1 leader needed**
- **The Youth Group** is planning a talent show on January 10, and a trip to Washington, DC to observe the inauguration of President Obama. We have been offered housing by a UU congregation in Arlington, Virginia. – **2 leaders needed**

Does your path for 2009 have a heart? Does it include the joyful journey of helping the children and youth in our congregation to experience the religious education of those who seek compassion and justice?

Contact our Director of Religious Education

Karen McCarthy
dre@uucgt.org



*Coming of Age
Informational Meeting*
for all youth age 13 and up,
and their grownups
Thursday, January 15
7:00 pm
at UUCGT
We'll discuss the scope and schedule of the Coming of Age program
Call Karen McCarthy with questions



Talent Show
hosted by
the UUCGT Youth Group
Saturday, January 10
7:30 pm
at UUCGT

Acts from all ages are sought!
contact Katy Bean-Larson or Karen McCarthy
Proceeds benefit the Youth Group's trip to Washington, DC to witness the inauguration of President Obama



ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Men's Group

UU men! Please consider joining us for another lively discussion at Ruby Tuesday's backroom on Monday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. The meals are excellent and the price is right. Our recent conversations have centered around church related issues brought to the table individual members. One suggested topic is: ARE WE FULFILLING OUR MISSION?? Don't miss it !!! Thanks,

—John Ort

Adult Religious Education:

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are small groups in which people read, listen, respond and share together. Using the *Evensong* curriculum (from our UUA), the eight-week sessions foster personal sharing and deep listening. The Rev. Ms. Marta Flanagan wrote, "*Evensong* builds personal relationships and gets people asking serious religious questions." Beginning in late January, three different groups (of 10-15 people each) will meet weekly for eight weeks. Sign-up sheets will be available beginning January 11th. Please contact Judy Van DeWeghe, Joan Sheard or Rev. Chip for more information.

—Rev. Chip



ALL ABOUT US

Our Joys:

- ❖ Kathy Prentice who is our December Care Giver of the Month.
- ❖ The UUs who provide care to one another, often without anyone else knowing about it.

Our Concerns:

Margaret Tarsa and her family as they deal with her cancer.

Barb Bloomer whose daughter is facing cardiac problems.

Greg Boothroyd who had surgery Dec. 23 for a melanoma.

Mary Cheney whose father died in December.

Paul Ward whose sister has been diagnosed with lymphatic cancer.

Linda Dunigan whose son Shane is recovering from his surgery.

MaryAnn Force whose daughter-in-law Cindi in Ohio battles cancer and has had a setback and won't be able to receive a stem cell transplant as planned.

Lucky McKeen who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

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

In our hearts and minds:

- ♥ 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

The Holidays are leaving as I write this. But the poor, the homeless, the hungry are not leaving. They are increasing in numbers and need us more and more! As some of us, one by one, or family by family, join the ranks of the homeless and hungry, that leaves more for the lucky ones of us to do. And do for others we must! As we would want others to do unto us, may we do unto others. The holidays must just be the beginning of our giving, not the end. Please help wherever, however you can. No one will judge you. You must be your own guide through your own heart and means. And we all say thanks! Thanks for what we have, and thanks for what we can give! May you be blessed!

Please see Ann Dressel or Pinkie Hoffman if you can help with Safe Harbor, and Mary Kiner for the Tuesday lunches. Thanks!

January begins a new year, new on many fronts. Our government will change. Those of us on the winning side are grateful; those on the losing side may feel more trepidatious. May we all be reassured as each day, week, unfolds and hopefully the new changes help us all. But it will take time, something that some of us really do not have. But may we all be willing to pitch in and help make the changes became a reality for all, an easement of financial and environmental burdens. We must all change, all of us, from our SUV's and driving habits, to what we eat and how we live. May we do it for our children's children and theirs to come. Let that be our legacy for the future: the PATIENCE and WILLINGNESS to CHANGE!

Social Justice and ACTION is still a mainstay of the UU doctrine. But we are going thru changes too, as the senior minister and a group of us revamp our functioning and goals. Join us if you can, the first Tuesday of the month—this month we meet in the office on Tuesday, January 6 at 7 PM. See you there.

Be grateful and share!

—Emmy Lou Cholak 943-7999

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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January 2009

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building
unless otherwise noted

January

1 Thur New Year's Day

4 Sun "Our Living Tradition," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00

4 Sun Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 12:30 -1:30 PM

7 Wed Wednesday Dinner, \$4.00, social time 5:30, dinner 6-7 PM; program: Rob Manigold, Pen. Twp. Supervisor and farmer, "What's Happening on Old Mission Peninsula," 7-8 PM

7 Wed Finance Committee, Christie McGue, 7-8:30 PM

8 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM

8 Thur Coming of Age Meeting, Karen McCarthy, 7-9 PM

10 Sat Youth Group Talent Show, Katy Bean-Larson, 7:30-9:30 PM

11 Sun "'Spiritual Experience'—yours, mine, ours," Rev. Kevin Tarsa; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00

12 Mon Men's Group, John Ort, Ruby Tuesday's, 6:00 PM

13 Tue Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM

14 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM

14 Wed Wednesday Dinner, \$4.00, social time 5:30, dinner 6-7 PM; program: TBA, 7-8 PM

15 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM

18 Sun "Leaving Egypt: Encouraging Growth," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00

21 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 4-5 PM

21 Wed Wednesday Dinner, \$4.00, social time 5:30, dinner 6-7 PM; program: John Schneider, patient advocacy (continued): "Ways to understanding and treating the pain experience without total reliance on narcotics," 7-8 PM

22 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM

25 Sun "Fall of Monkey," Paul Seyfarth; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00

27 Tue Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 5:30-6:30 PM

27 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM

28 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM

28 Wed Wednesday Dinner, \$4.00, social time 5:30, dinner 6-7 PM; program: John Schneider, patient advocacy (continued): "Ways to understanding and treating the pain experience without total reliance on narcotics," 7-8 PM

29 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM

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

4 Wed Wednesday Dinner, program TBA

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

10 Tue Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM

11 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM

11 Wed Wednesday Dinner, program TBA

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

18 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 4-5 PM

18 Wed Wednesday Dinner, program TBA

19 Thur Vocal Ensemble, Kevin Tarsa, 7-9 PM

22 Sun TBA; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00

24 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM

25 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM

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