



Sunday services: 10:30 AM; religious education classes, 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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**Summer Office
Hours:**

**9 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday–Thursday**

9 am – 12 noon, Friday

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Sunday, August 4, 2013, 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Peace on Mirth”

Rabbi Chava Bahle

As people committed to social justice and righting the wrongs of the world, we can get heavy, serious and even burdened by what we read or see on the news. Come and learn why it is vital for us to simultaneously cultivate happiness and joy. We will have some laughs along the way and leave with a lightened heart and spirit.

Sunday, August 11, 2013, 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Friendship – More Precious Than Gold”

Sarah Montgomery

Join us for this beautiful multigenerational service celebrating friendship through story and personal reflection. Both the young and the young at heart who can mindfully participate in the service with little supervision are invited to sit on quilts at the front of the sanctuary.

Sunday, August 18, 2013, 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Learning to See Starting with Me”

Marty Litherland

What does it really mean to see others as they truly are? And, how much of that depends on our ability to reveal ourselves...not the person we often present to the world, but our true and authentic self? Join us as we explore the risks and benefits of being true to yourself.

Sunday, August 25, 2013, 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Crossing Cultural Boundaries”

Richard Miller

Revisiting Peace Corps experience from the vantage point of the present, several members of the congregation reflect on the ways immersion in distant and distinctly different cultures have informed their understanding of the world today.

Sunday, September 1, 2013, 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Spirituality of Work”

Ann Marie Love, PhD.

Sunday, September 8, 2013, 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

To be Announced

BEACON Deadline:
Last Sunday of each month,
immediately after the service

Stan Cain, Editor, 938-1506, beacon@uucgt.org

Misty Sheehan, Assoc. Editor, 935-3050, beacon@uucgt.org

Linda Carps, Calendar, 946-8726, beacon@uucgt.org



From the President

As our wider northwest Michigan community is about to begin the Ninth Annual Traverse City Film Festival, we might remind ourselves, and inform our newer members, that even longer ago, perhaps six or seven years before the First TCFF, under the leadership of Mark Gustafson, the UUCGT was regularly treated to a monthly series of films, an oasis of cinematic story-telling in what was then a rather arid film dessert (Rambo and Robo-Cop notwithstanding).

Story-telling is central to any culture’s understanding and expression of itself, as true for a remote, isolated Amazonian tribe gathered around a fire as for our high-tech selves, connected electronically around the World. And I would submit that for us cinema, while not unique, represents the most widespread and engaging form of story-telling available to us.

I would also submit that much of what we, the UUCGT, are about is also story telling, not so much myth-making as conversing with one another, sharing our life experiences, supporting and stimulating one another as we consider our lives, seeking understanding within our own life stories, as we search to make sense of the mystery of existence.

On a less mysterious note, I encourage everyone to spend a few minutes checking out our congregation’s website. Simply “google” UUCGT and you’ll be there. The site has been around for awhile. Perhaps the time has come to begin to put it to wider use. Pull down “About Us” at the top of the page and then “Board” and you’ll find we have posted links to the current Bylaws as well as the Manual on Board, Staff & Committees, our congregation’s guiding documents. The Board will also post the minutes of each of our regular meetings as soon as possible following their occurrence. Alternately, you can track down a list of all our current committees and the participating membership of each. Perhaps in the near future: links to pages for each committee with opportunities to dig deeper in the activities these groups are engaged in in the pursuit of their mission. This is just a start, or re-start. But it points to a direction, one that bends toward the future, a future where the pulse of our religious community can be literally placed at our fingertips.

Richard Miller, President
Board of Trustees
UUCGT

UU Book Club - August **Come join UU readers for 2013!**

The UU Book Group invites all fiction readers among us to join our group. We meet monthly (except for December) in each others’ homes for discussion of a pre-determined fiction title. All ages and opinions are welcome. The only requirement is having read the selected book.

Title	Author	Discussion Leader	Host	Date / Time
<i>SALVAGE THE BONES</i>	Jesmyn Ward	Judith Lindenau	Judith Lindenau	Aug 11 7pm

For further information, contact:
Mark Gustafson at 929-9608xxx

Lifespan Religious Education Update



I am so happy to share with you just a few of the many exciting things that are happening in Lifespan Religious Education at UUCGT!

Religious Education and Programming for Children, Youth, and Families!!

Our combined Beatrix Potter Class (preschool-1st grade) and our Christopher Reeve Class (2nd-5th grades) has had a great time with our “Specialty Class Summer” program! These Sunday lessons are lead by members of the congregation who share their special interests with the children – a great way for the children to interact with adults in our congregation while learning about new and exciting things! Our Susan B. Anthony Class (middle/high school) youth will remain in the service for the rest the summer, but are always welcome to join the younger children, or volunteer elsewhere on a Sunday morning.

As we start looking toward the fall there will be a few important happenings in August in preparation for the start of regular RE for children and youth on Sunday Mornings. Please pay close attention to the following:

- 1) There will be a **mandatory** teacher/volunteer training after service on 8/25. This shouldn't take more than an hour or so – feel free to bring a lunch if you'd like. ANYONE and EVERYONE who volunteers with children is REQUIRED to attend this training in keeping with our new Child Safety Policy that the Board adopted last spring. The make-up day is Saturday, Sept. 7th. Please contact me ASAP to let me know which training you will be attending.
- 2) Registration forms are REQUIRED for ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH (including those in the nursery). This includes a standard health form used by schools/daycares/camp programs. These need to be on file before or by Resumption Sunday – Sept. 8th. These forms will be available by Sunday, August 11th. Why not just bring a copy of your child's immunization record to church that Sunday and get your forms taken care of well in advance of the deadline? ☺ Parent information packets on fall/winter/spring curricula will be available before Labor Day.
- 3) HEADS UP TO PARENTS/RESPONSIBLE ADULTS: Starting on Resumption Sunday – Sept. 8th we will be enforcing check-in/out of RE classes as well as the nursery in keeping with the Child Safety Policy. Children and youth are checked in by their teachers when they take attendance at the start of class, but Y-O-U need to check them out after service – THIS INCLUDES youth (teenagers who are under 18). Starting Resumption Sunday children and youth will NOT be released from their classrooms until they are checked out by their adult. Toddlers and infants using the nursery will need to be checked in/out when they are dropped off and picked up.

Starting in May, we changed our “Friday Night Out” to “Super Saturdays” for the summer... giving parents an afternoon to enjoy, visit the farmer's markets, run errands, or just take a nap! This will take place from 11am-2pm, and pizza lunch will be provided. Please call the office with questions, our next "Super Saturday" will be Saturday, August 10th.

Our All-Congregation Picnic will occur after service on August 11th. Please put this date on your calendar NOW!

This will be a **potluck** – please plan on also bringing your own table service and beverage – water will be provided. We will gather at East Bay Park if the weather cooperates, otherwise we will meet in the social hall. Watch your FLASH for more details!

Wednesday Night Programming!

We are gearing up to start booking speakers for after Wednesday Night Suppers in the upcoming church year. Please contact me ASAP if you or someone you know would like to speak. HURRY! The calendar fills quickly!

IT'S JULY ALREADY!
OH NO! OH NO!



WHAT HAPPENED
TO JUNE?? SUMMER
VACATION IS
SLIPPING THROUGH
OUR FINGERS
LIKE GRAINS
OF SAND!



IT'S GOING TOO FAST! WE'VE
GOT TO HOARD OUR FREEDOM
AND HAVE MORE FUN!
TIME RUSHES
ON! HELP!
HELP!



I DON'T THINK I WANT TO BE
HERE AT THE END OF AUGUST.



My closing thoughts for you this month come from Natalie Babbitt in her book *Tuck Everlasting*:

“The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with color.”

It has been another amazing month in Religious Education, with fantastic new things happening everyday! Keep an eye on your *FLASH* for the most up-to-the-moment details regarding the happenings at UUCGT! Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sarah E. Montgomery, Acting Director of Religious Education dre@uucgt.org

Social Justice and Action

There are many political things in the news these days that are social justice issues. Front and foremost is the racial issue that has been with us since before our lifetimes. The subtleties of this issue are always present and make the minority members of our society more alert to danger than we white middle-class people can imagine. Although our laws “protect” us, they protect us, the majority, more than they protect the minorities. The minorities, Blacks, Latinos, Natives, etc., have to fight to get that law to protect and help them. As is clear in the Trayvon Martin case, that is often too late and lost in the mire of other laws, like “Stand your Ground.”

In the Martin-Zimmerman case, ‘the state of Florida had given Zimmerman the power to use a gun, and he used it. What would have been the case if Zimmerman didn’t have a gun? Herein starts the call for gun control. Should a community watch person have a gun? If they do, should background checks and training be required, as we hope it is for our police officers?’

George Zimmerman entered the confrontation with Trayvon Martin knowing that he was empowered with a loaded weapon. The state of Florida gave him that power, and many of us who have lived in the south, know that such power is given as a silent device to tell others (blacks and Latinos) to stay in “your place.” Gun control and racism come before us in spades with the Zimmerman case. We have a lot of work to do and even deeper understandings to develop.’ (DW)

Along with this affront to the safety in our country for ALL its residents, is the battle to remove a basic right of our constitution. The Voting Rights Act of 1963 tried to give practical reality to the Blacks and other minorities, what the end of the Civil War promised: the right to vote for every American! Some in our country are undermining that right. This fight against voting rights is a direct attack on minorities, especially the poor, Black, and Latino. It seems they want to “win” all elections, no matter what their techniques, even though in the long run, we all will lose our democracy.

There are many, many issues today that need our attention. The equality for Blacks, Latinos, and others, has been led by many good thinking leaders of the Unitarian Universalist sect. We need to continue that tradition. Join us in the Social Justice Action Committee (SJA). Join Dan Wellborn with gun control. Or pick your passion and let us all work together to help our country return towards democracy.

Emmy Lou Cholak, sjaticmi@gmail.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

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Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted and are open to everyone.

August 2013

- 03 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM
- 04 Sun** *"Peace on Mirth," Rabbi Chava Bahle Service @ 10:30AM*
- 04 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-6:30PM
- 05 Mon UU Men's Group; meet at Ruby Tuesday, Mark Gustafson, 5:30-7PM
- 06 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 06 Tue Sunday Services Committee; Jalene Moore, 7-8:30PM
- 07 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 07 Wed Wednesday Summer Supper @ home of Ann Dressel, 6-8:00PM
- 07 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 10 Sat Super Saturday; Sarah Montgomery, 11AM-2PM
- 10 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM
- 11 Sun** *"Friendship – More Precious Than Gold," Sarah Montgomery Service @ 10:30AM*
- 11 Sun** *All Church Picnic; East Bay Park (in case of rain, UUCGT Social Hall), 12-3PM*
- 11 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
- 13 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 14 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 14 Wed Wednesday Summer Supper @ home of Mercedes Kimling, 6-8:00PM
- 14 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 17 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM
- 18 Sun** *"Learning to See Starting with Me," Marty Litherland Service @ 10:30AM*
- 18 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
- 20 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 20 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting; Richard Miller, 7-9PM
- 21 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 21 Wed Leadership Development Committee; Judith Lindenau, 4-5:30PM
- 21 Wed Wednesday Summer Supper @ home of Mary Kiner & Cal Boulter, 6-8:00PM
- 21 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 24 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM

- 25 Sun** *"Crossing Cultural Boundaries," Richard Miller Service @ 10:30AM*
- 25 Sun RE Teacher & Volunteer Training; Sarah Montgomery; 12:30-3PM
- 25 Sun Vegan Group; Jalene Moore, 1-3PM
- 25 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
- 27 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 28 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 28 Wed Brewing Community @ Right Brain Brewery; Sarah Montgomery, 4:30-6PM
- 28 Wed Wednesday Summer Supper; Restaurant TBA, 6:30-8:30PM
- 28 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 31 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM

September 2013

- 01 Sun** *"Spirituality of Work", Ann Marie Love, PhD. @ 10:30AM*
- 01 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-6:30PM
- 02 Mon UU Men's Group; meet at Ruby Tuesday, Mark Gustafson, 5:30-7PM
- 03 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 04 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 04 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 07 Sat Make-up RE Teacher & Volunteer Training; Sarah Montgomery, 11:30AM-2:30PM
- 07 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM
- 08 Sun** *TBA, Service @ 10:30AM*
- 08 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
- 10 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 11 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 11 Wed Finance Committee; Doug Wozniak, 7-8:30PM
- 11 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 14 Sat Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 1-2:30PM
- 15 Sun** *TBA, Service @ 10:30AM*
- 15 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
- 17 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
- 17 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting; Richard Miller, 7-9PM
- 18 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
- 18 Wed Membership Committee Meeting; 4-5:30 PM
- 18 Wed Wednesday Night Supper @ UUCGT; Social time at 5:30PM, Dinner at 6PM
- 18 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 19 Thurs Book Sale Setup; Heather Shumaker, Ann Geht, 1-4:30PM
- 20 Fri Book Sale; Heather Shumaker, Ann Geht, 9-4:30PM
- 21 Sat Book Sale; Heather Shumaker, Ann Geht, 9-3:30PM