



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

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

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

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse**

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

[office@uucgt.org](mailto: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**

**Rabbi**

Rabbi Chava Bahle, 947-3117

[rabbi@uucgt.org](mailto:rabbi@uucgt.org)

**Director of Religious Education\***

Sarah Montgomery-Richards, 690-7931

[dre@uucgt.org](mailto:dre@uucgt.org)

**Music Director**

Nancy Flanagan

[nflanagan@centurylink.net](mailto:nflanagan@centurylink.net)

[musicdirector@uucgt.org](mailto:musicdirector@uucgt.org)

**Congregational Administrator\***

Linda Martin, 947-3117

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

**Facility Custodian**

Krystal Miller, 947-3117

[fmgr@uucgt.org](mailto:fmgr@uucgt.org)

**Business Administrator**

Leslie Cook 938-1466

[bookie@uucgt.org](mailto:bookie@uucgt.org)

\*Ex officio members of the Board

**Board of Trustees 2013-2014:**

**President**

Marco Cabrera, 715-8757

[dedybear@gmail.com](mailto:dedybear@gmail.com)

**Vice President**

Jerry Beasley, 935-3752

[jbeasley@udel.edu](mailto:jbeasley@udel.edu)

**Secretary**

Jan Zerbel, 590-4086

[wjzerbel@gmail.com](mailto:wjzerbel@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Kay Sturgeon, 929-0895

[twodogk@aol.com](mailto:twodogk@aol.com)

**Trustee**

Becky Somsel, 421-5500

[becky.somsel@gmail.com](mailto:becky.somsel@gmail.com)

**Trustee**

Richard Miller, 946-4853

[miller907@gmail.com](mailto:miller907@gmail.com)

**Trustee**

Sally Mitchell, 929-2798

[scm123@chartermi.net](mailto:scm123@chartermi.net)

**Please note: during the snowy months, we have limited parking in the UU lot.  
We encourage members to consider carpooling to Sunday Services!  
The north end of Central High School lot is just 5 minutes away.  
Please share a ride with your friends!**

**February: Pioneers and Exemplars**

**Sunday, February 1st, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“UUs Everyone Should Know: Universalists!”**

**Rabbi Chava**

Last Fall we devoted a service to understanding the roots of Unitarianism; now, let's turn to our Universalist roots. Who are Origen, Gregory of Nyssa and Hosea Ballou?

**Sunday, February 8th, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Return to Vietnam”**

**Tim Keenan**

President of the local chapter of Veteran's for Peace, Tim Keenan, will speak on his return to Vietnam. Forty seven years ago, Tim served as a combat infantryman with the 4th Division. Returning to Vietnam, Tim wanted to meet, speak and make peace with his former enemy, members of the North Vietnamese Army and to climb Hill 1338 again, where he participated in a horrific battle as a soldier. Making peace is central to Tim's life, and from his story, we can glean lessons of the heart and grow in our own abilities as peacemakers

**Sunday, February 15th, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Powerful Women: UU Pioneers”**

**Rabbi Chava**

On this Sunday, we'll learn from the teachings of some of the great women pioneers of Unitarian Universalism: Susan B. Anthony, Margaret Fuller, Dorthea Dix and more. These brave women have a lot to say about building a world of justice.

**Sunday, February 22nd, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“People of Color and Unitarian Universalism + Diving Deeper ”**

**Rabbi Chava**

Rabbi Chava will leave soon to be part of a UU mission to Selma and Birmingham, Alabama, to march, learn and worship with UUs from around the country. On this Sunday, we will turn our hearts to focus on people of color in Unitarian Universalism: early pioneers, abolitionists and some of the struggles we face together in Unitarian Universalism.

**March: Sharing Our Gifts**

**Sunday, March 1st, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Unwrapping a Gift”**

**Rabbi Chava**

One of the great things about wrapped gifts is the enjoyment of a loving, gentle surprise. March 1's service will be such a gift! What could be inside?! Bring your funny bone and a willing heart to enjoy this surprise package.

**BEACON Deadline:**

**No later than the 25th of the month**

**preceding the issue date**

**Stan Cain, Editor**

**231 938-1506**

**Send submissions to  
[beacon@uucgt.org](mailto:beacon@uucgt.org)**

**Sunday, March 8th, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“So You Think You Can’t Sing?”**

**Nancy Flanagan & Betsy Emdin**

So you think you can’t sing? Singing is what human beings were meant to do—a glorious way to build community, celebrate the things we value most, express our joys and sorrows. Singing is a gift. So why do so many people feel embarrassed by their own voices? An exploration of what happens when we silence ourselves.

**Sunday, March 15th, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Two Way Gifts”**

**Rabbi Chava**

On this date in 1961 President Kennedy established the Peace Corps, that offered tens of thousands of people the opportunity to work in different countries on development projects. This was a “two way gift” – for both the volunteers and the communities themselves. If you served in the Peace Corps and would be willing to share a reflection, please contact Rabbi Chava (231)947-3117. This service will explore the ways in which generosity is its own reward. We will also observe the National Sabbath Against Gun Violence on this day.

**Sunday, March 22nd, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Notes from Selma”**

**Rabbi Chava**

“You cannot be afraid to speak up and speak out for what you believe. You have to have courage, raw courage,” said John Lewis. UUs from around the country gathered in Selma earlier this month to study, march, worship and reflect. Rabbi Chava will share stories of the trip and her reflections on the meaning of the return to Selma.

**Sunday, March 29th, 2015 10:30am, *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Unsung Heros”**

**Rabbi Chava**

**Judith Weaver**



## R. Chava’s Column

### The 6th Month Mark!

**Beloved friends, February marks six months since we formally began this journey together, and what a time it has been!**

Many accomplishments, kindnesses and new developments have marked this partnership. I want to express my deep gratitude – this work has been a gift to me, one of the greatest of my working life.

Last month I began to explore with you some of our potential meta-goals: areas of growth and opportunity, and now I want to add to this conversation in two ways. First, I want to be clear that I want to hear from you! Are you delighted with how something is going? Would you like to see something different or new? How is the pace of our programming? Are we welcoming our new members well? Whatever is on your mind, please come to see me so I can listen.

Second, as we continue to develop some of the structures that will support us in our visioning and growth (like the Council on Ministry, the Committee on Ministry, Membership etc.), I am sitting with three questions I would like to ask each and every one of you! They are these: (1) what do you consider to be the passion or purpose of your life? (2) How has the UUCGT

helped you in expressing this passion, and (3) what would our organization need to do to help you in your following your calling even more?

Over the coming months, I will be arranging another set of Congregational Conversations, like the ones we had back in the Fall, and one on one phone calls with as many of you as possible to explore these questions. You are always welcome to refrain from this conversation, of course.

At the same time, I am aware of some personal work I need to do. I am navigating unknown waters being a rabbi leading a UU, and I feel a call to do deeper work around my own spiritual life. This means in part ensuring that I leave time to engage in Torah study (see the upcoming Rebbe’s Tisch program, for example), meditation and contemplation. I’ll hope to share some of this with you, with the caveat that I in no way wish to impose these traditions upon you. I will keep you posted as I feel my way forward.

My friends, please accept my heartfelt thanks for an off-the-charts first six months and for what I am sure will continue to be a rich and meaningful journey together.

**Rabbi Chava Bahle**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse  
(231)947-3117 [rabbi@uucgt.org](mailto:rabbi@uucgt.org)**

## Events and Announcements from R. Chava

### Diving Deeper: Reflections on Teachings

Our monthly time to gather to reflect on ideas of the Sunday service will take place on February 22 from 12:15 to 12:45 PM. Sit together with friends and reflect on what was helpful or challenging.

### Wednesday Morning Meditation, 10 to 10:30 AM

Wednesday morning silent meditation is a time to, in the words of poet Danna Faulds, "go in and in". We sit in the quiet of the meeting room/sanctuary, ring the bell and are, simply, present, for 30 minutes. In February we will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25. In March we'll meet on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 10:30 AM. **Weather note:** if either Traverse City or Suttons Bay schools are closed due to weather, this program will be postponed until the following date. Please be sure to check our Facebook page for information the morning of the program.

### Downtown Office Hours @Brew Friday, February 20 and March 20, 10 – 12 Noon

Join Rabbi Chava for coffee or tea and informal conversation at Brew on Front Street on Friday, February 20 and March 20 from 10 to 12 Noon. Bring a topic to discuss or just come and hang out! **Please note:** if either Traverse City or Suttons Bay Schools are closed due to weather, Brew office hours will be postponed. Check the UU Facebook page for update in the morning.

### Brown Bag Lunch and Learn at the UU - Thursday February 26, 12 – 1 PM

Several folks asked about the text Rabbi Chava read interpret-

ing the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment ("thou shall not bear false witness") read by Rabbi Rami Shapiro as "Aware of the suffering caused by wrongful speech, I vow to cultivate a practice of holy speech in which my words are directed to increasing the love and caring in the world. I vow to avoid words that are misleading or manipulative, and avoid spreading stories that I do not know to be true, or which might cause unnecessary divisiveness or harm, and instead will use my speech to increase harmony, social justice, kindness, hopefulness, trust and solidarity ..." So what were the other nine? And frankly why should UUs even bother with this text? Come and see!

### Saturday, February 21 Rebbe's Tisch- The Rabbi's Table 12 – 2 PM at the home of Karl and Rabbi Chava, Suttons Bay

Sabbath (Saturday) morning is time when learners gather around the rabbi's table (in Yiddish called a *Rebbe's Tisch*) for music, munchies and heartfelt Torah study. This is chance to dive deep into text while enjoying honey cake and other Sabbath delicacies. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the UU office. We can fit 15 at the table in our home. Please note: we have a cat, Minnie Purrl, [she won't be at the table] and two steps up into the house. RSVP by February 16.

**Rabbi Chava Bahle**  
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**of Grand Traverse**  
**(231)947-3117 [rabbi@uucgt.org](mailto:rabbi@uucgt.org)**

## New Policy Committee

In October 2014 the Board established a new, permanent Policy Committee. The primary purpose of this committee is to "serve as the clearinghouse for making recommendations of new policy and refining, revising and replacing current policy." This committee "Will be responsible for the updating of the Policy Manual (previously referred to as the Manual on Board, Staff and Committees).

The members of the committee are Rabbi Chava, Board members Kay Sturgeon and Sally Mitchell, congregants Mary Grover and John Hoffmann. We have started to meet on a monthly basis.

Committee chairpersons please take note that as you update or create a new policy and procedure statement (e.g. committee job description) it will need to be reviewed by the Policy Committee before Board approval. In the event that the statement needs to be modified the Policy Committee can assist you with consultation, etc.

As you know, the Congregation has recently increased significantly in our membership numbers, in our weekly Sunday Service attendance and in the variety of activities provided. We also continue our transition from a pastoral-sized congregation to a program-sized one. The Policy Committee should help provide some of the organizational structure needed to accommodate these changes.

Thanks for your cooperation and patience.  
The Policy Committee

**Submitted by John Hoffmann**  
**[jandphoff@yahoo.com](mailto:jandphoff@yahoo.com)**

## Great Lakes Bioneers

You are invited to join the Great Lakes Bioneers at UUCGT on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7-9:00pm. The night will begin with a showing of John Powell's 2014 Bioneers speech entitled "Beloved Community." Powell, a nationally respected voice on race and ethnicity, leads UC Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society.

A discussion will follow lead by Grand Traverse Band Tribal Councilor, Derek Bailey. All are welcome! Contact Maura Brennan with questions.

**Submitted by Maura Brennan**  
**[mimaura@aol.com](mailto:mimaura@aol.com)**

## From the President

There are three disparate pieces I would like to share with you in this article.

First, I would like to identify that in my Teaching on privilege, I made the exact type of mistake that I was trying educate us all on. Privilege comes in so many different areas of life, none of us are exempt, and the way to move forward when we learn we've made these assumptions, is to be clear, and accept your mistake, apologize, and keep your head up. In my Teaching, I said, "Did you just infer that I can't read?". When I said this (originally about 18 years ago) I truly equated that inference with directly calling me stupid. The assumption that those who cannot read are stupid. Reality shows us that there is no connection at all between intellect and reading ability. I am reasonably intelligent, and am a terribly slow reader. But with this assumption out there, the fact that I stated this in front of the room, only solidifies that terrible assumption. I would like to be very clear, I used those words carelessly, I had not considered the pain it might cause someone, and I am sorry for that. I am aware that there are many reasons that someone may not have the ability, willingness, capability, or access to the education that might allow you to read. And I would never judge anyone for who they are in this moment, particularly based on something they cannot control. Thank you to the member who brought this to my attention.

Secondly, this past Sunday I heard quite a bit of frustration about the parking arrangements at our congregation. The fact that we had every parking space full, cars parked down the drive, and on to center road. I would like to say that there is no policy the board can pass, nor is there any number of hours our facilities team can put in that can give us more space on our hill. This is an ongoing conversation we are having, and we are continually trying to work on this challenge. But I would like to invite you to improve your perspective. This is a wonderful problem to have! We are among the very few congregations in the state that are growing! We are part of an amazing community that people are finding a lot of value in. We have several potential options to solve the problem, none of which are great. But here are two that have been discussed; Work with a small group to carpool. You can park at Traverse City Central High, and take fewer cars to arrive at the church. You could also make sure that you are parking courteously in the parking lot, and when the spaces fill up, we can double park in the back lot. If you do block people in, please be polite between service and social hour by going out to move your car so that people can leave. We will continually work on this challenge, but everyone trying to see the best light of the challenge, and being willing to deal with a bit of inconvenience will improve the situation greatly.

Thirdly, I would like to keep you up to date on what has been going on with the Board of Trustees. As I was thinking about

how to write this, I realized that so much of what we are doing feels quite intangible and it was difficult to state clearly. And that is exactly why I realized that I need to find the words to articulate these effort. If I am unable to communicate the pieces we have been putting into place, and how they build into the structure of what this congregation can be, then I am doing a great disservice to the congregation and the board moving forward. Several prior boards have battled with the concept of switching our congregation from a Fellowship, to what is now a program-sized church. For those of you who do not know, this talks about the number of members of the congregation, and how each size of church should function differently. For instance, a congregation of 30 people, can easily work together when they need, communicate with any individual person, and go do what they need to do. When we have over 300 people, it is hard to know everyone, let alone grab them quickly on a Sunday about some business you wanted to accomplish. And with a larger size, you have some more grand challenges of how do you make a congregation feel intimate, when you might only know such a small portion of the congregants? These previous boards have done a large amount of difficult work as they have worked to change the mindset on how to restructure our governance for the larger numbers, but also deal with so many issues of ministry. For those of you who have not experienced working on this board, please accept my assurance that this is a monumental feat. And please do not take my comparison between children and ministry issues for more than a comparison. But, imagine you have a huge project to complete, and every five minutes one of your kids comes to you with a new dilemma or game they want to play. The project you quoted for eight hours, can take 24. Towards the end of the last board, we decided to solidify all of this effort into policy. We figured the best thing we can do for future boards, and our congregation was to make sure there are clearly documented ideas to base things on. And this is the foundation that the current board has been sitting on. Our goal is to make sure that this congregation has a strong set of policies that grow as we need, and offer gentle structure to our staff, committees, and members. In order to describe what has been going on, here are four of the steps that we have taken to move forward.

1. Created a Policy Committee. This committee is working to re-write our entire policy manual. And this is done by communicating with each committee to re-define the Congregations Committee descriptions to assure that the manual and the committee are in agreement on the respective committees goals. And by requesting policy recommendations from the committees which the policy will affect. This assures us that we aren't trying to enforce a policy that doesn't suit the job it needs to do. And also to take all of these recommendations, solidify them into a single style of writing for consistency. That is all to be done while they are working with the board and the senior spiritual leader to

figure out congregational policy.

2. Created a committee for Personnel. This committee is responsible for assuring that our staff consider UUCGT to be a good employer. This involves reviewing benefits, salaries, working on personnel specific policies, assisting with communication between staff and their supervisors, creating structures to deal with problems, and finding a structure to make sure that we can respond fairly to each of our staff members individually.
3. Separating Governance from Ministry. By supporting our Ministry team with policy, we have the ability to give all ministry concerns to our senior spiritual leader. And in giving her the ministry related items, the board has been able to focus more on Governance and Policy. This has allowed us to move forward in building the guidelines for future boards. We can spend more focused time thinking about the decisions we make, and the repercussions they may have.
4. Created the Council of Ministry. (Note that this name will change, as we have already spent time being confused between the Council of Ministry and the Committee on Ministry. This council's purpose is to organize meetings with the leaders in our congregation, mainly committee chairs (or delegates), and from those meetings, reduce the effect of committees work-

ing within individual silos, and make people feel less alone in their work for the congregation. This will allow for more collaborative efforts from the congregation and I feel that this can only increase how our message can be consistently carried forward. I also hope that we will be able to start gaining information from the Council on Ministry to identify what the congregation itself feels like our goals should be. And as these goals solidify, this can inform the board as to what strategies we should be working towards. The Council of Ministry is to serve the congregation by bringing us all together, opening communication, and making sure we are all moving in the same direction.

With all of this in place, we have a lot of balls in the air, and they are all slowly changing into something better as each piece grows. But with each meeting I attend, I feel better about the direction of each area. I am so excited to be part of this work, and this congregation, and I am so grateful for the volunteers and staff that I have been working with on this adventure.

**Marco Cabrera**  
**President of your Board of Trustees**

---

---

## Leadership Development Committee Announcements

**SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:30-2:00. Leadership Development Workshop.

While not mandatory, this workshop is for all Committee Chairs, Officers, and Committee Member & Leader Wannabes. Avoid “death by meeting” by taking 90 minutes to learn tricks of conducting effective meetings, communicating with your volunteer team, and more. Provided by your Leadership Development Team with help from Rabbi Chava, we promise a painless class with no homework, plus food and laughs. Workshop will be partially based on the book “*You and I Have Simply Got to Stop Meeting This Way*,” which is available in the church library. Child care will be provided. Reserve a spot now by contacting Linda Martin in the office.



NOT

**LOOKING FOR NOMINEES:** Even though our annual congregational meeting won't be until June, it's not too early for the Leadership Development Team to nominate UU members to fill vacancies on next year's Board of Trustees, the Endowment Committee, and the Leadership Development Committee. Contact any LDC member -- Dottie Cain, Nancy Doughty, Bob Hicks, Arline Howe, Ann Swaney, Linda Wikle, or Ariel Love with your suggestions. We'd like to receive recommended member names along with a short statement of qualifications and gifts your nominee would bring to a particular committee or the Board of Trustees.

Submitted by Ann Swaney, LDC Chair  
aswaney@acegroup.cc

## Social Justice and Action

Black history month is this month and the Sate Theater is showing several good relevant movies from the past and present. *Selma* is now showing there. If you got to see it, then I hope you joined our discussion of it that was held after services on the 1st. It is a moving story, to say the least! Our country cannot be proud of some of the things we have done. But we can remember them, make amends, and not repeat them! Can we not repeat them?

But the restrictions on black voting are being repeated! President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in 1965. After several extensions of the Act, it was renewed by a vote in congress in 2006. Several parts of it have come before the Supreme Court before, but it has always been upheld.

Our constitution guarantees the right to vote for all citizens no matter what race, color, religion, sex, origin of nationality, etc. The fifteenth amendment to our constitution stopped the racial discrimination in voting that was taking place in the South and authorized Congress to enforce it. (Justice Ginsberg in her dissent) The movie *Selma* is about this issue.

In June 2013, the Supreme Court, in a review of a case before it, in essence struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act. Immediately some states, mostly southern, began to enforce new laws that restricted voting of blacks. They closed early voting days, ceased

weekend voting, redistricted voting borders leaving mostly black areas with fewer voting places and they were more difficult to reach, etc. Yes, most black voters are Democrats. The Republicans were in charge of most of the legislatures.

This issue is a very important Civil Rights issue again today. Try to see *Selma*, and we can hold another discussion meeting.

The meeting to discuss which social justice issues you are interested in, will take place at the same time, Sunday Feb. 1, after services.

Information for this article came from the NY Times issue of June 23, 2013. Please see:

< [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/26/us/supreme-court-ruling.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=1&&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/26/us/supreme-court-ruling.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&&pagewanted=print) >

**Emmy Lou Cholak,**  
[sjatcmi@gmail.com](mailto:sjatcmi@gmail.com)

---

## All About Us

### **We hold in our hearts:**

Nancie & Jack Thole, as she is having more chemo now; we are always happy to see them at Sunday services.

Karl Love is home and thankfully able to eat a little food. He is scheduled to have an ablation treatment to stabilize his heart rhythm this month.

Joe Connolly, a new friend of the Congregation, who is beginning treatment for lymphatic cancer (ALL). He is a single father of a 4 year old daughter.

### **We continue to be mindful of:**

Karen Mars as she continues her many helping activities while she recovers from her new knee surgery.

Mike Carney as he continues to recover from his closed head injury, but cannot drive for at least 6 months, so might need help with transportation.

Dick Dancer enjoys calls and visits, at home now.

Ruth Richards enjoys visits at Inverness but call first, of course.

Nancy Landfair enjoys visitors at Bortz Health Care, and can receive Email: [nancylandfair@gmail.com](mailto:nancylandfair@gmail.com)

### **We are thankful that:**

Rabbi Chava has recovered to her good spirits from the flu.

Rachel Snyder was discharged from the ER the same day she was admitted.

**Submitted by Judith Briggs**  
**Pastoral Care Committee**

### **“Love is the center of our church and service is the prayer”**

This defines pastoral care. We continue to serve the needs of our congregants as we learn about them. Should you have, or know of a pastoral care need, contact anyone on the Pastoral Care Advisory Team. *Arline Howe*

### **Pastoral Care Advisory Team**

Arline Howe, Chair, 947-9124, [howe64@juno.com](mailto:howe64@juno.com)

Judith Briggs, 409-4655, [jbriggs002@centurytel.net](mailto:jbriggs002@centurytel.net)

Don Fraser, 223-7799, [dfrasertc@gmail.com](mailto:dfrasertc@gmail.com)

Joanie Jackson, 922-9232, [jjnishi@chartermi.net](mailto:jjnishi@chartermi.net)

Pat Light, 360-9579, [patricialight@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patricialight@sbcglobal.net)

Karen Mars, 590-2551, [karen.mars.tc@gmail.com](mailto:karen.mars.tc@gmail.com)

Marilyn Mayo, 409-2880, [mayowest@aol.com](mailto:mayowest@aol.com)

Connie Metcalf, 929-3714, [cmetcalf633@gmail.com](mailto:cmetcalf633@gmail.com)

Carolyn Thompson, 620-9565, [casthompson@charter.net](mailto:casthompson@charter.net)

## Lifespan Religious Education Update



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

**Beatrix Potter Group** (approximately ages 3-6, preschool through first grade)

**Henry David Thoreau** (approximately ages 7-9, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

**Christopher Reeve Group** (approximately ages 10-12, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades)

**Susan B. Anthony Youth Group** (approximately ages 13-18, middle & high school)

**(Nursery – Please remember that the nursery is intended for children 4 and younger)**

Our three youngest groupings/classes of children spent last month learning about the Jewish Tradition – This month they will begin their study of Christianity. Our youth – middle school and high school combined (Susan B. Anthony) will continue with their “Buy, Use, Toss” environmental curriculum and will continue to plan their Service Projects.

Our “Friday Night Out” program is an opportunity for parents and caregivers to drop children off at the church from 5:30-9pm. We take care of pizza and fun for the children, and the adults get some time off! “Friday Night Out” for February is 02.13.15 Please call the office and register by 02.09.15 – thank you. Are you interested in helping to staff Friday Night Out? Please let me know soon!

### Brewing Community:

Brewing Community be held on Thursday, 02.26.15 from 5-7pm at Right Brain Brewery. Great conversation, food and beverages! Join in this family-friendly event!

### Wednesday Night Colloquiums:

Please consider attending these wonderful, thoughtful programs! Colloquiums follow supper and are from 7-8pm - February will feature the following:

**02.11.15 - Israel/Palestine: a New Narrative – Sarah Hamm.** Ms. Hamm will speak mostly on what she experienced in Israel/Palestine this past summer, the history of the region, and will emphasize and focus mainly on the lives of the people that she met and came to know while in Israel/Palestine. She will also

speaking briefly about some of the local, non-violent organizations that are working towards reconciliation in the region.

*Bio:* Sarah Hamm recently co-led a six-week educational trip to Palestine. She is currently studying Arabic and hopes to one day [soon] work in the Middle East full-time. Sarah currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**02.25.15 – Green Sanctuary – Mary Van Valin & Misty Sheehan.** This colloquium is rescheduled from November! Come find out what your Green Sanctuary Team has been working on, what Green Sanctuary is, and how YOU can get involved!

### Special Event: Great Lakes Bioneers come to UUCGT!

You are invited to join the Great Lakes Bioneers at UUCGT on Tuesday, 02.10.15, 7-9:00pm. The night will begin with a showing of John Powell's 2014 Bioneers speech entitled "Beloved Community." Powell, a nationally respected voice on race and ethnicity, leads UC Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. A discussion will follow. All are welcome! Contact [Maura Brennan](#) with questions.

### CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans:

We are excited to announce that UUCGT has its first CUUPS Chapter since the 1990's! This CUUPS Chapter (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) will, amongst many things including celebration and learning, feature a support-group-style format - a place where members of the group can bounce ideas off of each other, and share the joys and complications of embracing the Pagan Path. At this first meeting we will share some basic information on CUUPS in general and then brainstorm topics for sharing at future meetings.

*The first informational meeting will be on Thursday, 02.19.15 from 6:30-8pm in the Social Hall.*

Children are welcome, although there will not be formal childcare provided.

<http://www.cuups.org/index.html>

### Closing Thoughts...

Reflecting on our Calvin and Hobbes for the month, I know that we all have LOTS to do – we are each involved in many activities both within our UU community and beyond. It is my deepest wish though that everyone can find at least one piece of our UUCGT community to become involved with – *besides Sunday mornings*. As you peruse not only my article, but the entirety of the Beacon each month you will find an abundance of ideas for things “to do”... I invite you though to think of these opportunities within our beloved community as activities that are more than “doing” – they are heart and mind enriching.

“Interest and enthusiasm are the wellspring of continually evolving community life: they create bonds which unite us whether we are young or old, nearby or far from each other; they allow human warmth and love to be the formative forces in personal and community life and striving.”

– [Henning Hansmann](#)

It has been another amazing month in Religious Education, with fantastic new things happening every day! Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Sarah E. Montgomery-Richards**

**Director of Religious Education** [dre@uucgt.org](mailto:dre@uucgt.org)

---

---

## Heart to Heart Ministry

Rabbi Chava and I are excited to announce that our first facilitators are ready to start the new groups of the Heart to Heart program. Joining one of these small groups will give you the opportunity to get involved in our community in a very special way as you discuss the different chapters dealing with such subjects as balance in your life, forgiveness, loss and grief, money, making peace with parents and others. This program, for women AND men will stretch you, inspire you, and give reality to our principles of the Unitarian Universalist congregation.

Groups will meet at different days and times in hopes that one will work for your schedule. Sign-up for the new groups will take place the first two Sundays in February before and after our service. If you bring a check for \$12.70 made out to UUCGT, you can pick up your Heart to Heart book when you sign up for your group. You will also receive your first assignment so that you will be prepared for your first class. Groups are limited to 7 persons plus the facilitator, so don't miss the opportunity to get into the group of your choice. If you cannot sign up on February 1st or 8th, you can contact me at 590-2551 or [karen.mars.tc@gmail.com](mailto:karen.mars.tc@gmail.com) and I will put you in the group of your choice.

Our facilitators for these first groups are: Debbie Rettke, Lauren Keinath, Penny Ort, Ariel Love, Krista Cain, and I.

The 6 groups meet at the following times:

- 1) 1st & 3rd Mondays starts 5/4/15 5:30 - 7:30 pm at UUCGT
- 2) 2nd & 4th Mondays starts 2/23/15 6:00 - 8:00 pm at UUCGT
- 3) 1st & 3rd Tuesdays starts 2/17/15 1:00 - 3:00 pm at UUCGT
- 4) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays starts 3/18/15 2:00 - 4:00 pm at a meeting place on the west side of TC This group - WOMEN ONLY
- 5) 2nd & 4th Thursdays starts 2/26/15 4:00 - 6:00 pm at UUCGT
- 6) 1st & 3rd Sundays starts 5/3/15 4:00 - 6:00 pm at a home on the west side of TC

Find the group that fits for you and join us in this exciting endeavor.

**Karen Mars,**

**Heart to Heart Ministry Coordinator**

**[karen.mars.tc@gmail.com](mailto:karen.mars.tc@gmail.com)**



# MUSICAL NOTES

## In Praise of the Gray Hymnal

I love hymnals. I have more than two dozen in my personal collection, the result of a long career as music / choir / children’s music director in multiple churches. I once led a committee in the search for a new hymnal because the old one was so stodgy, and in the process, acquired another ten or so volumes, gratis, from publishers. Choosing a new hymnal is a dicey venture, especially by committee. Some people like tradition. Some prefer contemporary songs, rather than foursquare hymn tunes. For some, it’s all about the careful editing of the words—while others are happy to sing “thou didst” and “be ye lamps,” as generations before them did.

You can tell a lot about a denomination from their hymnal—and you can tell a lot about a congregation by the music they choose to sing. A good hymnal will honor custom and ritual, but will also provide diversity in the age, purpose and spirit of the tunes it includes. There’s been a trend in hymnal publishing toward single-line melodies (eliminating part-singing) and contemporary songs (not hymns) supplanting old favorites. Change like that is necessary (you’d know why if you ever looked at some of the florid, sentimental Victorian-era hymns favored by congregations a century ago). But it’s easy to lose some of what Rabbi Chava calls “heart songs” in the process.

Which is why I love “Singing the Living Tradition”—the gray

hymnal. I was pleased, when I started working at UUCGT, to learn that there were two hymnals. I like the teal hymnal, “Singing the Journey,” too—maybe another Beacon article?—but I dearly love the gray hymnal for its diversity, its attention to custom and ritual, its adventuresome choices. The gray hymnal is filled with unique uses of familiar old hymn tunes—and it also features the likes of Holly Near, Peter Yarrow, Carolyn McDade—and lots and lots of Ralph Vaughn Williams. There are wonderful spirituals, a generous selection of rounds and partner songs, and a great cross-section of music from ethnic and religious traditions. Trust me—there’s no other pew hymnal like it.

And so-- I hope you are willing to try the occasional unfamiliar hymn from the gray hymnal. Unfamiliar hymns can become heart songs, if we open our minds to their charms. There are many, many lovely choices we haven’t sung in recent memory. Don’t be surprised if they occasionally pop up in upcoming weeks. Give ‘em a try.

And—most important—please know that your music director is always willing to listen to your thoughts about the music in Sunday services. Choosing music for a service is a delicate balance of matching the themes found in the teaching, finding hymns and songs that fit the arc of a meaningful service, and expanding the musical repertoire of the beloved UU community. Tell me what rings your chimes.

**Nancy Flanagan, UUCGT Music Director**  
[nflanagan@centurylink.net](mailto:nflanagan@centurylink.net)

## Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee met on January 6<sup>th</sup> and disbursed \$1,500 for community outreach, building improvements, and the wider UU mission, as decided by the Board. I know what you’re thinking. The what? Many of you may not even know that UUCGT has an endowment fund. Yes, we do! And it is one of the most effective ways you can support the mission of UUCGT. Here’s the how and why.

The resolution establishing the Endowment Fund was passed by the Congregation in April 1996. It provides a vehicle for anyone to donate to the Congregation through “bequests in wills, charitable remainder and other trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignment of life insurance, and transfers of property (cash, stocks, bonds, real estate).” In other words, you can’t take it with you! So, why not leave a gift that will keep UUCGT and our mission alive and strong in this community long after you are gone. A portion of the interest earned on the fund may be disbursed by the committee, or may all be reinvested to continue to grow.

Pamphlets with details on how to bequest a gift are available in the office. You may also ask any member of the Endowment Committee for more information. Current members are: Joe Cook, Chair, Judy Halstead, Recording Secretary, Price Watts, Financial Secretary, Maura Brennan and Linda Wikle, trustees.

**Submitted by Maura Brennan**  
[mimaura@aol.com](mailto:mimaura@aol.com)

# Green Sanctuary



1. We still need two people to work with the people at Brickways to design and assist in the creation of a garden there. They have said they can get money for the plants. Email Misty Sheehan or Mary Van Valin
2. On August 7, 2015 (yes, summer will come) the Green Sanctuary is planning a group campout at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. That is the beginning of the Perseid Meteor Shower, which we can watch from the beach around a campfire. We need people to help plan it. Email Misty Sheehan or Mary Van Valin.

3. The discussion on Maude Barlow's book Blue Future was a deep discussion. Some of the questions we addressed were:
  - What changes need to be made at the local and global levels if we are to avoid the water issues Maude describes?
  - Assuming the accuracy of the data Maude describes, do you see any solution to the water crisis that does not involve ending industrial growth?
  - The book has many examples of our inability to connect food and water policy to real human need and disconnect them from corporate greed and the wants of the 1%. Why are people unaware of them?
  - How should we "bring the interests of future generations to the center of policy making?"

## Submitted By

**Misty Sheehan**  
**mistysheehan@yahoo.com**

and

**Mary VanValen**  
**421-5243**



## Membership News

### Interested in Membership at UUCGT?

**Mark your calendars for these important dates:**

- March 1** – New Member Joining Ceremony for all who have joined since November 16<sup>th</sup> during the service
- April 19** – Orientation session following the Sunday service
- June 7** – New Member Joining Ceremony during the service
- June 21** – Orientation session following the Sunday service  
A sign-up sheet for each of these events will be kept at the Welcome Table.

## UU Book Club

This month's book is a page-turner. Get started now and join us on Sunday, February 8th at 2:00pm at the home of Mark Gustafson (1111 Lake Ridge Dr.) The book is "Transatlantic" by Colum McCann and it should lead to a great discussion. Mark will be the presenter and discussion leader. Be sure to contact Mark at 929-9608 or cyberfools@gmail.com to let him know that you will be attending. It is always easier if the host knows how many to plan for when deciding on snacks and wine. Don't miss out on one of our favorite UU get-togethers.

**Submitted by Karen Mars**  
**karen.mars.tc@gmail.com**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 52, Issue 2  
February, 2015

### Calendar

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

#### February 2015

- 01 Sun "UUs Everyone Should Know: Universalists!", Rabbi Chava, Service @10:30 AM
- 01 Sun Social Justice Committee Meeting Emmy Lou Cholak 12:00 - 1:30 PM
- 01 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
- 02 Mon Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 02 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- 03 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 03 Tue Heart to Heart Group Penny Ort 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 04 Wed Silent Meditation 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 04 Wed Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 04 Wed Sunday Services Committee Jalene Moore 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 04 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 04 Wed Art Group Beryl Striewski 3:30 PM 4:30 PM
- 04 Wed Wednesday Night Supper Mary Kiner 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 04 Wed International Folk Dancers Richard Fiddler 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 05 Thu Vocal Ensemble Nancy Flanagan 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 06 Fri Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
- 06 Fri Policy Committee Kay Sturgeon 12:00 PM 1:30 PM
- 06 Fri Lesbian Group Michelle Peters 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 07 Sat LGBTQ Support Group Nick Erber & Rachel Snyder 1-2:30 PM
- 08 Sun "Return to Vietnam", Tim Keenan, Service@10:30 AM
- 08 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 09 Mon Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 10 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 10 Tue Bioneers Film 5:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 10 Tue Finance Committee 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 11 Wed Silent Meditation 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 11 Wed Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 11 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 11 Wed Wednesday Night Supper (\$ Donation) 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 11 Wed International Folk Dancers Richard Fiddler 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 12 Thu Vocal Ensemble Nancy Flanagan 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 13 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM
- 14 Sat LGBTQ Support Group Nick Erber & Rachel Snyder 1-2:30 PM
- 15 Sun "Powerful Women: UU Pioneers" Rabbi Chava, Service@10:30 AM
- 15 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 16 Mon Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM

- 17 Tue Board Meeting Marco Cabrera 10:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 17 Tue Personnel Committee Phyllis Jessup 12:15 PM 1:30 PM
- 17 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 17 Tue Heart to Heart Group Penny Ort 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 18 Wed Silent Meditation 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 18 Wed Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 18 Wed Leadership Development Committee Ann Swaney 12:30 PM 2:15 PM
- 18 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 18 Wed Wednesday Night Supper Mary Kiner 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 18 Wed International Folk Dancers Richard Fiddler 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 19 Thu CUUPS Meeting Sarah Montgomery-Richards 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- 19 Thu Vocal Ensemble Nancy Flanagan 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 20 Fri Rabbi Chava at Brew Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 12:00 AM
- 21 Sat The Rabbi's Table Saturday Morning Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 21 Sat LGBTQ Support Group Nick Erber & Rachel Snyder 1-2:30 PM
- 22 Sun "People of Color and Unitarian Universalism + Diving Deeper", Rabbi Chava, Service@10:30 AM
- 22 Sun Diving Deeper Rabbi Chava 12:15 PM 1:15 PM
- 22 Sun Vegan Group Potluck Jalene Moore 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 22 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 23 Mon Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 23 Mon Heart to Heart Group, Ariel Love, 6-8:00 PM
- 24 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 25 Wed Silent Meditation 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 25 Wed Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 25 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 25 Wed Wednesday Night Supper (\$ Donation) 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 25 Wed International Folk Dancers Richard Fiddler 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 26 Thu Heart to Heart Group, Karen Mars, 4-6:00 PM
- 26 Thu Brewing Community Sarah Montgomery-Richards Right Brain Brwy 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 26 Thu PM Vocal Ensemble Nancy Flanagan 7:00 PM 8:30
- 28 Sat LGBTQ Support Group Nick Erber & Rachel Snyder 1-2:30 PM

#### March 2015

- 01 Sun "Unwrapping a Gift", Rabbi Chava, Service@10:30 AM
- 01 Sun Leadership Development Workshop, 12:30 PM 2:00 PM
- 01 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
- 02 Mon Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 02 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- 03 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 03 Tue Heart to Heart Group Penny Ort 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 04 Wed Exercise Class Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 04 Wed Sunday Services Committee Jalene Moore 1:00 PM 3:00 PM