



Sunday Services at 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

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday by appointment**  
**Tuesday - Thursday, 9-4**  
**Friday, 9-12**

**Rabbi**

Rabbi Chava Bahle  
[rabbi@uucgt.org](mailto:rabbi@uucgt.org)

**Director of Lifespan Experience**

Sarah Montgomery-Richards  
[dle@uucgt.org](mailto:dle@uucgt.org)

**Business Administrator**

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

**Office Administrator**

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

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**March Theme: Imagine Big Community**

In March, we lift our eyes to see that we are part of intersecting communities that are larger than we ourselves. We honor our sixth principle (“the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all”) and our third source (“wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life”) as we dive into imaging “big community.”

Our 9:00 AM learning programming will be an exploration of the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism.

**Sunday, March 6 - Rabbi Chava**

**9:00 AM Adult Learning Program: “The Seven Sources of UUism” – Part 1**

**10:30 AM Service: “Our Blue Banner”**

We have a gorgeous quilted banner on our pulpit with six religious symbols. We look at it week after week, but what does it represent and why are these symbols displayed in a UU congregation? We are part of a big world. As the UUA writes, describing the General Assembly this coming June, “The religious landscape is increasingly multifaith. Across the globe, people are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, humanist, theist and non-theist—are no longer the primary way we define how religion, spirituality, faith, and practice come together. In our quest to bring more love and justice into the world, we find ourselves in partnership with people following different religious and spiritual paths.” Come and learn about these and the role of indigenous traditions as well.

**Sunday, March 13 Rabbi Chava**

**9:00 AM Adult Learning Program: “The Seven Sources of UUism” – Part 2**

**10:30 AM Service: “UU Lent? Creativity”**

What makes people creative? What gives some of us the ability to create work that captivates the eyes, minds and hearts of others? Jonah Lehrer, a writer specializing in neuroscience, addresses that question in his new book, *Imagine: How Creativity Works*. Lehrer defines creativity broadly, considering everything from the invention of masking tape to breakthroughs in mathematics; from memorable ad campaigns to Shakespearean tragedies. He finds that the conditions that favor creativity — our brains, our times, our buildings, our cities — are equally broad. (npr.org) How can we be more creative and imaginative as a congregation? How can we nurture creativity? Let’s use the tradition of Lent as an example.

**BEACON Article 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 20 - Rabbi Chava**

**9:00 AM Adult Learning Program: "The Seven Sources of UUism" – Part 3**

**10:30 AM Service: "Spring Equinox/Ostara: New Beginnings"**

"Many Holidays, Many Names: The word Ostara is just one of the names applied to the celebration of the spring equinox on March 21. The Venerable Bede said the origin of the word is actually from Eostre, a Germanic goddess of spring. Of course, it's also the same time as the Christian Easter celebration, and in the Jewish faith, Passover takes place as well. For early Pagans in the Germanic countries, this was a time to celebrate planting and the new crop season." from Patty Wigington. On this Sunday nearest the Spring equinox, we will explore rituals of renewal from the world's traditions. Laughter is one of them ....

### **Sunday, March 27 - Rabbi Chava and Sarah Montgomery-Richards**

**10:30 AM Service: "An Easter Sunday Rhapsody" (one service only)**

Join us for a one-of-a-kind celebration of Passover and Easter through song, symbol and horseradish. Pack lightly for the journey – it's gonna be a long, strange trip ... for members of all ages.

## **April Theme: Tradition – our 4<sup>th</sup> UU Source**

As we continue to explore in depth the six sources and seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, in April we turn to our 4<sup>th</sup> source: "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves." This 4<sup>th</sup> source honors our connection to tradition, to one another and to the ways we honor the earth as ourselves.

### **Sunday, April 3 - Rabbi Chava**

**(No 9:00 AM Service)**

**10:30 AM Service: "And the Award Goes To ..."**

Sometimes, "loving our neighbor" means honoring each other's accomplishments and recognizing the best in one another. Come dressed in your "red carpet best" [for real!] for this celebration and honoring of our great accomplishments as a community! A champagne-ish reception will follow.

### **Sunday, April 10 – Member-lead service**

#### **April 17 – Rabbi Chava**

**9:00 AM Contemplative Meditation**

**10:30 AM Water: Art, Music, Message**

It has been said that to protect the water of the Great Lakes region, we must first come to deeply love the water. This service intends to reaffirm our affection for water through visual arts, music and a brief message. Musicians are invited to offer a musical contribution to the service, and artists are encouraged to bring water related art for the setting. Please contact Mary Van Valin, Nancy Cotcamp, or Gretchen Kronk by March 20th if you can participate. Our local water groups will be on hand after the service

#### **April 24 – Rabbi Chava**

**9:00 AM Contemplative Meditation**

**10:30 AM – Passover: Let Freedom Ring**

On this second day of Passover we will weave our powerful UU traditions with elements of the Haggadah, the text that guides that Passover Seder. Filled with questions and explorations, the Haggadah is one of the most widely read and often published texts in the Jewish world. How is this ancient tale relevant today?



## Reflection: "Who We Are – Imagine ... Investing in One Another"

Dear UUCGT family and friends –

Let me begin by thanking those of you who reached out and offered such loving care last month as I recovered from surgery. Your cards, calls and texts were such a loving reminder of what our congregational community does: care for one another and make the world a kinder place. I especially want to thank our amazing staff for the support they have offered.

I begin with this thank you because I want to remind us that UUCGT is a **needs-meeting** community.\* This congregation **meets the needs** of those who need support in times of illness and loss, in times of celebration and joy. UUCGT **meets the needs** of those who gather on Sundays to reflect, learn and be energized. We **meet the needs** of those who seek community and friendship with like-minded people through ongoing fellowships in music, coffee, suppers, books and yes, beer. Our congregation **meets the needs** of people of all ages who wish to learn, grow and stretch themselves intellectually and spiritually.

Imagine the needs we can meet as we grow. Who is out there wishing they had community like this? Who has moved to the area and is seeking such a congregation home? Together, in coming year, we can reach them – it will require outreach and time. These are an investment.

A gift to this community is not only **to** UUCGT but **through** UUCGT: as we gather our time, talent and money, we become a channel, a conduit for good the greater world: through programming, social action, activism and community needs, our gifts to UUCGT don't simply come to the building and stagnate. The gifts we give the UUCGT multiply and touch a much wider circle in this community.

When we give to UUCGT, you give **through** UUCGT to a bigger world. We have helped free slaves, provide medical care for children in Flint, fed people who are hungry, provided shelter for people who are homeless, heating assistance for people who would be cold. Imagine what we can do in the coming year to touch an

even wider part of the world.

I write this as the political season is showing that **hate and fear** can dominate the headlines and potential leadership. Now is the time we must show up strongly with a collective message of **courage, compassion and standing on the side of love.**

You are not just a member or friend; **you are a donor-investor in an organization that MAKES CHANGE HAPPEN.** We change hearts through our care and friendships. We change minds by offering innovative programs that cause new thinking. We change families through education. We change the community by creating events like Christmas Eve.

Your gifts to UUCGT make things happen in the world; things are real, tangible and that create **momentum** for a liberal UU religious agenda of recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice and equality and interdependent web that holds hope for healing the planet.

Your monetary investment in UUCGT does not stagnate in this building or in salaries. Your investment creates momentum for the world we all wish to see. Can you imagine what we can do? Karl and I have fulfilled our pledge for the 2015 – 2016 year and increased our pledge for the year ahead because 2016 – 2017 will be the year that UUCGT multiplies its efforts to serve our members and literally change the face of our community. Joining with the UUA, we will reach even farther to take action to make the world we can imagine: a world of harmony, understanding and simple human kindness.

Can you imagine?

**Actively yours –  
Rabbi Chava**

*\*I am grateful to Kay Sprinkel Grace, author of *Beyond Fundraising: New Strategies for Nonprofit Innovation and Investment.**

# UUA News from Rabbi Chava

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## MidAmerican Regional Assembly

The MidAmerican Regional Assembly 2016 will explore “The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism,” April 29 – May 1, in beautiful St Paul MN. This dynamic event will answer the questions:

- Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant?
- How will we get there?
- Who will be joining us on this journey?

Early bird registration until March 31. Children must register before the Early bird date. Scholarship requests must be in by the Early bird date. Conference discounted rate for a room at the hotel will be available until April 11. Final registration deadline Friday, April 22. For more information, please contact Rabbi Chava. Rabbi Chava will attend the regional assembly and the ministers’ meeting immediately prior.

## Two Who Defied the Nazis – Upcoming Ken Burns Documentary

This Ken Burns documentary tells the story of a WWII American Unitarian couple who worked under cover to rescue hundreds of

people from the Nazi regime. The film describes the journeys of Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp, the people they helped, and the price their family paid. Scheduled to be released in the fall of 2016, with accompanying book from Beacon Press. Watch a preview at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

## General Assembly

Join Rabbi Chava and Sarah to attend General Assembly 2016, June 22-26, Columbus, OH

UUCGT has some scholarship money available!

The theme for GA 2016 will be Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect. The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus, Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all. For more information, contact Rabbi Chava or visit <http://>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **9 AM Sunday Classes, March 6, 13 and 20 - The Seven Principles of UUism**

Join Rabbi Chava for a joyous exploration of the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. What are they? Where did they come from? Why do we need them? These are fun 45 minute introductions to the basic ideas of our tradition. Join us and stay for the 10:30 AM service – make a great UU day!

### **Program Council – upcoming dates March 20, April 17, May 15, June 12, 12 to 1 PM snacks will be provided!**

#### **What is the Program Council and Why?**

The UUCGT Program Council is comprised of committee chairs or co-chairs, or their designees. All are welcome to attend. The purpose of the UUCGT Program Council is to hold the “big picture” of UUCGT’s mission and ministry. By gathering together, we learn about the scope and activities of the other committees, and we ensure that every committee is working toward the shared goals of the congregation as a whole. The gathering promotes opportunities to collaborate, offers support for each committee’s chair and his or her committee and creates a leaders’ community for the committee chairs. Plus, the meetings are actually fun, productive and joyous.

### **Brew Crew: Have-A-Java-with-Rabbi-Chava**

Rabbi Chava's Brew office hours are Friday, March 18 10 – 12 Noon and a special bonus on Tuesday, March 22, 2 – 4 PM. Grab a cup of coffee and let's see where the imagination takes us ...

### **Wednesday Morning Meditation**

“Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness to just be happy.” - Guillaume Apollinaire  
Join us for silent, centering meditation each Wednesday morning from 10:00-10:30 in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

### **"Little Spiritual Book" Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, 12 - 1:00 PM**

Join Rabbi Chava for this new monthly brown bag "lunch and learn" program. Each month we will read a short, manageable volume of spiritual interest to increase joy, centeredness and peace. Pack yourself a lunch and come with an open heart. You can come to one or all of the lunch & learns. There may be several editions of these books available - all are good!

\*\* We are now an official Horizon Books book club – you can receive a discount on any of title you buy for this group. Buy local!

**March 15: Rami Shapiro**, “Ecclesiastes: Annotated & Explained” (SkyLight Illuminations) Please get Rami Shapiro's SkyLight version of Ecclesiastes - any edition of this version is fine.

**April 19: Robert Lawrence Smith**, “A Quaker Book of Wisdom: Life Lessons in Simplicity, Service and Common Sense” (Quill Press)

**May 17: Brother Benet Tvedten**, “How to be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job: An Invitation to Oblate Life” (Paraclete Press)

# From the President

Warm greetings from your Board of Trustees. We have been busy over the last two months and would like to take this opportunity to apprise you on our activities. There are so many activities and processes: we will simply provide a list. If you would like to know more, all of our minutes and documents are on our website under Board or you are always welcome to inquire further from any Board member.

- Supported the creation of a standing Music Committee.
- Allocated funds for an accompanist for Vocal Ensemble Rehearsals.
- Refined the job description for Music Director.
- Monitored the progress of the Staff Resources Committee's progress on interviewing for the position of Music Director. Currently initial interviews are in progress and proceeding well.
- Created various "outreach" opportunities including President "office hours" (next held after church on March 6<sup>th</sup>).
- Supported the work of the Communications Task Group with the assignment of Lorraine Anderson & John Hoffman as liaisons.
- Created a Board policy called "declaration of intent" regarding transparency in our work.
- Reviewed the process of Professional Expenses.
- Implemented a review of all Personnel Policies with the intent of adding the Employee Dispute Resolution that has been drafted and to draft a serious discipline policy.

Processes are to be created to best support our staff and organization.

- Reviewed the status of our Policy Manual. We have directed Mary Grover, Kay Sturgeon and Karl Love to create a revised policy structure to guide the necessary revision and simplification of our policies.
- Agreed on a process that would complete staff evaluations by the end of April. An evaluation of our Senior Spiritual Leader would also be completed by that time. The president will poll both the trustees and committee chairs (through the program council) regarding the current job description and areas of success as well as opportunities for growth.
- Reviewed our finances and have asked the Finance Committee to take steps to trim expenditures in line with our decreased income. We have already directed some cost saving measures and will continue to monitor our financial position closely.

Our next Board meeting will be held March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM, at UUCGT. All are welcome to attend. Those with business to place before Board consideration should submit their request to a Board member prior to Noon on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karl Love**  
**President of your Board of Trustees**



# Membership News

## MARCH - and hopefully Early SPRING GREETINGS From.....

**The entire Membership Team** — Cathy Annelin, Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffman, Sue Pyne, Charlotte Shea, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts — who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members. **A GREAT BIG WELCOME** to fairly new UUCGT member Sherry Davis who just joined our committee!!

Many of us are traveling away from the Traverse City area during March, and we will be missing some of the exciting UUCGT Events. Especially the .....

**New Member Welcome Service - Sunday March 6** - Rabbi Chava, Jane Watts, Sherry Davis and the rest of the congregation will welcome: Angela and Keith Aleo, Karin Killian and Matthew Welch and their children, Andi Kramer, Penni and Bryan Newlun, Debbie Rettke and Melinda Duhoski, Beth Strawbridge, and Bethany Thies and Daniel Myers and their children Madeleine, Nathaniel, and Lydia. Dottie Cain staffs the Welcome Table that day and will welcome all visitors and returning members. Take time to introduce yourselves to the new members at the Chili Cook Off following the service!

### PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS - IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS:

**Prospective Member Orientation Session: April 24 - 12:00 Noon - 1:15 pm** - History of UUCGT, Get acquainted, Brief Q/A about UUism with Rabbi Chava and Membership Committee reps; Register for child care needs (several week notice required)

**15 Minutes With the Rabbi 10:00 - 10:15 am** - Individuals or small groups; Informal chats for prospective members interested in learning more about UUCGT.

**FUTURE 15 Minutes With the Rabbi - in 2016: April 3 and May 8**

**Another New Member Welcome Service will be scheduled later in the Spring.** Please let us know if you are interested in joining.

**GREETER OPPORTUNITIES** - All NEW Members and Current Members are encouraged to sign up to be a Greeter some Sunday for the 9:00 or 10:30 am services. This is an excellent way to meet other members of the congregation and for them to meet you.

No committee meetings, could be a one-time commitment for super busy people - but more time is preferable. **Just sign up on the bulletin board near the office or call Charlotte Shea, 883-9357**

### INVITATION:

.....To any interested persons - to become a member of our **Membership Team**. We have fun meetings, planning for routine and new activities. If you enjoy people, love talking with them, and would like to facilitate their membership in our loving, caring community, then this is the Committee for you!

### SPOTLIGHT on New and Not So New Members:

UUCGT Warmly Welcomes the return of **Maja B. LaForest** who signed the Member Book again on June 14, 2015. Maja wants us to know about her two sons - Tenzin who is 9 years old and is home-schooled. He is interested in raising chickens, Human Nature School and learning about WWI. Milo is 6 years old and attends Leelanau Montessori. His interests include insects and fish, creating art, and anything related to Star Wars. The family lives in Cedar.

Maja first joined UUCGT in 2005, and was married in the church on New Year's Eve 2005. She has also been a member of the Albuquerque, New Mexico UU congregation.

Maja enjoys hiking, camping and spending time on the shores of Lake Michigan in the summer. Winter leisure activities are reading, yoga and recently learning how to enjoy snow shoeing.

A film that captured Maja's heart last year was *Pride* which features a London-based gay community that lends support to striking coal miners in 1984 Wales. Her current favorite book is *Home Grown: Adventures in Parenting off the Beaten Path, Unschooling, and Reconnecting with the Natural World* by Ben Hewitt. Another favorite she recommends is *Corporations Are Not People; Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money and Global Corporations* by Jeffrey Clements.

Maja's hopes for her membership at UUCGT are for the readings and teachings at Sunday Services to continue to be rich with content and meaning. She is interested in serving on the Sunday Services Committee.

We are happy you and your family are a part of our community Maja!

**Chris and Rick Walter**  
**Co-Chairs, Membership Team**  
[chris9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chris9709@sbcglobal.net) or 989-430-4776  
[rick9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick9709@sbcglobal.net) or 989-430-5174

# Announcements

## Benzie Doings!

### Benzie Satellite Programs for March

**March 2:** "The Jesus of The Jesus Seminar." John Dominic Crossen, Jesuit scholar, analyzed quotes attributed to Jesus, implementing anthropological and social studies of the Mediterranean area cultures, as well writings of Josephus and Tacitus, Jewish and Roman historians. Talk written by Dan Orr.

**March 16:** "The Peace Corps": Anne McPhail, Richard Morris, and Josephine Pope talk about their experiences in the Peace Corps.

The Benzie group gathers twice monthly at Michigan Shores on Michigan Ave in Frankfort; Meetings (open to the public) begin with a pot luck at 6:30PM; the service starts at 7 PM

**Mary Lee Orr**  
[orrmma57@yahoo.com](mailto:orrmma57@yahoo.com)

## UU Author

Heather Shumaker's new book is coming out this March! A sequel to her renegade parenting book *It's OK Not to Share* (based on a UU preschool in Ohio), the new book is called *It's OK to Go Up the Slide* and covers Heather's respectful yet contrarian take on everything from homework to talking to strangers. Come celebrate at the local book launch: Horizon Books, Sunday, March 13, 2pm.

## UU Book Club

Our March meeting should involve a lively discussion. The book is one of Sue Monk



Kidd's best, "The Invention of Wings". I've read it twice now and couldn't put it down either time. Our meeting will be held at Emmy Lou Cholak's (415 N. Elmwood). The date is March 13th, time 2:00 pm as always. Emmy Lou prefers that you RSVP by email ([sjatcmi@gmail.com](mailto:sjatcmi@gmail.com)) rather than telephoning. Enjoy a topnotch read and we'll look forward to a super afternoon. As always, newcomers are welcome. The only requirement is that you read the book. If anyone needs a copy of the booklist, drop me an email. Our book club is listed at Horizon (for a 10% discount) and they have a copy of our booklist, so will have books ready.

**Karen Mars**  
[karen.mars@tcgmail.com](mailto:karen.mars@tcgmail.com)

## Safe Harbor Volunteers Needed

UUCGT will be preparing and serving meals and providing evening hosts for Safe Harbor at The Presbyterian Church on three evenings: **Sunday, March 27; Tuesday, March 29; and Thursday, March 31.**

We will also be providing overnight volunteers on Thursday, March 31. Sign ups for these opportunities will begin Sunday, February 28 in the social hall both before and after the 10:30 am service. For more information contact:

**Mike or Sandra McDonald at**

[m\\_mcdonald@charter.net](mailto:m_mcdonald@charter.net) or 935-3759.

## Coffee Purchases to Benefit Safe Harbor

Higher Grounds Coffee is helping Safe Harbor this spring by marketing a special coffee known as "Harbor Winter Blend".

This special blend will be available through 4/30/16 at Tom's, Oleson's and Oryana and possibly other local stores. For each bag purchased in the stores, Safe Harbor receives \$0.50. For purchases at Tom's, Safe Harbor will receive an additional \$0.50 from Tom's for a total of \$1.00 per bag.

Even better, if the "Harbor Winter Blend" is purchased directly from Higher Grounds at their website:

<http://www.highergroundstrading.com/cart/177/coffee/seasonal-and-limited-offerings/harbor-winter-blend> or at their store, Safe Harbor gets \$5.00 a bag.

These donations are only for the "Harbor Winter Blend" not for any other Higher Grounds coffees. Safe Harbor is a seasonal rotating shelter for the homeless operated by over twenty Grand Traverse area churches including UUCGT.

Help support Safe Harbor by purchasing this Blend the next few weeks.

**Mike or Sandra McDonald at**  
[m\\_mcdonald@charter.net](mailto:m_mcdonald@charter.net) or 935-3759



## Social Justice and Action

Last month we talked about racism and how the people of color are so very disadvantaged and persecuted in our society. It continues as bad as in the days of slavery and after the Civil War, but with a different disguise. I remember a good black friend of mine saying that he would rather live in the south than the north. This was years ago. The reason was that at least in the south, he felt he knew where the prejudices and hate were. And now unfortunately, it is all over our nation, prejudice and hate.

We have seen it on TV with the awards that have been given, only to whites. We see it especially in our restriction of voting rights with laws that inconvenience and discriminate against blacks, Hispanics, disadvantaged, and others minorities. This is one way for the moneyed party to keep their power. I like what Cory Booker said: "the power is in the people, not the people in power." We have to use that power in the people and right now!

This election is rigged because so many have lost their right to vote after the remov-

al by the Supreme Court of the Civil Rights Voting Act. Many states took advantage of that and passed new restrictive laws limiting access to vote due to less availability to the polls because many were closed in black neighborhoods and decreased hours that polls are open. Many also passed laws requiring certain identification before one can vote. These identification papers are often difficult to obtain, expensive, very restrictive, etc. Can we reverse those many laws in the next 12 months? Can we? Can we work hard and help those discriminated against get to the polls to vote? We have to! Which side are they on anyway? They are on the side that supports most of our UU principles, the value of each individual. It is interesting to me though; both sides say they are for people's rights and well-being. But some get to it with very different thinking than others.

In our Social Justice Discussion Book Group, we are discussing these issues. We also have been reading a book about how it feels to be black and the warnings parents must give their children, the fear that they must have growing up. Some of us have no

idea how different their outlook has to be for survival in our society. It is one of constant defensiveness and being on your guard. How can one develop self-esteem and confidence? And yet many do and succeed well. And then whites tend to look at them as if they are different, uppity and don't belong, stepping outside their boundaries. We have lots to learn to accept each other!

I cannot begin to cover the issue here. Join us in the Social Justice Book Discussion group. We are next meeting Thursday, March 10, at 6 PM, in the basement of Horizon Books downtown Traverse City. We are pondering these thoughts and feelings, learning together. The more we can learn, the more we can hopefully help reverse this terrible discrimination, the blight of racism, in our society.

**Emmy Lou Cholak**  
sjatcmi@gmail.com

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## Financial Summary

As of January 31, 2016  
(58.3% of fiscal year)

	Current Year		Prior Year	
<b>Budgeted Income Received YTD</b>	<b>\$183,464</b>	<b>57.2%</b>	<b>\$187,827</b>	<b>71.9%</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD</b>	<b>\$173,073</b>	<b>54.0%</b>	<b>\$147,520</b>	<b>56.4%</b>
<b>"For Those in Need" YTD</b>	<b>\$ 11,158</b>		<b>\$ 11,932</b>	

Budgeted income includes the total of all pledged, unpledged and loose offerings and miscellaneous income including building rent, etc. "For Those in Need" collections are in addition to Budgeted Income Received and are disbursed quarterly to worthy causes. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount of income or expense budgeted for the fiscal year.

Seven months into our fiscal year income exceeds expenses. We would ask that you try and keep your pledges current during the winter months, especially if you plan to be out of town for an extended period. As you can tell, our cushion going into the remainder of the year is not as great as it was last year.

Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee Chair, Mike McDonald ([m\\_mcdonald@charter.net](mailto:m_mcdonald@charter.net)) or to other members of the Finance Committee.





# Lifespan Experience

## Greetings Friends,

I am so excited to join with you as we kick off our 2016 Stewardship Campaign! The thing that I love most about this time of year are all of the additional opportunities we are presented with to engage with one another, to celebrate where we have been and to look forward to where we are going!

This year is no exception to that, and I am thrilled that our children have been invited to participate in the "Imagine" theme by having their art featured in the sanctuary March 16<sup>th</sup>-March 27<sup>th</sup>. This will kick off with a special *Children's Art Reception* that will occur on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-6pm and be followed by our Wednesday Night Supper (which is potluck that week). This will be a wonderful time for families to gather and celebrate the gifts their children bring to our community, as well as provide all members of the congregation with the opportunity to build multigenerational friendships.

Speaking of supporting individuals of different ages, did you know that we are getting ready to launch a UU Parent's Chalice Circle? The organizational meetings for this will occur on Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:45am-10:15am. Please watch your Flash for more details or pick up a flier after Sunday service from the welcome table.

In all the hustle and bustle that is our lives, I would invite you to take the time to participate in the wonderful *extras* that the Stewardship Campaign season affords us. Make a chili for the Chili Cook Off, come to the Children's Art Reception, find new ways to get involved with a committee... As spring approaches we all begin to consider cleaning out the flower beds and our garden spaces. It is exciting for me, even now with snow (ugh!) still on the ground to think about what I will plant this year. I will need to dig out the old and put in the new. I will need to carve space in my schedule to get my garden started, and then continue to maintain some spaces of time to tend to it throughout the season. How can you dig deep in your life? What are you going to plant this year? What can you make time for in the hopes that it will grow and blossom?

In closing, I would offer that we should each consider the ways in which we tend to the gardens of our community, and the gardens of our hearts. Be kind to yourselves, kind to each other, and send loving kindness out into the universe.

In Peace,

**Sarah Montgomery-Richards**  
Director of Lifespan Experience  
[dle@uucgt.org](mailto:dle@uucgt.org)

### April 2016 continued from page 10

- 03 Sun 15 Minutes with the Rabbi. Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:15 AM
- 03 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**
- 03 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
- 04 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- 04 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 05 Tue CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards That's a Pizza, 12:00 PM 1:00 PM
- 05 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 06 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 06 Wed Stretch & Exercise Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 06 Wed Sunday Services Committee Nancy Cotcamp/Hal Gurian 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 06 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- 06 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
- 07 Thu Pastoral Care Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 07 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 07 Thu Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 08 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 9 PM
- 10 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**
- 10 Sun UU Book Club Karen Mars TBA 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
- 10 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 11 Mon Stretch & Exercise Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 11 Mon Parents Sex Education Class Sarah Montgomery-Richards , 6:00 PM 8:00 PM
- 11 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 12 Tue Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 12:30 PM 1:30 PM
- 12 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM

- 13 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 13 Wed Stretch & Exercise Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 13 Wed Membership Committee Chris & Rick Walter 4:00 PM 5:30 PM
- 13 Wed Wednesday Night Supper-\$5 donation Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
- 13 Wed Colloquium Sarah Montgomery-Richards 7:00 PM 8:00 PM
- 13 Wed Finance Committee Mike McDonald 7:00 PM 8:00 PM
- 13 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
- 14 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 14 Thu Brewing Community John Hoffmann Right Brain 5 PM 7 PM
- 14 Thu Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 16 Sat UU House Concert , 8:00 PM 10:00 PM
- 17 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**
- 17 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 18 Mon Stretch & Exercise Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 18 Mon Parents Sex Education Class Sarah Montgomery-Richards , 6:00 PM 8:00 PM
- 18 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 19 Tue Little Spiritual Book Brown Bag Lunch Rabbi Chava 12-1 PM
- 19 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 19 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting Phyllis Jessup 5:30
- 20 Wed Leadership Development Ann Swaney 9:30 AM 11:30 AM
- 20 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
- 20 Wed Stretch & Exercise Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 20 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- 20 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
- 21 Thu Pastoral Care Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 21 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 21 Thu Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 53, Issue 3  
March, 2016

### Calendar

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

#### March 2016

- 01 **Tue** CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards That's a Pizza, 12 1 PM  
01 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
02 **Wed** Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM  
02 **Wed** Sunday Services Committee Nancy Cotcamp/Hal Gurian 1:00 PM 3:00 PM  
02 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:30 PM  
02 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
03 **Thu** Pastoral Care Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 3:00 PM  
03 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
03 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
04 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:00 AM  
05 **Sat** LDC Discernment Workshop Tom Darnton ,10:AM 2:PM  
06 **Sun** Adult Learning Class -7 Sources of UU Rabbi Chava 9-9:45 AM  
  
06 **Sun** **Sunday Service- New Member 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**  
06 **Sun** Chili Cook-Off Sarah Montgomery-Richards , 11:30 AM 1 PM  
06 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Group Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM  
07 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM  
07 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
08 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
09 **Wed** Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM  
09 **Wed** Wednesday Night Supper-\$5 donation Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:00 PM  
09 **Wed** Colloquium Sarah Montgomery-Richards 7:00 PM 8:00 PM  
09 **Wed** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 7:00 PM 8:00 PM  
09 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
10 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
10 **Thu** Brewing Community John Hoffmann Workshop 5-7 PM  
10 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
11 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM  
13 **Sun** Parents' Chalice Circle Sarah Montgomery-Richards 9:45 AM 10:15 AM  
  
13 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**  
13 **Sun** UU Book Club Emmy Lou Cholak TBA 2:00 PM 4:00 PM  
13 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM  
14 **Mon** Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 12:30 PM 1:30 PM  
14 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
14 **Mon** UUCGT Board Meeting Phyllis Jessup 5:30 PM 7:00 PM  
15 **Tue** Little Spiritual Book Brown Bag Lunch Rabbi Chava 12-1 PM  
15 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
16 **Wed** Leadership Development Ann Swaney 9:30 AM 11:30 AM

- 16 **Wed** Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM  
  
16 **Wed** Children's Art Reception Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 6 PM  
16 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:30 PM  
16 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
17 **Thu** Pastoral Care Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 3:00 PM  
17 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
17 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
20 **Sun** Adult Learning Class Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:45 AM  
20 **Sun** UU Parents Chalice Circle Sarah Montgomery-Richards 9:45 AM 10:15 AM  
  
20 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**  
20 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM  
21 **Mon** Stretch & Exercise Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM  
21 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
22 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
23 **Wed** Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM  
23 **Wed** Wednesday Night Supper-\$5 donation Sandra McDonald , 5:30 PM 7:00 PM  
23 **Wed** Colloquium Sarah Montgomery-Richards 7:00 PM 8:00 PM  
23 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
24 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
24 **Thu** Brewing Community John Hoffmann Workshop 5- 7 PM  
24 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
25 **Fri** Death Cafe Donna Stein Harris 10:00 AM 12:00 PM  
27 **Sun** UU Parents Chalice Circle Sarah Montgomery-Richards 9:45 AM 10:15 AM  
  
27 **Sun** **Easter Sunday Service (one service) 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**  
27 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM  
28 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
29 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
30 **Wed** Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM  
30 **Wed** Wednesday Supper - Pizza Night Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:30 PM  
30 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
31 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
31 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

#### April 2016

- 1 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:00AM

(April Calendar continues on previous page)