



Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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Office Hours

Monday by appointment
Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00-4:00

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Board of Trustees

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**OCTOBER
Sunday Services
Loving the Stranger**

We become neighbors when we are willing to cross the road for one another... There is a lot of road crossing to do. We are all very busy in our own circles. We have our own people to go to and our own affairs to take care of. But if we could cross the road once in a while and pay attention to what is happening on the other side, we might indeed become neighbors.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

**Sunday, October 2 – Rabbi Chava Bahle
9:00 AM Program: “I Willfully Covenant – Learning and Reflecting on Our Stories of Promises ... and a Little about Free Will”**

As we begin the process of unpacking what it means to live in covenant, we will begin with the phrase from our covenant, “I willfully covenant ...” What does this mean?

We will also lay the groundwork for a year-long study and learning from the Public Conversations Project.

10:30 AM Service: “Renewing Our Commitment to Loving the Stranger”

“Who is my neighbor?” asked then Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) president, William Sinkford, in a General Assembly session. “It’s a question each generation of Americans must answer.” This Sunday falls near both the Jewish and Islamic New Year celebrations. Unlike the secular New Year, these are times of deep introspection in these two traditions. It is a time to reset our sights on our ideals. This month at UUCGT that means how we reflect on “loving the stranger.”

**Sunday, October 9 – Rabbi Chava Bahle
9:00 AM Program: “A History of Covenanting”**

This week we examine where the idea of covenant emerged, what it means in other communities and what it has meant here at UUCGT. We continue with the Public Conversations Project approach as we learn together and from one another.

10:30 AM Service: “Loving Nature ... and the Furry Stranger!” (St. Francis of Assisi Day)

St. Francis of Assisi (who is celebrated around October 4) was a great lover of nature and animals. In this morning’s service we invite you to bring a picture of your furry friends to decorate our table, and we invite our youngest members to bring a stuffed animal for a moment of recognition. The loss of pets touches the heart as deeply as their loving presence in our lives. We will also consider how we as UUs deepen our commitment to preserving our environment for the wild things.

(continued on page 2)

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**

Sunday, October 16 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program - UUCGT Program Council meets @ 9:00 AM

10:30 AM Service: “Sukkot – Under One Roof – A Public Dialogue”

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot of the Feast of Booths is a celebration of the Autumn harvest. It is customarily a time when an outdoor hut is built for meals and celebration for eight days, so that we might enjoy the sky, wind and stars. The holiday has a custom of inviting in strangers to dine with us. Once again, using the Public Conversations Process, we will explore how this marvelous congregation lives together under one roof.

Sunday, October 23 – Lay-Led Service

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: “Ryan Hannon of Safe Harbor will relate his experiences working with the homeless at Safe Harbor”

Ryan Hannon is the Street Outreach Coordinator at Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan. This organization’s purpose is to connect people on the street, who are experiencing homelessness, with the resources to end homelessness. He has served in that position for the past nine years and has been an employee of Goodwill for twelve years. Ryan has been an invited speaker at several conferences seeking to end homelessness nationwide.

Ryan has a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from Ferris State University and an Associate’s Degree in Social Sciences from Northwestern Michigan College. He also serves as an Operations Partner of Safe Harbor of Grand Traverse, Inc. and as President of Agape Financial, a ministry providing microloans and budget support to those in need.

Sunday, October 30 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “From Our Covenant: Mindfulness”

It is no accident that the first word of UUCGT’s covenant is “mindful.” This morning we will explore the idea of mindfulness through the Six Sources, learn some useful mindfulness practices, and reflectively share our own experiences.

10:30 AM Service: All Congregation Service - “Samhain: Honoring the Ancestors”

As we end our month of reflection on loving the stranger, we remind ourselves that so many people we come to love started off as strangers. One of the most beautiful services we hold annually is Samhain - Honoring the Ancestors. Bring a photograph or memento you wish to place on the table to co-create our setting. With members of all ages, we remember our personal histories and those who have touched us.

NOVEMBER

Sunday Services

Living Into Covenantal Community

“We, the members of HUUMS, covenant to work together to create a more loving and just world around us. Grounded in the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism, we covenant to welcome difference among each other, work patiently through challenges that face us, support each other in heartache, share in each other’s joy, and comfort each other in ambiguity. May we strive to extend these hallmarks of our membership to the larger HDS community and the world at large. Let our faith be expressed through our actions as well as our words.”

– Harvard UU Ministry for Students

Sunday, November 6 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “From Our Covenant: Our History”

This morning we will consider how our personal religious and spiritual histories shape our approach to worship and community. We’ll also share a little of UUCGT’s history. Bring a story of your personal history (about 2 minutes) to share.

10:30 AM Service: “What UUs Can Learn from the 12 Baha’i Principles”

The UU Baha’is say, “Baha’ism, often called the Baha’i faith, is a new religious movement started in the late 1800s by the spiritual teacher, Bahauallah, an exiled Persian nobleman who devoted his life to proclaiming a universal message of peace, human rights, interfaith harmony, and ever-advancing global civilization.” In this service, we will explore the 12 principles of the Baha’i tradition and celebrate the values and ideals we share.

(continued on page 3)

Sunday, November 13 – Lay-Led Service

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: "The Birthday of Kurt Vonnegut – a Humanist Holiday: Celebrating our Humanist Traditions"

Details will be in the November Beacon.

Sunday, November 20 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: "Fair Housing, Affordable Housing" & Twin Lakes Congregational Feast

On this day in 1962, President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 11063, which mandates an end to discrimination in housing. Join Rabbi Chava and members of our community who are young, working hard and do not have adequate housing. They will share their stories and help us understand what housing vulnerability means to young, working families. This will be a short service so we can skedaddle to Twin Lakes for the Congregation's annual Thanksgiving Gathering!

Sunday, November 27 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

UU Advent and Preparation – SAFE HARBOR WEEK BEGINS

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: "Hope: First Sunday of UU Advent"

"In this holiday season,
May we find the patience
To forgive ourselves;
To forgive those who do not do as we wish;
May we find patience.
May we find the wisdom
To let be"

- David Breeden, UUA Worship Web

The four Sundays before Christmas are called Advent, a time of waiting. Traditionally they are celebrated with candles lit for Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. This Sunday as our week of hosting Safe Harbor begins, come be with us as we honor the value of Hope.

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

Meditation - Thursdays, 9 AM in the Sanctuary

"For thousands of years people have used meditation to move beyond the mind's stress-inducing thoughts and emotional upsets into the peace and clarity of present moment awareness. The variety of meditation techniques, traditions, and technologies is nearly infinite, but the essence of meditation is singular: the cultivation of mindful awareness and expanded consciousness ... These are the ultimate precious gifts of meditation ..." - the Chopra Center

Weekly Meditation in October, November and early December, except for the following dates: 10/27, 11/24 (Thanksgiving Day) and 12/1 (Safe Harbor hosting week).

Rabbi Chava

Brew Crew!

Join Rabbi Chava and the awesome folk who show up for coffee at Brew on Front Street (downtown TC) on Friday October 14 and/or November 11, from 10 to 11:30 AM. Grab a cup of java and join in amazing free-range conversation. All are welcome.



UU Book Club

We're getting close to the end of our book club season. Now is the time to be thinking of a book for which you would like to lead a discussion. We'll be choosing books and lining up hosts and discussion leaders at our October 9th meeting which always includes our business meeting, organized by our leader, Mark Gustafson. This important 2:00pm meeting will be hosted by Stan and Dottie Cain (3584 Village Circle). The book for October is "Art Forger" by Barbara Shapiro and Dottie will lead the discussion. Don't forget to RSVP to the Cain's at 938-1506 or sdcelk@yahoo.com. Newcomers are always welcome at any time of the year. I have noticed many new faces in the last year. If you are interested in being part of a group that holds in-depth discussions of both new fiction and classics, consider joining us in 2017. If you have questions, call Mark at 929-9608 or the "Communicator" (Karen). We would be happy to answer anything you want to know (about the book club!!) and share with you why we think this UUCGT group is so special.

Happy reading!
Karen Mars
karen.mars.tc@gmail.com





Rabbi's Reflection

A Vision for Unitarian Universalism in a Multicultural World

“With humility and courage born of our history, we are called as Unitarian Universalists to build the Beloved Community where all souls are welcome as blessings, and the human family lives whole and reconciled. With this vision in our hearts and minds, we light our chalice.”

from “A vision for Unitarian Universalism in a Multicultural World” by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Leadership Council, adopted October 1, 2008 (adapted as a chalice lighting, May 2009)

Friends, I am learning German. For fun. Well, actually for a project on which I am working, a biography of a long-deceased German actor and film star. One of my advisors on the project, a professor from Amherst, told me I had to read German so that the untranslated articles on the actor could be included. I have been using a book of easy short stories to learn German. We follow the adventures of Dino, who comes from Sicily, lives in Kreuzberg with three often annoying roommates (from the U.S., China and Mexico) and loves to party (more than to study his German) in Berlin.

The second story in the book is hysterical – it’s called “MultiKulti,” and we follow Dino and his friends to a pizzeria run by two Palestinian brothers where no one speaks Italian, but the place is nearby, the food is cheap (2 Euro 50!). During the story Dino introduces us to a dish made of German bratwurst, British Worcestershire sauce, American ketchup and Indian curry. Mash it all together and you get Currywurst. Multikulti indeed.

We live in a global village, a multicultural, Currywurst world. *I believe that Unitarian Universalism has important tools to offer in navigating our rapidly-shrinking world.*

Above all, what I hope our congregation teaches in this area is moving beyond fear of “the other.” Fear is a powerful force that demands defense and contraction.

As we move through this year exploring the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism, my hope is that we will each begin to ask

questions about other traditions: Humanism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, non-theism, and even mystical pantheism.

By asking questions, pushing ourselves to learn, we will come to an important UU ideal: **YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE WRONG FOR ME TO BE RIGHT.** (This is the title of a good book too!) In other words, we may come to discover that we may not agree, share or imbibe all ideas, but when we explore with open hearts and minds, we find our common humanity and step out of the ruts in our own thinking. Being in school, I have come to see that pushing the mind to expand and consider things from different angles is helping me feel ... young.

I am having this experience as I study at Catholic Theological. I am immersed in a culture very different from my own, with a language all its own that is new and mysterious to me. My classmates come from all over the world, and having these friends from Burma, India, Guatemala and Poland is truly helping me be a more global thinker.

There is no need for fear, contempt or anger when we disagree or when something feels “foreign” to us. Indeed, this Sunday services year is an invitation to explore and experience. To stretch ourselves, to test our beliefs (i.e., not make idols of the mind) and to breathe fresh air into our ideals.

Like Dino, we may not love Currywurst, but we had the courage to try it and have expanded the range of our awareness.

**In Blessing,
Rabbi Chava Bahle**

ALL ABOUT US

We hold in our hearts...

Lauren Keinath, who is now in Rehab at Munson and enjoys seeing visitors.

Karen Mars, as she seeks care for her painful knees at U of M this week.

We are happy to see returning to our Sunday services:

Gary Harris
Mercedes Kimling

We continue to be mindful of those in care...

Gene Rundell
Ron Yatich
Nancy Landfair
Carol Still

All would enjoy visitors, but call first if you can...

**Judith Briggs
jbriggs002@centurytel.net**

UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

Please Save the Date!

November 9, Wednesday Supper followed by a showing of the Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky documentary, **Defying the Nazis: The Sharps War**, on the Sharps, husband and wife UUs, who risked their lives to rescue people from the Holocaust. Our showing will take place on Kristallnacht, which according to the U.S. Holocaust Museum literally means, "Night of Crystal," or the "Night of Broken Glass." The name refers to the wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms which took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. This wave of violence took place throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, recently occupied by German troops.

A Common Read

The Rev. Dr. William Barber's Moral Mondays movement is growing nationwide. Learn more about its history and future in **The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement**, just selected as the 2016-2017 UUA Common Read.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Anyone may nominate a book.

I would like to invite anyone who wishes to share in such a conversation about the book to join me on **Sunday, February 12** - the anniversary of the date the NAACP was founded - for an assigned potluck brunch in the social hall. **Please save the date!**

Standing on the Side of Love - Next Steps

How can communities of faith and conscious practice practical and radical love through our organizing work?

There is a wonderful new UUA resource you can access from the convenience of your own home. It's called *Fortification*. "In the first episode of *Fortification*, Caitlin Breedlove, Standing on the Side of Love Campaign Coordinator, interviews Lena K. Gardner and Rev. Osagyefo Sekou. Gardner is the lead organizer of Black Lives Matter Minneapolis and member of the organizing collective of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU). She is also a collaborative organizer with Standing on the Side of Love. Rev. Sekou is an active racial justice advocate and on January 31st, 2016, he and the band he co-leads, Rev. Sekou & the Holy Ghost, released their debut album, "The Revolution Has Come".

The podcast can be found here:

<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org> - click on *Fortification*

**Biv'rachot / In Blessing -
Chava**

UUCGT Little Spiritual Book Group - Almost Monthly at 12 Noon

The Little Spiritual Book Group meets in our sanctuary just about monthly to talk about books that help us on the journey. We're taking October off, but will reconvene in November.

Thursday, November 10: Wayne Muller, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*

Monday, December 12: Jack Kornfield, *The Art of Forgiveness, Lovingkindness and Peace*

January, 2017 - no meeting

Sunday, February 12 (following the service) - special meeting in conjunction with the UUA program, A Common Read: *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016). This book has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Here's what the UUA writes:

"Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. *The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices.

Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized."

**Biv'rachot / In Blessing -
Chava**

From the President

As many of you know, the service on Sunday the 18th of September was dedicated in part to the installation of our new Board members. I followed that program with some comments that I would like to revisit in this column in hopes of having the message disseminated to those interested members and friends who were not in attendance. My apologies to those who have already been exposed to these words, but my hope is you found them meaningful enough to warrant a brief scan in print. And...there is some added information at the end.

I have recently been pondering why we humans gather in pursuit of spiritual growth or awareness. Although such seeking is sometimes manifested in a solitary pursuit, it is most generally experienced in communities...known as congregations. These groups gather to learn about various aspects of spirituality including history and traditions of the various belief systems. But something else serendipitously happens – something almost magical. The people in these groups – these congregations – begin to interact and meaningful bonds begin to take form when they find people they really enjoy at coffee hour or, more frequently, when they join a committee. Somehow that superficial coffee hour chat quickly evolves into meaningful discussions that lead to friendships and an opening to a whole new circle of support and love...a community that seems to evolve more rapidly than other types of social contacts. Our common quest leads us to not only enjoy each other socially but to turn to each other in times of joy and sorrow as we journey through our lives. So the seemingly social activities and community outreaches serve an unspoken purpose – they provide a mechanism for us to reach out and feel each other as we work to achieve our mission oriented tasks.

But as magical as this process is, it does not occur without some coordination. As in most congregations, we have a Board charged with attending to the underlying logistical needs associated with keeping our doors open. We, the Board, oversee all the service functions which relate to maintain

ing our building and grounds. We also are responsible for dealing with issues related to governance such as finance, policy and staff resources, to name a few. Lastly, and most importantly, we are charged with supporting the Spiritual Leader and the many internal and community-related initiatives associated with the ministry.

In short, it is a huge task and requires much time and effort on the part of every Board member. We are routinely required to grapple with complex issues and we work together to determine the best paths for our congregation. In so doing – like all other congregational committees – we have the opportunity to develop long term and meaningful relationships with each other.

I want to tell you about a touching incident that was recently related to me by someone who served on the Board of another UU congregation. He said that Board had weathered many a challenge together and had grown very close. So close, in fact, that when his parent passed during his tenure on the Board – all the pall bearers at that funeral were members of that Board.

I tell you this story to illustrate the power of working together to achieve spiritual objectives. And I urge you to become active in a committee – if you haven't already – in order to experience this phenomenon of compassion in action that is forged by interaction among spiritual seekers in congregations of purpose.

That said, please know that I am honored to serve as your president and I welcome your ideas, comments, questions and the like. Most Sundays, you can find me in the library after services or you can reach me most any time via my contact info posted in the directory. And...because conversations and information flow two ways, I will be reaching out to you regularly via the Flash and The Beacon.

In conclusion – a heartfelt thanks from every member of this Board – for giving us the opportunity to serve you.

And now for the additional message:

As your Board president I can tell you unequivocally that without the tremendous support received every day by our volunteers, this facility would have to shutter its doors and the congregation would dissolve. Although our paid staff is wonderful, it is tiny and it is our volunteers, through our committee structure, who give freely of their time, talent and fortunes in support of sustaining and growing this congregation.

In an attempt to recognize some of these committees via the Flash and Beacon I will be highlighting a different committee every week. I believe most UUCGT volunteer work and purpose is little known and it is time to spotlight the contributions and many acts of kindness received from these committees and their members.

Along the way I hope to illustrate how participating in our committees is frequently associated with blessings that flow both ways – our congregation clearly benefits, but the stories of friendships forged and personal growth in volunteers also abound.

Stay tuned...

Peace in Your Hearts,
Linda

Linda Fletcher
linfletch@gmail.com

Program Council News

October 2016

The UUCGT Program Council is comprised of committee chairs or co-chairs, or their designees. All are welcome to attend our meetings. On September 18th, 2016 thirteen of us gathered for an excellent discussion on a variety of topics.

Minutes of the August 14th meeting were approved and will be archived in the Program Council folder on the UUCGT Computer System.

Continued discussions recognized the need for UUCGT members to fill several important positions.

Sunday Morning Hospitality...

could be better supported by having a named coordinator. At the present time, Penny and John Ort will continue preparing coffee, snacks and cleaning up on the first Sunday of each month. Cynthia Brzak and Kathie Carpenter will cover the 2nd Sunday of the month. Membership Committee will cover the third Sunday of each month. Mike and Sandra McDonald will continue to cover the fourth Sunday, and John and Pinkie Hoffmann will cover the fifth Sundays. The LDC will cover two Sundays a year to relieve those who have volunteered on a more permanent basis. To ensure nothing falls through the cracks, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the kitchen for others to sign-up or express their interest in covering for a week. Thanks go out to all these dedicated volunteers that help keep our Sunday morning coffee and tea cravings satisfied at UUCGT.

Team Turkey...

Carol Ritter and Victoria Gallup volunteered to co-coordinate the Turkey Feast on November 20th at Gilbert Lodge at Twin Lakes. Mary Kiner, who has championed and coordinated this event for many years, will work with Victoria and Carol in the planning. As this is a potluck, all members are expected to bring a dish to share and we will need 7 to 10 volunteers to prepare the Turkeys. Please contact Carol and Victoria if you can roast a turkey.

More volunteers...

are needed on various of committees and for Lifespan Experience for Children and Youth. The LDC has formed a sub-committee to study how to fill the empty slots for all these positions. Other suggestions included: a) a job fair; and b) brief descriptions of committee work during Sunday Services. The Stewardship Committee will add a time and talent interest survey with the pledge forms in 2017.

Committees represented summarized their monthly accomplishments. UUCGT is in good hands, but we can always use more hands to make our community better. Our next meeting is October 16th at 9:00 AM. Please come or contact one of us if you have a topic you would like us to discuss.

A BIG THANK YOU! to all the volunteers who help with the various committees and functions of the UUCGT. YOU are all are greatly appreciated!

Richard Walter
Program Council Coordinator
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of August 31, 2016
(16.7% of fiscal year)

	Current Year		Prior Year	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$ 77,345	28.2%	\$ 78,236	23.8%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 40,784	15.1%	\$ 52,117	16.2%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 2,255		\$ 3,060	

Budgeted income includes the total of all pledged and unpledged donations 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, including Congregational Care, Tuesday Community Lunch and other Community needs outside our congregation. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount of income or expense budgeted for the fiscal year.

We are doing well year-to-date, which is normal in that some of our pledges are paid in full for the year in July (or before).

Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee Chair, Mike McDonald (m_mcdonald@charter.net) or to other members of the Finance Committee.



Membership News

OCTOBER

With shorter days, cooling temperatures, and hopefully leaf color development, we may lament the passing of Summer, but we are Thankful for all that Summer has provided us - Great weather, Luscious, healthy produce AND Flowers from Gardens, and Delightful activities and outings with family and friends. And now we look forward to this next Season and extend Enjoyment and Greetings From.....

The entire Membership Team — Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, 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.

WE ARE RECRUITING - PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR TEAM!
You may have noticed our Membership Team List above is much shorter than it has been for the last 6 months to a year. Three members have decided to re-assess their committee activities, but we extend Heartfelt Thanks to Cathy Annelin and Penni and Bryan Newlun for their very active participation and leadership. Please consider joining us. Our main responsibilities are detailed below and to plan these, we meet every 4-6 weeks, but not in the summer.

GREETER OPPORTUNITIES

We are Very Thankful for all the regular, tried and true Greeters, who are faithfully here every Sunday. We'd LOVE to see some new faces serving in this important role, too - a Friendly Ministry actually - not just another "job" that has to be done. What could be more enjoyable than smiling and saying Welcome? This can be a one-time or several-time commitment. It's easy - just sign up on the bulletin board near the office or call coordinator Charlotte Shea, 883-9357.

MEMBERSHIP TEAM STEPS UP

It is no secret that it takes all of us pitching in not only with our monetary contributions, but our Time and Talents to help make UUCGT work. In this Spirit, your Membership Team has agreed to Set up, Make coffee, Provide snacks, and Clean up for Fellowship time One Sunday each month - the 3rd Sunday to be exact. This activity helps fulfill our Mission of Welcoming and Fostering getting acquainted and developing relationships within our community.

Program Council hopes that other Committees / Groups at UUCGT will partner and form Teams to fulfill this role for the remaining Sundays or just pitching in once in a while to relieve the "Regulars". We all enjoy our Cuppa' Joe, tea and nibbles after service.

WELCOME TABLE

The Membership Team takes turns staffing the Welcome Table in the Fellowship area and serving as Greeters. Prospective members and visitors can sign the Welcome Registry to receive electronic copies of the weekly Flash and monthly Beacon, request a Name Tag, and talk in person with folks who can talk about UUCGT and the Steps to Membership.

STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP

- Attend an Orientation Session (available 3 times per program year after Sunday Service)
- Meet with spiritual leader, Rabbi Chava Bahle
- Sign the Member Book (and be Welcomed in a Sunday Service)
- Pledge your financial support and make financial contribution of record

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

Orientation Meetings for Prospective Members, 15 Minutes with Rabbi (intended for super busy people whose schedules don't jive with Rabbi's for a more in-depth meeting), and New Member Welcome Services for 2016-2017 are scheduled. Please check the Welcome Table, Beacon, or weekly Flash for updates.

Save the Dates - 2016/2017

October 16	Prospective Member Orientation, 12:00pm
October 30	15 Minutes with the Rabbi - RSVP please
November 6	New Member Welcome Service

January 29	Prospective Member Orientation, 11:45am
February 12	15 Minutes with the Rabbi - RSVP please
February 26	New Member Welcome Service

See you in church!

Chris and Rick Walter
Co-Chairs, Membership Team
chris9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-4776
rick9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-5174

Social Justice and Action

Speak up!

Today's news broadcasts brings us one horror after another; fills our ears with ugly words and shouting hateful remarks about other peoples. Hate permeates the atmosphere and poisons it for all of us. As Martin Luther King Jr. said: "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

How can we do that; how can you and I do that and every day? We can! we must!

We must speak up, and every time we hear this constant ugly rhetoric. We must prepare ourselves with answers. It is not always easy, but to not respond is to give tacit agreement. If we say nothing else but: "those words hurt all of us and are not allowed here," then we have begun to stop the spread of those words. We have a right to declare a space for ourselves that we feel is safe and is ours; we own it. Therefore, we must guard it and set the parameters of comfort in our own space.

We must respond to every slur, to every intended joke that is really not funny, all ugly words, subtle or slamming outrageous ones. These should not be allowed to enter our space and the space of those we love and care for. The task begins at home, with

family and friends. Practice daily. What hurts one; hurts us all!

I remember walking with my newly married husband in his town. I don't remember the words said, but they knew I was Jewish. They said something, and I corrected them. My husband was shocked. What was said? He was unaware of the subtle remark, and I had to teach him. He soon learned to listen more carefully and to hear the subtleties. We have to teach, ourselves and others, constantly!

Discuss with your friends and neighbors why you responded so. Help others to learn the true meaning of ugly words, of the true meanings of stereotypes, and help them to be considerate in their speech.

Be supportive of the victim, helping them to regain and feel some pride in their true selves. Constant name-calling is very personally destructive and hurts the development of natural confidence and self esteem. Be aware of children or adults who seem shy and reticent in conversation. They may be the victims of hate and in need of help.

Hate is not only in our political scene today, but also in our music and very much in the video games kids play. There is always a victim in these games, and it is usually depicted as the latest outsider that our politics is now trying to teach us to hate, to ostracize as the bad guy. Today, unfortunately, it is probably shown as a Muslim with flowing robes and headgear. Those games are encouraging hate and should be forbidden. Be aware of what your kids are watching, doing, playing. Guide them to better outlets for their feelings and time, and explain why as you do that.

As Nelson Mandela said: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

As in the song from South Pacific: "You've got to be carefully taught" ... "to hate all the people your relatives hate."

Teach love, not hate. Remember, "Love trumps hate!"

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

COMPENSATION RESTORED !

As a result of all the generous people that were able to increase their existing pledges in response to John Ort's heartfelt presentation at the Annual Meeting, we have been able to restore some of the staff compensation to the 2015-2016 budget year levels.

Effective July 16, all of Rabbi Chava's hours were restored from 35 to 40 hours a week. All of Sarah Montgomery-Richards' hours were restored from 30 to 35 hours. Two of the five hours reduced from Susan Sherman were restored. Susan feels at this time that 32 hours a week is adequate to complete the many things she does for us. Sheri Novak is confident at this time she can accomplish her numerous tasks within the reduced hours from 15 to the current 12, thus no changes were made. The Contract Musicians' budget was increased to restore an accompanist to each of the VE rehearsals.

To avoid the staff learning of their restored compensation in the Beacon, it was important that each engage in a personal compensation review with the chair of the Staff Resources Committee, Karl Love. This took longer than anticipated. Thus, this good news is coming to you after the fact.

Many thanks to all who pledged and all who were able to increase their pledges! We are generous people who give from our hearts with joy to support our congregation.

Kay Sturgeon
Treasurer



Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends,

*“And now, for something completely different...”
– John Cleese, Monty Python*

Did you know that you have a staff of scholars and teachers? Well, you do! I am proud and honored to be in the company of amazing colleagues who value learning so greatly. Currently, both Rabbi Chava and I are enrolled in advanced degree programs (professional development) that, by nature of their focus, will serve to benefit this community. For those that don't know, the M.A. that I am currently pursuing is in Interfaith Action. The very notion of Lifespan Education is that learning is a life-long process – and in this spirit, Rabbi Chava and I will periodically be offering you a sample of our studies as a taste of the work that we are engaged in and bring our learning back to our communities.

The following is an excerpt from a reflection that I wrote for a course entitled “Interfaith Leadership in a Global Context”. In his book, “Leadership: Theory and Practice”, Peter Northouse spends time addressing different types of leadership, including Transformational Leadership. In the following reflection on a reading of Northouse, I address why transformational leadership may be of value to leading within an interfaith context.

In his book, “Leadership: Theory and Practice”, Northouse offers that “...transformational leadership’s popularity might be due to its emphasis on intrinsic motivation and follower development, which fits the needs of today’s work groups, who want to be inspired and empowered to succeed in times of uncertainty”.^[1] Transformational leadership “...is concerned with emotions, values, ethics, standards, and long term goals [which]...includes assessing followers’ motives, satisfying their needs, and treating them as full human beings.^[2] The notion of *inspiring* and *empowering* followers in a way that involves the concerns mentioned above, while honoring the worth and humanity of all involved, is important to interfaith work. This work, or interfaith action, appeals to individuals to live up to the highest potential embedded in their “...values, ethics, and standards...” by braving “uncertainty”^[3] and engaging in “... energetic engagement with diversity,... [by] actively] seeking understanding across lines of difference,... [by] holding [their] deepest differences, even [their] religious differences, not in isolation,

but in relationship to one another... [and by engaging in] dialogue...[that] reveals both common understandings and real differences”.^[4]

When considering why transformational leadership may be of value in an interfaith setting, it is also helpful to consider what Northouse had to say about the approach itself. He notes that “transformational leaders set out to empower followers and nurture them in change. They attempt to raise consciousness in individuals and get them to transcend their own self-interests for the sake of others”.^[5] This is vital to interfaith work in that individuals, in an effort to accomplish whatever goals both short and long-term that they might have for their group or for their community, are called to move from a place of singular focus and towards a more collectively beneficial perspective. In this sense, they are called to change or transform old ways of looking at the world that may have isolated them from others, and “transcend” lines of difference to reorient towards cooperation. A good transformational leader would help the community feel “empowered” to take these steps.^[6]

It is exciting to be engaging in this program, and I look forward to the ways in which I can serve the community in new ways or with fresh perspective because of this learning.

As always, 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

[1] Northouse, Peter Guy. Leadership: Theory and Practice. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2013. p. 185.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Eck, Diana. "The Pluralism Project." The Pluralism Project. Accessed July 15, 2016. <http://pluralism.org/what-is-pluralism/>.

[5] Northouse, p. 199.

[6] Ibid.

Interview: What does it take to be an LE teacher?

Interviewer: Karin Killian

Interviewee: Marco Cabrera

Hey, so I keep hearing that the church needs more volunteer teachers to teach the children and youth Lifespan Experience classes on Sunday mornings. I suppose since they keep making the announcement that means we are not getting many answers to the call....

(continued on page 11)

Does that mean it's a hard job? I mean, I couldn't possibly do this, right?

Well, 'hard' is a pretty flexible term. For the most part, no. Our Director of Lifespan Experience (Sarah Montgomery-Richards) does all of the heavy lifting, so you don't have to do much more than show up and pretend you can be the responsible party.

I have no experience teaching children! Do you need experience with kids to be a LE teacher?

Experience, No. The only requirements have to do with our Child Safety Policy. You must have been in the congregation for 6 months, and pass a background check to work with our kids. Beyond that, the only thing you need is the willingness, and sometimes, a bit of patience.

And I like to go to Sunday services. Frankly, Sunday services are one of the main reasons I am a member of this community. If I teach Sunday School, does that mean I'd never get to attend Sunday services? Do volunteers who teach the children and youth on Sundays have to do it every single week?

Attending services really is an amazing part of membership, and I am happy to say that you still get to go as an LE Teacher. Sarah tries to set it up so you only have to teach once a month for the year. And considering three months of the year are Specialty Class summer programs, signing up is saying you will teach about nine times in an entire year. However, with how few volunteers we currently have, Sarah and her husband, Denny, are filling in too frequently to cover in an effort to assure we can still have children's programming.

And I have no idea how one goes about teaching a Sunday School class... If I volunteered to teach, would I have to do it all on my own?

No. For each Sunday you teach, you are given a lesson plan, and when you arrive, all the materials you will need to follow that lesson plan are set up and ready in the classroom for you. Sarah also emails you the lesson plans in advance so you feel like you know what is going on. And the best part is, the students have all done this before, so they can hold your hand through the process!

Is there any training provided?

We don't explicitly have a training program for teachers, considering how much Sarah does for each lesson. However, I understand how you can be nervous about doing something like this the first time, so here is what I can recommend. Contact the LE Committee about training, or contact Sarah and shadow a teacher on a Sunday.

Would I have a co-teacher, or would I basically be stuck in a room with all those kids by MYSELF?!

Well, you may be alone with the kids for periods of time...The plan is to have one teacher per class (which can be between 2-10 kids depending on the week) and one "float". A "float" is a teacher that walks between the three classes as a support to the classroom teachers. This also supports our Child Safety Policy of having the presence of more than one adult in the room. But, we do have to be honest about the fact that we do not have enough volunteers at the moment, and Sarah currently makes sure this is covered, too.

What exactly would I have to do with the kids? Would I have to come up with a new activity every week by myself?

No, you do not have to come up with a new activity each week. I can outline what a day in the life of an LE Teacher is, but I would like to identify clearly that Sarah has done all but stand at the front of the class, before you even arrive.

About a week or two ahead of time, Sarah will get you a copy of the lesson plan for your class. I read through it, I see if I have any questions that I would like to review with Sarah. I also use this chance to see if there is anything in the lesson plan that I can relate to my experience. In the past, I have remembered some amazing videos on the class subjects, so I sent them to Sarah to see if she approved using them in class. (Approval is mainly because I don't always trust my own judgment on what people might find appropriate for their kids.) After that, I show up. As a teacher, I show up about 15 minutes early, to make sure that the classroom I am in is set up, and has all the things I think I need. (So far, I have never been let down, but it makes me feel better to check.) After that, I wander down to the sanctuary for the start of service. As we approach the time when we sing the children out, I walk with the kids to the classroom. The students usually know exactly where they are supposed to go, but I pay attention for any students that wander to the wrong room. We start by going around the circle, introducing ourselves, checking-in, and lighting the chalice (As each student introduces themselves, I sign them into the LE book). From here, I simply walk through the lesson plan. The students are generally pretty eager to go along with the plan, but there is occasionally some effort needed to help redirect students to the work at hand. I find that my most successful classes came from walking into the classroom, opening the topic, and just listening to the students talk about their opinions on the topic. Activities always end up being fun, even if they turn silly half way through. I have found that for the students, the Snack (provided) towards the end of class has been the most exciting part. And afterwards, the students help me clean up the room. At the end of service, the parents will come and sign the students out. And, you are done.

I'm not good at crafts and I'm not even sure I know how to keep kids occupied and interested.

Despite the fact that our Director of Lifespan Experience prepares everything in advance, I have found that the thing that makes this the easiest, is that, when thinking of the kids, this is not their first rodeo. They know what to do, they know where they can be silly, and where not. And so far, they have guided me through every art project I was nervous about.

And I know prepping materials can take up a lot of time? If I agree to teaching on Sundays, does that mean I have to do everything?

No. You will have a Director to give you the materials, direction, and make sure your questions are answered, you have other teachers that can help you if you are in a bind, and you have the kids to make sure they get snack on time, and help you to laugh off your nervousness.

Is there something in particular that would make me want to teach in LE?

I would say that there are two very important things that would make you want to teach. One, I fear that our number of teaching volunteers correlates directly with the number of young families we have in this congregation, and I believe this whole congregation wants more families to be welcomed here. And two, I have found so much joy, in having one student point out that I am referring to the wrong musical, or another let me know that she would be happy to show me the proper way to light the candle. Even though I have been, and continue to feel a bit nervous before every class I teach, I leave each day that I do, grateful that I am getting to know these amazing people that are growing in our congregation.

Let's Have A
Conversation!



Wednesday Evening Programming will be trying out a NEW format this fall! Join us for thoughtful discussions during and after the meals on Wednesday nights. Topics will be decided each week for the following week! Come join in the Conversation!



SECOND ANNUAL PAGAN FAIR! TWO-DAY-EVENT THIS YEAR!

FRIDAY, OCT 21ST, 2016 6-10PM &

SATURDAY, OCT 22ND, 2016 10AM-3PM

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
6726 Center Rd, Traverse City**

Admission is FREE!

Workshops! Merchandise Vendors! Rituals!
Healers, Readers, and more! Stay for a short time or all day!

FRIDAY NIGHT – “Fall Ball” party for adults with childcare provided – costumes encouraged for all ages! Some of our Vendors will be open for a Sneak Preview – Shop till you drop! Evening Ritual too!

**SATURDAY – All Vendors and Service Providers will be available!
Workshops and Rituals start at 10am!**

This is a great opportunity to connect with & learn more about the Pagan Community. You'll also have the opportunity to browse the booths of talented area merchants and artists for things like herbal skin care, teas, salves, drums, jewelry, ritual items and more! Visit a gifted reader, medium, or massage therapist to care for your mind, body, & spirit! Don't forget about our educational workshops, rituals, children's activities AND MORE!

celebration, education, connection, and revitalization!

Contact the UUCGT Office for information – 231-947-3117 or
dle@uucgt.org

More Announcements



OWL (our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) Parent Meeting – Wed, Oct 5th, 7-8:30pm. UUCGT is considering offering OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) for middle school/high school this year! If you are interested in finding out more information, PLEASE attend this Parent Meeting. The focus of the meeting will be to generally introduce the program, gauge the amount of interest, and to discuss the scheduling of classes with those who are in attendance at this meeting. It is important that anyone interested attend - it will help us decide if there is enough interest to offer this program this year.

More info: <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

Questions? Contact Sarah – dle@uucgt.org

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Calendar

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

October 2016

- | | | |
|----|-----|---|
| 02 | Sun | 9AM Program: "Covenantal Living" Rabbi Chava Bahle |
| 02 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM |
| 02 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation, 1st Sunday Fleda Brown 2:30-6:30 PM |
| 02 | Sun | Congregation Beth Shalom Terry Tarnow 7:30 PM 9:30 PM |
| 03 | Mon | Congregation Beth Shalom Terry Tarnow 9:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 03 | Mon | Congregation Beth Shalom/Children Terry Tarnow 3-4 PM |
| 03 | Mon | UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM |
| 04 | Tue | Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak |
| 04 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 04 | Tue | Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM |
| 05 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 05 | Wed | Sunday Services Committee Hal Gurian 1:00 PM 3:00 PM |
| 05 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck & Discussion Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM |
| 05 | Wed | OWL Parent Meeting Sarah Montgomery-Richards 7-8:30 PM |
| 06 | Thu | Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 06 | Thu | Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM |
| 06 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 06 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 07 | Fri | Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM |
| 09 | Sun | 9AM Program: "History of Covenant" Rabbi Chava Bahle |
| 09 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM |
| 09 | Sun | CROP Hunger Walk John Hoffmann Civic Center 2-5:00 PM |
| 09 | Sun | UU Book Club Hosts: Stan & Dottie Cain 2-4:00 PM |
| 09 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 09 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 10 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 11 | Tue | Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak |
| 11 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 11 | Tue | Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM |
| 11 | Tue | Congregation Beth Shalom Terry Tarnow 7:30 PM 9:30 PM |
| 12 | Wed | Congregation Beth Shalom Terry Tarnow 9:00 AM 9:00 PM |
| 12 | Wed | Board Executive Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM |
| 13 | Thu | Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 13 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 13 | Thu | Organization Task Force Judy Myers 3:30 PM 4:30 PM |
| 13 | Thu | Brewing Community John Hoffmann Right Brain 5:00-7:00 PM |
| 13 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 14 | Fri | Brew Crew @ Brew Cafe Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 11:30 AM |
| 14 | Fri | Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM |
| 16 | Sun | Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM |
| 16 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM |
| 16 | Sun | Orientation, Prospective Members Rabby Chava 12:00-1:00PM |
| 16 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 16 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 17 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 17 | Mon | UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM |
| 18 | Tue | Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak |
| 18 | Tue | Friendly Garden Club Board Meeting Dottie Cain 10-11:30 AM |
| 18 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 19 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 19 | Wed | Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM 6:00 PM |
| 19 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck & Discussion Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM |
| 19 | Wed | International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM |
| 20 | Thu | Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 20 | Thu | Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM |
| 20 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 20 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 21 | Fri | Community Needs Liz Bruning 10:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 21 | Fri | Pagan Fair Sarah Montgomery-Richards 6:30 PM 10:00 PM |
| 22 | Sat | Pagan Fair Sarah Montgomery-Richards 10 AM-3 PM |
| 23 | Sun | Sunday Service - Lay-Led Service 10:30 AM |
| 23 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 23 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 23 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 24 | Mon | Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 2:30 PM 4:30 PM |
| 25 | Tue | Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak |
| 25 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 26 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 26 | Wed | CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards Blue Tractor 12:30-1:30 PM |
| 26 | Wed | Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 |
| 26 | Wed | International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM |
| 27 | Thu | Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 27 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 27 | Thu | Brewing Community John Hoffmann Right Brain 5:00-7:00 PM |
| 27 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 30 | Sun | 9AM Program: "Mindfulness" Rabbi Chava Bahle |
| 30 | Sun | 15 Minutes w/ Rabbi, Prospective Members 10:00-10:15 AM |
| 30 | Sun | Sunday Service - All Congregation 10:30 AM |
| 30 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 30 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 31 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |