



**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse**

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**Monday - Thursday**  
**9:00am - 4:00pm**

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**UUCGT Board Meeting**

**Monday, March 20 @ 5:30 pm**

**All are welcome!**

Vol. 54, Issue 3 — **the BEACON** — March, 2017

*Sunday Services at 10:30 AM*

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

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

**MARCH**  
**Sunday Services**  
***Joy and Celebration!***

*May we hear the melody of Life and find ourselves singing harmony.  
May we be open to the dissonances in the Song of the Land and Its People,  
that we might be part of the World's urging toward Justice, Peace, and Love.  
May we feel in our bones the rhythms of Life and the Land, and find ourselves dancing.*

*~ by Joseph Cleveland*

**Sunday, March 5 - Rabbi Chava Bahle**  
**10:30 AM Service: "Let There Be Joy!!"**

Let there be joy in our coming together this morning.  
Let there be truth heard in the words we speak and the songs we sing.  
Let there be help and healing for our disharmony and despair.  
Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.  
Let there be joy in our coming together.  
The UUCGT Committee on Ministry will participate in this special Sunday service.

**Sunday, March 12 - Rabbi Chava Bahle**  
**10:30 AM Service: "Purim: How to Face An Oppressor"**

Many cultures re-enact chaos (Mardi Gras, Purim) and role reversals prior to the Spring new year. UU writer Sharon Wylie writes: "For millennia, people have gathered together to hear stories, to root for the underdog, to jeer the evil and the unkind. We see in our stories mirrors to our own lives where we hope good things will happen to good people and that evil will be vanquished."

This morning we gather for story, for cheering and jeering, for hope and for justice.

**Sunday, March 19 - Lay-led Service**  
**10:30 AM Service: "Spring Equinox & Ostara"**  
**Led by the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)**

Pagan writer Patty Wigington writes, "Ostara is a time of balance. It is a time of equal parts light and dark. At Mabon, we have this same balance, but the light is leaving us. Today, six months later, it is returning. Spring has arrived, and with it comes hope and warmth. Deep within the cold earth, seeds are beginning to sprout. In the damp fields, the livestock are preparing to give birth. In the forest, under a canopy of newly sprouted leaves, the animals of the wild ready their dens for the arrival of their young. Spring is here."

Come and celebrate balance.

***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 26 - Rabbi Chava Bahle and John Bailey, UU Director of Music**

**10:30 AM Service: "All Bach Service"**

Johann Sebastian Bach was a Christian, a Lutheran. All his music, by his proclamation, was composed to the greater glory of God and Christ. However, his music has the gift of diversity. It is rare that any music genre does not have examples of Bach's genius. It is also rare that any given music genre, at least in the western world, does not owe its foundation and structure to Bach's musical organization. Also, rare is it to find a modern spirituality that does not include Bach's music and arrangements. Those of us who grew up Lutheran were bathed in the music of Bach. Those of us who took music theory know and practice many of his analyzed rules that make his music so creatively beautiful and accessible even hundreds of years beyond his death.

Just as our UU beliefs relish in our diversity and acceptance of all, so, too, does J.S. Bach's music engulf diversity in music and acceptance of all genres. In honor of Bach's birthday on March 21, all music will be Bach composed or arranged music. It will be an exciting musical service.

**APRIL**

**Sunday Services**

**Renewal and Resurrection**

**Sunday, April 2 - Rabbi Chava Bahle**

**10:30 AM Service: "Building Us Up"**

"Since ancient times, shamans, priests, and elders blessed sacred spaces as well as the communities that gathered in them. And so we, too, gather to bless this space and to bless those who will use it now and in the years to come." - Sandra Fees. Join us for the rededication of our space as a place of renewal and rebirth.

**Sunday, April 9 - Rabbi Chava Bahle and Sarah Montgomery-Richards, Director of Lifespan Experience**

**10:30 AM Service: "Passover: Passing from One Place to Another"**

"For holy days on which we recall the old stories, we light the flame. For Passover which reminds us of the courage and strength of those seeking freedom in the past, we light the flame. For gathering today in this sacred space, we light the flame. For the opportunity to be together as a community, to remember the past, to plan for our future, to be alive in our present." - Dillan Sorrells.

Join us as we light the flame of Passover! On this day we will also honor Sarah Montgomery-Richards' graduation from Claremont Lincoln University with her Master of Arts degree. Sarah will give our teaching, Rabbi Chava will offer a reflection.

**Sunday, April 16 - Rabbi Chava Bahle**

**10:30 AM Service: "Easter Morning - All Congregation Service"**

"Dear God: Good Friday is gone - a dark day on the calendar, a time of suffering - with more losses than gains, and more pain than we thought we could bear. We are tired of crying, we are tired of burying, we are tired of mourning. But Easter is here - and we who survived are prepared for the turning of the year - not to escape the past, but to provide a witness for a brighter future. We are ready for joy, we are ready for love, we are ready for new beginnings. Amen!" - Rev. David O. Rankin

**Sunday, April 23 - Rabbi Chava Bahle**

**10:30 AM Service: "Lilat ahl-Miraj / The Night Journey"**

Join us for a special journey of personal stories honoring the anniversary of a sacred night in Islam: The Night Journey. The Qur'an says:

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE." - Based on the Koran, 49:13, 8:61

**Sunday, April 30 - Lay-Led Service**

**10:30 AM Service: TBD**



## Rabbi's Reflection

### How Can We Speak of Joy at a Time Like This?

*We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been — a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.*

*Community.*

*Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats.*

*Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.*

*Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.*

*Arms to hold us when we falter.*

*A circle of healing.*

*A circle of friends.*

*Someplace where we can be free. - Starhawk*

Beloved community -

How can we speak of joy (in our March Sunday services) at a time like this? So many of us are carrying not only our every day concerns, but many are also deeply engaged in the concerns of our community and our country. It can be wearying, and saddening, and even anger producing.

For these reasons and many more, we need to ensure that we are spiritually balanced, that we are nurturing the seeds of contentment at the same time we are working for social justice and beloved community. So, the month of March is about finding our joy TOGETHER. I especially wish to invite back those members whom we have not seen in a while. I think joy is part of our healing and whole-ing together.

How? Who would know better than ... wait for it: Better Homes and Gardens!! Here's their advice on finding joy, with a few additions from me, especially for us.

**1. Every day, do something that reaffirms the beauty and joy of living.**

**2. Do something.** Activity is therapeutic, and volunteerism is one of the best ways to give activity purpose. The UUCGT Social Justice Team is ready to shape the next several months. Please come to a meeting of the Social Justice Committee on Saturday, March 18 and our A Day Without A Woman program on March 8. (See details in this Beacon.)

**3. Turn off the television and radio news.**

**4. Get to know your neighbors.** A sense of neighborhood and community increases feelings of security and connectedness. Get to know your UU neighbors, too. Wednesday Supper, Brewing Community, Chava's open office hours at Horizon (formerly UU Brew Crew), the women's New Moon Group, InterPlay - these are all opportunities to meet in smaller groups and just be with awesome people.

**5. Laugh.** It really is the best medicine, reducing anxiety, depression, and fear. In fact, studies show that laughter is one of the best ways to let out negative emotions without causing harm.

**6. Start and end the day on a positive note.** Count your blessings. When you wake up, start your day with a thankful thought. Ditto at bedtime.

**7. Don't allow anger and rage to rule your life.** Find healthy ways to let off steam: exercise, make music, garden, paint, write out your thoughts in a journal. If you continue to feel overwhelmed or undermined, you can turn to prayer or professional assistance for help in handling upsetting feelings.

**8. Before you get out of bed in the morning, think of something that makes you smile.** Before you even brush your teeth, get your mental and visual focus on something that will warm your heart.

**9. Be forgiving.** Forgiveness is an act of the will, an action you can take even when your heart and feelings seem to be lagging behind in bitterness. It might be impossible to forgive actual perpetrators, but you can hope and pray for transformation in them. In your own life, give up grudges and let go of old toxic memories. Reconcile with estranged friends and family members if you can, and commit yourself to giving others the measure of forgiveness you would like extended to you. Don't sweat small grievances.

**10. Nurture your family spirit.** UUCGT is a family - with its joys and imperfections - we are a family. Please help nurture the spirit of our community. The UU is more important now than ever before. We need each other to move through these times with grace.

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

# UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

**IMPORTANT:** UUA Statements in Response to Executive Orders and the Global Gag Rule can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/2l0eA9d>

**MidAmerica Regional Assembly** is Coming Soon! April 28 - 30 in Oak Brook, IL - <http://bit.ly/2hx1Qdw>

## To Multi-faith: A Verb

Unitarian Universalism is perfectly situated to promote constructive multi-faith engagement for increased understanding and enhanced harmony. Success will depend on a new understanding of what it means to "be engaged."

Events and Training for Youth and Young Adults:

<http://www.uua.org/re/youth/events>

General Assembly - June 21 - 25, New Orleans!

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend.

<http://www.uua.org/ga>

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



# UUCGT Little Spiritual Book Group Almost Monthly at 12 Noon

**Here's what we have coming up!**

## **Monday, March 6**

*The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

## **Thursday, April 20**

*The Little Book of Gratitude* by Robert Emmons

## **Thursday, May 11**

*A Lamp in the Darkness: Illuminating the Path Through Difficult Times* by Jack Kornfield

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

## **March 2017 Calendar** (continued from page 12)

27 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM  
27 **Mon** Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 2:30 PM 4:30 PM  
28 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
28 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
29 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM  
29 **Wed** CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards Blue Tractor 12:30PM  
29 **Wed** Wednesday Pizza Supper Sandra McDonald 5:30 7:00 PM

29 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
30 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
30 **Thu** Introduction to Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM  
30 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
31 **Fri** Spring Brk Open Play Sarah Montgomery-Richards 9AM-4 PM

# Announcements

## **NEW MOON WOMEN'S GROUP** with Carolyn Kelly & Rabbi Chava

Women's New Moon (Monthly) Group: Soul to Soul  
Next Meeting: March 25, 3:00-5:00 PM in the Sanctuary

"A New Moon marks the beginning of a new cycle, a fresh start in its cycle of waxing and waning. During this time the Moon is empty and receptive and full of potential. This is an optimum time to plant seeds of intentions for what you wish to manifest in your life.

Most of us live our lives so disconnected from the Earth, and devoid of any kind of ritual that creates the space for us to connect. So the New Moon provides us with an opportunity to take the time to create SACRED SPACE for ourselves. It is essential.

There is something so powerful when women come together to support each other on their journey, in their hopes and dreams. We are healed, we are nurtured, we feel comforted and understood. Moreover, when you share sacred space together you magnify the power of your intentions and you energetically create a web of support for not only your circle of women friends, but with women everywhere."  
(MysticMama)

Join us! We are using the book *Soul to Soul: Fourteen Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing* as our guide. You can read more here <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Soul-to-Soul-P17830.aspx> The book is available for purchase in the UU office.

Carolyn Kelly - [carolynk113@gmail](mailto:carolynk113@gmail.com)  
Rabbi Chava - [rabbi@uucgt.org](mailto:rabbi@uucgt.org)

## **Introductory Meditation Class for Spiritual Awareness**

A new meditation class will be offered free of charge at UUCGT from 5:30 to 6:30 PM starting on Thursday, March 2, 2017, facilitated by Elisabeth Treefon. Join us to learn the basic key steps of the meditation process.

Whether you call it contemplation, inversion or prayer with attention, every spiritual tradition recommends meditation to help achieve a peaceful and fulfilling life. Meditation helps reduce stress, develops productivity and improves concentration. More importantly, the emphasis is on finding inner peace and spiritual fulfillment.

During these classes you will practice focusing on the inner Light so that you can embark on your spiritual journey. Come to learn the basic steps so you can practice this technique at home or any place you can sit in silence.

Each week, we will cover the benefits of meditation, we will look at the difficulties with sitting and focusing and stilling the mind, and we will be developing the meditation technique further.

To register, or if you have any questions, please contact  
Elisabeth Treefon: [lizzietreefon@gmail.com](mailto:lizzietreefon@gmail.com) or call 231-357-4700.

## **Annual Pledge Time**

**Pledge for 2017-2018** – You should receive pledge materials for 2017-2018 in late February or early March through e-mail, or regular mail if you do not have an e-mail address. Please read the materials carefully and consider the amount of your pledge for 2017-2018. Returning your completed pledge either on-line, at the church or through the mail by March 19 will be appreciated. If you have not received pledge materials by March 5, you can pick up a packet after Sunday Services or contact:

**Kay Sturgeon** at [twodogk@aol.com](mailto:twodogk@aol.com)  
or at (231) 929-0895.

## **UU Book Club**

Our March 12 gathering will be at the home of Marcia Bellinger. She lives at 8485 W. Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City.

As always, discussion starts at 2:00 PM. We will be discussing *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.

New members of the group are always welcome. Give Mark Gustafson a call at 929-9608 if you are interested in the 2017 Book Club.



*Happy reading!*

**Stan Cain**  
[sdcelk@yahoo.com](mailto:sdcelk@yahoo.com)



## MUSICAL NOTES

### Bach Service ~ March 26, 2017

Johann Sebastian Bach was a Christian. He was a Lutheran. All his music, by his proclamation, was composed to the greater glory of God and Christ. However, his music has the gift of diversity. It is rare that any music genre does not have examples of Bach's genius.

It is also rare that any given music genre, at least in the western world, does not owe its foundation and structure to Bach's musical organization. Also, rare is it to find a modern spirituality that does not include Bach's music and arrangements. Those of us who grew up Lutheran were bathed in the music of Bach. Those of us who took music theory know, and practice, many of his analyzed rules that make his music so creatively beautiful and accessible even hundreds of years beyond his death. Witness the 9 titles in our own hymnal credited in some way to Bach.

Just as our UU beliefs relish our diversity and acceptance of all, so too, does J.S Bach's music engulf diversity in music and acceptance of all genres.

On March 26th, in honor of Bach's birthday on March 21st, all music will be Bach composed or arranged. It will be an exciting service.

**John Bailey, UUCGT Director of Music**  
[peracola@gmail.com](mailto:peracola@gmail.com)

*Vocal Ensemble meets every Thursday at 7:00 PM - All Welcome!*

### Searching for Musicians to Play Bach with us on March 26

We've welcomed many new members to our beloved congregation in the past year. Some of you may not be aware that we have string groups, brass groups, an impromptu orchestra, as well as other instrumental groups from time to time on Sunday mornings. If you play ANY instrument, we welcome your presence up front. In particular, I'm looking for string players we're unaware of to participate with us on March 26.

If you're interested or unavailable, but would like to play some time, please send your contact information to me, Judy Weaver, at [weavmusic@aol.com](mailto:weavmusic@aol.com).

If you play another kind of instrument, please make your presence known to our Music Director, John Bailey, at [peracola@gmail.com](mailto:peracola@gmail.com). He will be directing other music groups on that day.

Thanks!

**Judy Weaver**  
[weavmusic@aol.com](mailto:weavmusic@aol.com)



### UUCGT All Music Service December 2016

Photo by Charles Brackett

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**INTERPLAY: Transform Through Drama, Movement and Connection!** **InterPlay** is dramatic creative expression using storytelling, movement, sound, stillness, and contact to explore yourself, your life, and connection with others. The expression is spontaneous and self-created in-the-moment, using material from your own experience or your imagination, and can range from fun and playful, to profound and deep. It helps to free your body and your voice, deepen the connection with your creative self, and build awareness of the wisdom of your body, all while cultivating meaningful community connection. **InterPlay** is something that anybody can do - no experience is necessary! The focus is on exploration, authenticity, and enjoyable personal and group expression - all you need is a willingness to engage. Expect to laugh, savor and relax, and to be surprised by what you can do! Join us for a joyful, creative, and transformative experience! Saturday, March 11, 10:00am-1:00pm, UUCGT. Open to individuals 18 years and older. For more information, contact Lee Edwards at [leeriver@umich.edu](mailto:leeriver@umich.edu) or phone: (231)421-3120.



# Lifespan Experience

## PROTEST!

Photographs from the Women's March on Washington  
by Kathy Silbernagle and Barbara Young

## Greetings Friends,

Through the weeks of deep snow  
we walked above the ground  
on fallen sky,  
as though we did not come of root and leaf, as  
though  
we had only air and weather  
for our difficult home.

But now  
as March warms, and the rivulets  
run like birdsong on the slopes,  
and the branches of light sing in the hills,  
slowly we return to earth.

-- Wendell Berry

### Sundays in March

As a congregation we will be exploring the theme of joy –  
and what better way to tie that into our lessons than celebrat-  
ing nature and the changing of the season! Through lessons  
based on our 6<sup>th</sup> UU Source – *the Spiritual teachings of  
Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle  
of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of  
nature* – we will happily welcome the spring together!

Suggested readings for families/parents this month include:

“Sitting Still Like a Frog – Mindfulness Exercises for  
kids (and their Parents)” – by Eline Snel

### Child/Youth of the Month

**Our Child of the Month is Jack Matchett!**

Make sure you take a moment to greet Jack when you see  
him, and check out the poster featuring him in the social hall  
all of this month!

Each month we will give special attention to a child or youth  
from our UUCGT community! A picture of them will be  
featured in the social hall, along with a little bit about  
them. Interested in more information and how to partici-  
pate? Contact the office!

**Exhibit:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Wednesday Supper:** March 22, 5:30 pm social  
time, 6:00 pm dinner  
Dinner is \$5/adult, \$3/child under 10 years  
**To RSVP for this dinner – email Ellie Smith at [le-smithtc@gmail.com](mailto:le-smithtc@gmail.com)**

**Panel Discussion:** March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 PM

The Women's March on Washington was a fleeting idea  
of a grandmother, which she casually posted on Face-  
book. Her idea was that the voice of women would be  
lost with the new administration and a protest march  
would be at least one opportunity for that voice to be  
heard. A few short months later, hundreds and hun-  
dreds of thousands of people converged in Washington  
to have their voices heard. They expected 100,000.  
Then 200,000. It is estimated that between 500,000 and  
1,200,000 came. It remains to be seen if their voices  
were heard, but what is certain, the act of protest has  
returned.

Two local photographers captured the river of faces that  
filled the streets of Washington on January 21st. Kathy  
Silbernagle of Suttons Bay and Barbara Young of  
Eastport will exhibit images from the Women's March.

The exhibit, called **Protest!**, will run from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to  
March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Corridor Gallery of the UUCGT, with  
a special evening with the photographers on March  
22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. They will be available  
to answer questions about the photographs, the experi-  
ence, the people, and perhaps the role of protest in a  
civilized society. All Are Welcome!

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](mailto:dle@uucgt.org)**



## Join Us For A Family Movie Night & Potluck!



**WHEN: Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**5:30pm Gather & Potluck**

**6:30pm Movie – ORIGINAL**

**Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory**

Details: Bring a dish to share for potluck – drinks will be provided, as well as popcorn for the movie! Children are welcome to bring blankets, pillows, etc. to be comfortable for the movie.

## GENERAL STRIKE: A DAY WITHOUT A WOMAN MARCH 8TH

Support #ADayWithoutAWoman  
Wednesday, March 8th at UUCGT  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM / Drop-in anytime  
(Bring a brown bag lunch)

All are Welcome! ~ No charge

Workshops, meditation, discussion circles,  
commune with your community

Sanctuary open all day for meditation and reflection

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRIDAY NIGHT OUT! March 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:30 - 9:00 PM**

**RESERVATIONS DUE TO SARAH BY 3/6**

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**BREWING COMMUNITY – 5-7 PM - Thursday, 3/23**  
*Rare Bird Brewery! This is a great way to meet people,  
laugh with friends, and is family-friendly!*  
*Contact John Hoffmann with questions.*



## Join Us For SPRING BREAK OPEN PLAY!

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 9am-4pm**

**Storytime & Craft at 11am**

**Parents can drop in with their children  
(parents stay on site)**

**for some unstructured play time  
(with the exception of Storytime)**

**~games, art, outdoors~**

**We also have a limited number of spots  
available for children who need to be dropped  
off for any portion of the day (parents leave)  
– suggested \$5 donation.**

**Bring your own lunch – snacks and drinks  
provided!**





## Membership News

### Check Out New Materials at the WELCOME TABLE

Our Committee, with admirable help from Susan Sherman, is constantly updating materials - hard copies and on our Website. A new **Pathway to Membership** card and a **Becoming a Member** leaflet are now available at the Welcome Table. Updated Membership Information will also be on the UUCGT Website. Thank you Susan and Marco Cabrera!

### MARCH

**MARCH - Yes, as Predicted, More Snow fell, covering the brown earth exposed by unseasonably warm days; Not quite ready to reveal spring delights underneath, we must wait patiently.**

**Greetings from the entire Membership Team** — 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.

### NEW MEMBER JOY On February 26

UUCGT welcomed 7 new members. They are listed here along with their Fellowship Friends who will help them become integrated into our congregation.

Laura Ciccone - Laura Matchett  
Carolyn Kraw - Chris and Rick Walter  
John LaBrie - Judy Myers  
Gary and Nancy McRay - Chris and Rick Halbert  
Mary Povolo - Sherry Davis  
Rebecca Roper  
Kim Sibilsy - Dottie Cain

**A Very Warm Welcome to all!** In the coming weeks please introduce yourselves to our newest members and get acquainted.

### FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS are Valued

Join the growing number of members who volunteer as **Fellowship Friends** to answer questions, invite to UUCGT events, guide, and help integrate our newest members. Contact the UU Office [office@uucgt.org](mailto:office@uucgt.org) or Chris Walter, [chris9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chris9709@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer. Please don't wait to be asked, this is an important ministry. We will Welcome New Members again on May 21, 2017.

### GREETER OPPORTUNITIES - We NEED Your Help here too!

It's easy - just sign up on the bulletin board near the office or call coordinator, Charlotte Shea, 883-9357. Greet just one Sunday, or sign up for a regular or semi-regular shift.

### Spotlight on New Members

**Mark Dragovich** was welcomed as a new member on November 6, 2016. He wasted no time in jumping right in and serving our UUCGT community and neighbors! He was helpful for all overnight shifts when our congregation hosted Safe Harbor late last Fall. As well, Mark has been highly visible as a Greeter and Offering Basket Passer! He is an entrepreneur and for fun he enjoys nature, fishing and other outdoor activities such as skiing and snowshoeing. Mark has been involved in disaster relief throughout the country with the American Red Cross. Rabbi Chava Bahle's TEDTalk brought Mark to UUCGT and he finds UU beliefs to be closest to his own. He looks forward to more spiritual growth and community involvement with us. He hopes to serve where he is needed, but specifically with Facilities and Grounds, Social Justice, Sunday Services, Technical Support, Speaking and Video Production. Mark's birthday is December 20.

We welcomed **Mary Povolo** to membership on February 26, 2017, after she attended UUCGT off and on for a couple years. Mary is a school social worker and she has three adult children - Peter, Jim and Annalise. She enjoys lots of outdoor activities such as kayaking, biking, swimming, walking beaches and gardening. Mary just had knee replacement surgery so next winter she hopes to get back to cross country skiing and snow shoeing. She likes to read and most recently enjoyed the book, *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts. The book is a novel set in the underworld of contemporary Bombay and provides a beautiful look into the heart of the people of India. She enjoys the movie "Forrest Gump" and the PBS Series, "Victoria". Mary loves to travel and she went to Maui last spring. She has walked part of the Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James. Our UU belief system, friends, music and Rabbi Chava brought Mary to UUCGT. As a member of the Catholic church most of her life, her spirituality is important to her and she hopes to deepen it here. Mary celebrates her birthday on October 21.

**We are very happy to have Mark and Mary with us and wish them a very Warm Welcome!**

More New Members will be featured next month.

**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

## Program Council News

The UUCGT Program Council is composed of committee chairs, co-chairs or their designees. All UUCGT members and friends are welcome to attend our meetings to find out more about the functioning of UUCGT committees.

On February 19th, sixteen gathered in the classroom at 9:00 AM. All represented committees summarized their recent activities and upcoming events.

Karl Love distributed forms for the PC members to fill out regarding the annual evaluation of the spiritual leader.

A motion by Emmy Lou Cholak requesting the Board of Trustees to have a congregational vote to support the Declaration on the agenda for the June annual meeting was moved, seconded and unanimously adopted.

The next Program Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 9:00 AM.

**Richard Walter**  
**Program Council Coordinator**  
[rick9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick9709@sbcglobal.net)

## All About Us

### We hold in our hearts ~

Karen Mars has returned, again, to Cleveland Clinic due to complications. We hope she will be back at home soon... she enjoys calls wherever via her cell phone.

### We are also mindful of ~

Karl & Lauren Keinath  
Lou & Joy Platteborze  
Andi Kramer  
Mary Ann Force

### We continue to remember those in care ~

Bill Wells  
Nancy Landfair  
Carol Still

### We share in the joys of ~

Don & Susan Pyne, celebrating 55 years of marriage  
Ray and Nancy Landfair celebrating 50 years of marriage

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**As of January 31, 2017**  
**(58.3% of fiscal year)**

	<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Prior Year</u>	
<b>Budgeted Income Received YTD</b>	<b>\$186,752</b>	<b>68.3%</b>	<b>\$183,464</b>	<b>57.2%</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD</b>	<b>\$149,428</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>\$173,073</b>	<b>54.0%</b>
<b>"For Those in Need" YTD</b>	<b>\$ 9,370</b>		<b>\$ 11,340</b>	

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 continuing to do well year to date. If you want more detailed information, you can look at our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, then on Statement of Financial Activity.

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.

## Social Justice and Action

With things happening so quickly these days, it is hard to keep up. Much of what is happening seems like an erosion of our democracy. People say that attacks on the press is one of the first signs of threats to our way of life. There are other threats to our cherished social justice system like removal of health care, disregard for free public education available for all, losing respect for the cherished diversity of people in our society, threats to remove “ill-legal immigrants” which often breaks up families. Some of the threats are hard to discern or know what the full ramifications might mean. Others seem pretty straight forward.

Sometimes a good solution is to follow, with thinking of your own too, those whom you know and trust. It is with this respect, that we mentioned the Declaration of Conscience proposed by the joint statement from the UUA and the UUSC. Please see last month’s Beacon. We will, as a congregation, get to vote on signing that at our Annual meeting in June.

But many of us remember horrors from the years past. Here, I refer to the rise of Hitler. I remember hearing him speak, and although I could not understand his words, I could feel the fear and hate he projected. Hate rhetoric, besides bringing out the worst in some people, helps others rise to their very best. From that time, there were many famous heroic acts by people trying to save and protect others. Also many of the poems and words remain for us to remember today.

Pastor Niemöller wrote his famous poem: “First they came for ....” A Rabbi has re-written those words making them pertinent for today. I will quote them below:

“First they took away health care from the needy, but I was not needy, so I did nothing.

Then they barred Muslims from entering the United States, forced them to register and prepared concentration camps, but I was not a Muslim, so I did nothing.

Then they rounded up, imprisoned and deported millions of Latinos, but I was not Latino, so I did nothing.

Then they punished women for seeking abortions, but I was no longer able to bear children, so I did nothing.

Then they belittled and denied women seeking equal pay for equal work, but I was a man making much more than my female colleagues, so I did nothing.

Then they fired the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist, so I did nothing.

Then they mocked, derided and dismissed environmentalists, but the place where I lived was not yet affected by climate change, so I did nothing.

Then they legalized discrimination against LGBT\* Americans and encouraged bullying against LGBT\* youth, but I was straight, so I did nothing.

Then they came after black people, Jewish people, Asians, disabled people, the sick, the weak and the old, but I did nothing, because I was white, Christian, young, healthy and strong, so I did nothing.

Then they came after me and my family, because we were not billionaires, and there was no one left to help us.”

This quoted poem is by a sensitive, caring Rabbi from Detroit.

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

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## Social Justice Workshop

*We need you!! Yes, YOU!!* Please join the **Social Justice Committee on Saturday, March 18 ~ 9:30 AM- 2:30 PM** to help determine the one or two issues that we will prioritize as a congregation. We will be guided by Kat Norman using an excellent program she has designed based on UU principles. A thoughtful discussion of what is important to us, a chance to engage with fellow congregants and a delicious lunch (a \$5 donation is appreciated) are all great reasons to attend.

Please RSVP your intent to Paula Jo Kemler ([pjkemler@me.com](mailto:pjkemler@me.com)) by Wednesday, March 15.

Please Note: If you are planning on coming and will need child care, please inform Sarah Montgomery-Richards by Sunday, March 5th at [dle@uucgt.org](mailto:dle@uucgt.org).

**Paula Kemler**  
[pjkemler@me.com](mailto:pjkemler@me.com)



Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Grand Traverse  
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Traverse City MI 49686-1802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## *the* BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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March, 2017

### Calendar

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

#### March 2017

- |    |     |                                                                        |    |     |                                                              |
|----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM                   | 12 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM                  |
| 01 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM                      | 12 | Sun | UU Book Club Marcia Bellinger 2:00 PM 4:00 PM                |
| 01 | Wed | International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM               | 12 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM           |
| 02 | Thu | Congregational Care Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM                          | 12 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM           |
| 02 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM                              | 13 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM         |
| 02 | Thu | Introduction to Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM           | 13 | Mon | Staff Resources Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM                    |
| 02 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM                             | 14 | Tue | Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak         |
| 03 | Fri | Community Needs Liz Bruning 10:00 AM 12:00 PM                          | 14 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM                     |
| 03 | Fri | Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM                    | 14 | Tue | Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM              |
| 03 | Fri | Family Potluck & Movie Night Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 PM 9:00 PM | 15 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM         |
| 05 | Sun | Social Activist Hub Training Paula Jo Kemler 9:30-10:15 AM             | 15 | Wed | Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12M 1 PM       |
| 05 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM                            | 15 | Wed | Board Agenda Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM          |
| 05 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM                     | 15 | Wed | Membership Chris Walter 4:00 PM 5:30 PM                      |
| 05 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM                     | 15 | Wed | Sunday Services Haul Gurian 4:00 PM 5:30 PM                  |
| 06 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM                   | 15 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM            |
| 06 | Mon | Little Spiritual Book Group Rabbi Chava Bahle 12noon-1 PM              | 15 | Wed | International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM     |
| 06 | Mon | Committee on Ministry Chris Innes sanctuary 2:30-4:30 PM               | 16 | Thu | Congregational Care Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM                |
| 06 | Mon | UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM                  | 16 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM                    |
| 07 | Tue | Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak                   | 16 | Thu | Introduction to Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM |
| 07 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM                               | 16 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM                   |
| 07 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM                   | 17 | Fri | Death Cafe Donna Stein Harris 10:00 AM 12:00 PM              |
| 08 | Wed | #ADayWithoutAWoman Retreat Rabbi Chava Bahle 10 - 3PM                  | 18 | Sat | UU Social Justice Workshop Paula Jo Kemler 9:30AM-2:30PM     |
| 08 | Wed | Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM                             | 19 | Sun | Sunday Service - Lay-Led Service 10:30 AM                    |
| 08 | Wed | Wed. Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 - 7 PM                 | 19 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM           |
| 08 | Wed | International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM               | 19 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM           |
| 09 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM                              | 20 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM         |
| 09 | Thu | Policy Committee Gretchen Kronk 5:00 PM 6:30 PM                        | 20 | Mon | UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM                                  |
| 09 | Thu | Introduction to Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM           | 21 | Tue | Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak         |
| 09 | Thu | Music Committee Bob Hicks 6:00 PM 7:00 PM                              | 21 | Tue | Pledge Drive Team Mike McDonald 11:00 AM 12:00 PM            |
| 09 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM                             | 21 | Tue | Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM                     |
| 10 | Fri | Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM                | 22 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM         |
| 11 | Sat | InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards & Kat Brown 10 AM-1:00 PM               | 22 | Wed | Wed. Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 7:00 PM      |
| 11 | Sat | Singing Sisters Linda Hebert 10:00 AM 2:00 PM                          | 22 | Wed | International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM     |
| 11 | Sat | Charles Lange, Medical Intuitive - \$25 Carrie Meehan 3-5 PM           | 23 | Thu | Coming of Age Heather Shumaker 11:00 AM 12:30 PM             |
|    |     |                                                                        | 23 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM                    |
|    |     |                                                                        | 23 | Thu | Brewing Community John Hoffmann Rare Bird 5-7:30 PM          |
|    |     |                                                                        | 23 | Thu | Introduction to Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM |
|    |     |                                                                        | 23 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM                   |
|    |     |                                                                        | 25 | Sat | New Moon Women's Circle Carolyn Kelly 3:00 PM 5:00 PM        |
|    |     |                                                                        | 26 | Sun | Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM                 |
|    |     |                                                                        | 26 | Sun | Sunday Service Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM                    |
|    |     |                                                                        | 26 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM           |
|    |     |                                                                        | 26 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM           |

Continued on page 4