



Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road
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www.uucgt.org

UUCGT Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 4:00pm

Spiritual Leader
Rabbi Chava Bahle
rabbibi@uucgt.org

Director of Lifespan Experience
Sarah Montgomery-Richards
dle@uucgt.org

Director of Music
John Bailey
peracola@gmail.com

Business Administrator
Sheri Novak
bookie@uucgt.org

Office Administrator
Susan Sherman
office@uucgt.org

Board of Trustees

Linda Fletcher, President
Phyllis Jessup, Vice-President
Karl Love, Secretary
Kay Sturgeon, Treasurer
Gretchen Kronk, Trustee
Don Pyne, Trustee
Donna Stein-Harris, Trustee

UUCGT Board Meeting

Monday, April 17 @ 5:30 pm

All are welcome!

APRIL
Sunday Services
Renewal and Resurrection

Sunday, April 2 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: "Building Us Up"

"Since ancient times, shaman, 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

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 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

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, April 30 - Sarah Montgomery-Richards, Director of Lifespan Experience
10:30 AM Service: "Seasons of Love"**

"Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?
In daylights, in sunsets
In midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles
In laughter, in strife
In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure a year in the life?"

— *Seasons of Love* from the musical, RENT

Join us as we conclude our month of considering themes of renewal and look to this season of love as a time to remember that life is not an exercise, but rather a joyful dance, rich in all the beauty it can afford. This service will be preceded by our annual May Day Celebration (weather permitting) in which we will ceremonially remove last year's ribbons from the May Pole (lamppost near the rear entrance of the building), and wind new ribbons as part of this year's dance. The ancient observance of Beltane provides the roots of modern May Day celebrations, a time in which love and joy were honored. Please gather at 9:45am on this day if you are interested in participating in our May Day/May Pole Celebration.

**MAY
Sunday Services
Reconciliation, Forgiveness and Healing**

Sunday, May 7 - Lay-Led Service

10:30 AM Service: TBD

Sunday, May 14 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: "Forgiveness Part 1: The Science of Forgiveness"

In 1997, the Campaign for Forgiveness Research, a funding initiative, was launched for scientists in multiple disciplines who were interested in taking forgiveness out of the purview of religion and using rigorous scientific protocol to determine its effects on the body and mind. The results have enriched our understanding of forgiveness, demonstrating that what was traditionally seen as a religious ideal is actually an important skill for anyone, whether atheist, agnostic, or believer, who seeks to live a healthy, happy life." - from Salon <http://bit.ly/1FlndPA>

Sunday, May 21 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: "Forgiveness Part 2: How Do We Forgive?"

Dr. Robert Enright, a developmental psychologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, shaped a 4 part process for forgiveness: "uncovering anger; deciding to forgive; working on forgiveness; and discovery and release from emotional prison." How does this relate to our UU principles and how does it work in community?

Sunday, May 28 - Lay-Led Service

10:30 AM Service: TBD



Benzie County Unitarian Universalists

Wednesday, April 5 & 19 BCUU's will meet at the Benzie Area Historical Museum
6941 Traverse Avenue, Benzonia, MI - 6:30pm Potluck with program following

April 5th will include a tour of the museum

and a discussion on the role that museums, music, and the arts play in our lives

Contact Marty Litherland for more information: 231-633-7241 or litherlm@gvsu.edu



Rabbi's Reflection

Artist Judy Chicago's beloved poem "And Then" reminds us that for things to move toward our highest visions for ourselves, each other, the congregation, the world, we must be prepared for change. "And Then" implies a future, a time that will be different in some ways than today.

I'd like to offer this reflection using her beautiful words.

And then all that has divided us will merge

Now is a time when people of good will need to step beyond petty divisions and divisiveness to join in acting our values. We, each and every one of us, as UUs need to be exemplars for not just entering into dialogue but committing to a way of being in dialogue with each other and with those whose points of view differ from our own. Let us seek the good in each other.

And then compassion will be wedded to power

Take a good look around our congregation at leaders of committees and programs. What you will see are people who are devoting a great deal of heart and time ("time and talent") to leading our congregation in care, outreach, keeping our space safe and beautiful, social justice, learning, artistic expression, worship and many other areas. I would like to also mention here our board and governance committees, who often go overlooked when things are going well. Leadership does involve the careful use of the power bestowed on us by our members. Please remember, even when we disagree, that we are all doing the very best we can; our UUCGT leaders are compassionate beings who deserve our compassion in return.

And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

Let us commit to soften in the face of harshness and unkindness. Yes we must fight against injustice, but there is nothing less effective or less appealing than an angry peacemaker. We must, as Gandhi said, be the change we wish to see. If we want a world that moves away from harshness and unkindness, we ourselves must set aside these ways of being and evince a kindly disposition.

So friends, for now, let us commit to working on being our best selves with each other here at UUCGT and in the outside activities we do representing the congregation. It must begin with us if we are to change the community, the country and the human family.

More on this soon –

**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!

Thursday, April 20

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

Thursday, May 11

The Little Book of Gratitude by Robert Emmons

Thursday, June 8

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

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

Announcements

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

New Moon Soul to Soul Group (meets monthly)
Next Meeting: April 22, 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 (\$13).

Subsequent meetings will be:

5/27 6/24 7/22 8/19

Carolyn Kelly, carolynk113@gmail.com
Rabbi Chava, rabbi@uucgt.org

The Holocaust

Holocaust Remembrance Day is an annual event, where many of us remember and reflect on the horrors that the Nazis inflicted on over 6 million Jews, and also on many other peoples, too. It is a time that we remember and vow never to forget, and hopefully never allow it to be repeated. Unfortunately, there have been many horrors since then where one people has inflicted severe destructive genocide on another group. The list is long, but we still vow to try to halt this murderous trend.

On **Sunday, April 23** at 7 PM, at Central United Methodist Church, we will be holding a *Holocaust Memorial Service*.

Light refreshments after the service will encourage you to linger and mingle. Please plan to attend.

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

UU Book Club

Is Spring in the air? We can hope so! But before everyone starts working out in their yards, make sure you take time to read April's book, *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson. We will be meeting April 9th at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Barbara McClellan (501 Georgetown Dr. #24) and Barbara will be leading the discussion.

Make sure you let her know if you plan to attend (941-2368 or bingo2755@gmail.com). If you are interested in joining our UU Book Club and have questions, contact our leader, Mark Gustafson at 929-9608 or cyberfools@charter.net. For a list of the 2017 books, contact Karen at karen.mars.tc@gmail.com.



Karen Mars
karen.mars.tc@gmail.com

New Book !

Congratulations! Local UU author Heather Shumaker will launch her new book, *Saving Arcadia* on Saturday, April 8, 3:00 pm at the Bluewater Hall Event Center, 13424 S. West Bay Shore Drive. The event includes an introduction by Jerry Dennis, refreshments and book signing. *Saving Arcadia* tells the story of the Arcadia Dunes and the 40-year effort to preserve this landscape. All book-reading and environment-loving UUs welcome!

Heather Shumaker
www.heathershumaker.com

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

Every week for the past 25 years, UUCGT has provided a free lunch for anyone in the community who would like to come to Friends Church located at Fifth and Oak Streets in Traverse City. For more information, call Mary Kiner 231-935-3050, or email at marykiner@charter.net.

The 2017 Gamble Awards

The first Gamble Award - Anne Hughes presented by Karl Love

Twenty-four years ago, our congregation sought to recognize those who define our congregation through their service. The first honorees were Jim and Ruth Gamble, awarded during the dedication of our building. Each year since, we have recognized one or two people who serve in many capacities, some highly visible and others largely unseen. We honor people who have been there, again and again, as needed, just as their namesakes long ago.

Awardees receive a pin in the shape of a key to honor Jim & Ruth's long tenure as "turnkeys" at our previous home at 5th & Oak. They would arrive early each Sunday to unlock the building, make coffee and warm up the building before services, often when someone else had signed up to do it.

What of this process of recognition? Implied in the word "recognition" is the seeing someone for who they really are. The poet Robert Bly once spoke of blessings in the sense of an approval rather than a gift from "on high". Bly describes the young seeking the blessing, typically from a family elder. The shape of the blessing being approval, for a marriage or a setting out to "seek one's fortune". Bly describes this kind of blessing as a "seeing" of a person for who they really are. The implication is that the person is seen and who they are or have become is a matter of awe.

Today we recognize and receive the blessing of the presence of those awarded within our congregation. The choosing of the honorees is daunting because the amazing and deserving surround us. We sought the exceptional, those who profoundly affected our community and our larger community. We recognize those who often represent us in the larger sphere. It is our honor to award such as these.

Our first recipient is Anne Hughes:

Our first recipient has been a member of our congregation for over twenty-one years. Once I announce her name, I think most will think she MUST have already received the Gamble Award, but she has not.

Our honoree has served as a member of Sunday Services for many, many years. She has coordinated fine services and presented memorable services. She has served on the Committee on Ministry. She served on our Minister Search Committee. She has served on the Board as a trustee and as President. She was integral in the development of our mission and vision statement.

In all of this service and more in the greater community as well, she always serves with wisdom, compassion and insight. It is my honor to announce our first 2017 winner, Anne Hughes.

The second Gamble Award - Jane Watts presented by Kay Sturgeon

I was asked one day outside the sanctuary, "What does the pin mean on your name tag?" Boy, did I have to think fast, for how could I explain the Gamble Award? My quick answer, "Oh, that's what you get when you raise your hand all the time." But as you just heard from Karl, the Gamble Award is far more than just raising your hand.

Our second recipient has served UUCGT diligently and consistently for over 3 decades. But, her contributions do not end there. Her volunteerism reaches far out into our community much like the ripples of a stone dropped into our bay. She is steeped in community endeavors, works for our environment, gives endlessly to family, friends, pets and sometimes even wildlife.

She has served our congregation on numerous committees. To name a few: Membership, Stewardship, Member Directories and Ministerial Search Committee. She has been a Board member and Board President, has served on the Committee on Ministry and has been a long standing member of the Vocal Ensemble.

A sampling of her community involvement includes 26 years and many positions within the League of Women Voters, NMC and Library committees, the Chamber of Commerce, and Planned

Parenthood. And then there is her care for the environment, family farming and wildlife.

Each week, all season long, you will find this recipient working at Meadowlark Farm with their CSA. Salad anyone?

Once there was an abandoned egg – a mallard egg no less. Not only did she see to it that the egg hatched and grew, but that little mallard bonded with her until it would sit on her lap. I'm betting it was a sad day when that mallard decided it was time to be a duck and not a pet.

In closing, I will add that twenty years ago the gold pin of the Gamble Award was awarded to this person. Since that time her compassion for volunteerism has only expanded and grown.

It is my honor to present a platinum Gamble Award key to Jane Watts.

Greetings Friends,

It is blue-butterfly day here in spring,
And with these sky-flakes down in flurry on flurry
There is more unmixed color on the wing
Than flowers will show for days unless they hurry.

But these are flowers that fly and all but sing:
And now from having ridden out desire
They lie closed over in the wind and cling
Where wheels have freshly sliced the April mire.

Robert Frost, "Blue-Butterfly Day"

Sundays in April

As a congregation we will be considering the themes of rebirth and renewal as part of the Sunday Services. Birth and the beginning of new things can be a mysterious and wondrous time – as all of the cycles of life are. This month we're going to explore the beginnings of the cosmos and the beginnings of the earth as told by our good friend The Universe! Through the book duo, "Born with a Bang – The Universe Tells our Cosmic Story" and "From Lava to Life – The Universe Tells Our Earth Story", we will consider the wonders of our blue boat home and of the universe. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in using science to tell us about how we are related to other living things in our interdependent web of life.

Don't forget to join us before service on April 30th for our Annual May Day Ceremony – all are welcome as we remove last year's ribbons and dance the May Pole for this year (lamppost by the rear entrance to the building). Children interested in participating should join us at 9:45am. This event is weather permitting – if it is raining we will postpone until May 7th.

Suggested readings for families/parents this month include:

"The Everything Seed" – by Carole Martignacco

Child/Youth of the Month

Our Child of the Month is Aidan Schleuder! Make sure you take a moment to greet Aidan 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 participate? Contact the office!

Join Us For A Family Movie Night & Potluck!



WHEN: Friday, April 7th

5:30pm Gather & Potluck

6:30pm Movie – Disney Pixar's "Inside Out"

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.

**Friday Night Out – April 14th – 5:30-9:00pm
WE ONLY HAVE ROOM FOR 2 MORE CHILDREN!
Please contact me ASAP if you are interested!**

**Brewing Community – Thursday, 4/27, 5-7pm
Terra Firma Brewery! This is a great way to meet people, laugh with friends, and is family friendly!
Contact John Hoffmann with questions**

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**

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 4, 2017

In preparation for the annual election of Trustees, Endowment Committee members and members of the Leadership Development Team, your Leadership Development Team has completed a slate of proposed nominees. These names will be submitted to the Safe Congregation Response Team, who will consider the results of the background checks which are required of candidates for these positions. The by-laws require that this slate be published for the three Sundays preceding the annual meeting, which, this year, will be Sunday, May 14th.

Members of the congregation may nominate individuals for the open positions. Such nominations need to be in writing, signed by two members of the congregation and submitted to the Leadership Development Committee no later than 28 days before the Annual Meeting. This year, that date is Saturday, May 6th.

Questions can be directed to any member of the LDC: Chair, Tom Darnton; Ann Swaney; Judith Weaver; Richard Miller; Judy Myer; Mary VanValin; and Nancy Doughty.

Tom Darnton
tdarnton@me.com

Green Sanctuary



Please save the date!
Friday, April 21, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
at UUGT for fun and fund raising!

A helpful and fun event is coming! On April 21st, Green Sanctuary (our UUCGT committee that promotes consciousness of the interconnected web of all life) is partnering with Citizen's Climate Lobby to hold a concert and silent auction to raise funds to send high school students to Washington, DC to lobby for climate change.

The concert, here at UUCGT, will feature the Minor 6, a group of student musicians, our own Amelia Burke and Aili Simpson on violin, and David Chown on piano. The concert is donation-based and the silent auction will be wild and exciting! This is a good reason to do your spring cleaning, looking for treasures for our auction!

Please contact Mary Van Valin at 231-342-1605 or Ann McPhail at 703-403-4389, if you have items or ideas for the auction. Doors open on the 21st at 6:30, the concert begins at 7pm, with breaks for bidding on auction items!

SEA (Students for Environmental Advocacy) Club is a Traverse City Central High School organization founded in 2016 by students committed to making a difference for the natural environment both locally and nationally. The club is actively working on several projects to make Central HS more sustainable, including pursuing advanced Green School certification and working with school officials to install solar panels on the roof of the high school. Right now they are working to fund the CCL Conference Scholarship Fund.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization that pursues respectful dialog to build momentum for the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable national climate change solutions. The local chapter was founded by our own Maura Brennan right in our Social Hall! In June, 2017 CCL will hold its annual conference and lobbying day in Washington D.C. This offers students and adults the opportunity to directly participate in our democracy!

If you'd rather just make a donation, it is tax deductible, and we are delighted to receive it!

Please make out a check to "Groundwork Center" with "Students to D.C." on the memo line. Groundwork Center is serving as our fiduciary partner for this effort. Send your sponsorship to:

Groundwork Center
Attn: Students to D.C.
P.O. Box 4032
Traverse City, MI 49685

Mary Van Valin
mgvv77@yahoo.com



Membership News

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

Kim Sibilsky shared her enthusiasm as a new member on February 26, 2017. Best Wishes to Kim as she recuperates, exercises and heals from recent knee surgery! Kim is a retired CEO of a statewide association focused on health care. Interestingly, Kim and her husband, Robert Gronevelt, lived on their boat this past summer while building their house in Elk Rapids. In the summer, Kim enjoys sailing, walking, golf and gardening. Winter finds Kim cooking, reading and walking. Her current favorite book is *The Boys in the Boat* about nine Americans and their quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown.

Kim's past UU affiliation was in East Lansing, MI and at Fountain Street in Grand Rapids. Kim, who was looking for a church home, likes UUCGT and the people here. Her hopes during her membership are for building community and social justice work. She is already a monitor on health care and is shadowing Judy Myers on the Finance Committee. Kim's birthday is May 3. Welcome Kim and way to Jump Right In!

APRIL - Will April showers bring May flowers? We must wait and see!

Greetings from the entire Membership Team — Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, Sue Pyne, Charlotte Shea, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts — and Dottie Cain, Member Emeritus — who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members.

IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your Calendars

Orientation for Prospective Members: April 23, 2017, 12 Noon - 1:15 pm, Sanctuary - Registration for childcare is needed two weeks in advance. Sign Up at WELCOME TABLE

15 Minutes with Rabbi: May 14, 2017, 10:00 am - 10:15 am, Chava's Office, please RSVP 947-3117

New Member Welcome Service: Sunday, May 21, 2017

February 26 NEW MEMBER UPDATE

Rebecca Roper's Fellowship Friend is Ariel Love. Thank you Ariel! This information was not included in the March Beacon.

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 Office of office@uucgt.org or Chris Walter 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.

GREETER OPPORTUNITIES **We NEED Your Help here, too!**

We appreciate all the tried and true Greeters who serve faithfully. We encourage New Greeters as well. 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.

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 is now available at the Welcome Table, and a **Becoming a Member** leaflet will soon be printed. Updated Membership Information will also be on the UUCGT Website. Thank you Susan and Marco Cabrera!

HOT OFF THE PRESS - COME & GET 'EM! 2017 Directories of Members and Friends are ready. Pick yours up on Sunday mornings. Please check your entry for accuracy. Thanks to all who worked to prepare the new directory.

We welcomed **John LaBrie** to membership on February 26, 2017. John works in Traverse City as a Registered Nurse. He enjoys running, walking, reading and movies. John recently enjoyed *The Passage Trilogy*, an epic and gripping tale of catastrophe and survival, by Justin Cronin. He also recently enjoyed the film "Moonlight."

In April 2016, he was able to travel to Anaheim, CA to attend the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses conference. John was raised in a Roman Catholic tradition and now he looks forward to re-starting his spiritual journey in the all-inclusive atmosphere of UUCGT. John is interested in Community Needs, Safe Harbor, Meditation and Greeters. John celebrates his birthday on March 31. We just missed saying **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** John and Welcome to UUCGT!

Laura Ciccone jokingly thanked "the Academy" for welcoming herself and her sons Elio, age 9 and Gaetano "Guy", age 7 1/2 into UUCGT - as February 26 was Oscar Night!

Laura works in retail, and in leisure time enjoys going to beaches, bike riding, travel and Bikram yoga. Laura was fortunate to attend the Women's March in DC January 21 with her big sister from Arizona! Way to Go! Laura's motivation to join and become involved at UUCGT was a need for diversity and like minds, and her boys. Laura's birthday is September 20. Thank you Laura for finding our community!

We are very happy to have Kim, John and Laura 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 or 989-430-4776
rick9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-5174

All About Us - Congregational Care Team

We are mindful of:

Karl & Lauren Keinath
Lou & Joy Platteborze
Andi Kramer
Mary Ann Force
Sally Mitchell, who is back at Cordia now
Kim Sibilski
Brian Mayo

We continue to remember those in care:

Bill Wells
Nancy Landfair
Carol Still

Judith Briggs
jbriggs002@centurytel.net

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of February 28, 2017
(66.7% of fiscal year)

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$201,772	73.8%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$171,280	63.2%
“For Those in Need” YTD	\$ 10,504	\$ 12,731

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) or to other members of the Finance Committee.

MAY 2017 *Continued from back page*

01 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
01 **Mon** Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 2:30 PM 4:30 PM
01 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
02 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
02 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
03 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
03 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
03 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
04 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
04 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
04 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
05 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM

07 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Lay-led 10:30 AM**
07 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
07 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
08 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
09 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
09 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
09 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM

10 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
10 **Wed** Board Agenda Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM
10 **Wed** Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30-7PM
10 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
11 **Thu** Little Spiritual Book Group Rabbi Chava 12:00 PM 1:00 PM
11 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
11 **Thu** Policy Committee Gretchen Kronk 5:00 PM 6:00 PM
11 **Thu** Music Committee Bob Hicks 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
11 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
12 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 9 PM
13 **Sat** Singing Sisters Linda Hebert 10:00 AM 2:00 PM
13 **Sat** InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:30 AM 1:00 PM

14 **Sun** 15 Minutes w/ Rabbi - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:00 AM 10:15 AM
14 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
14 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
14 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM

Social Justice and Action

Many people see health care as a right due to all peoples. California is working on legislature that will give all citizens, documented and undocumented, single payer health care, the best kind of health insurance. Is that a right of all peoples?

Along with health care, many also see clean water as a right, as well as clean air to breathe. And many feel the right to good education and potentially rewarding jobs, housing, etc. should be expected. We in America, have been spoiled by a society that generally has taken care of its citizens. It has been a part of our heritage since near our beginning. Since our conception, we did not include all our citizens. Some that were excluded were Native Americans and some were slaves, African Americans, and many were or had been incarcerated. We have since tried to correct some of that, but only to a partial degree. We are often referred to as a welfare state. Some countries are more welfare oriented than ours and some are less.

In today's atmosphere, the government is trying to roll back what many perceive as our given rights. Our air and land quality is being threatened, as well as more individual rights such as education, health care, jobs that give a living wage, and more.

Another right being beaten back is the right to fair representation. It is done through one person, one vote. This is a fundamental concept of our society, our democracy. It has been eroded by the Supreme Court negating the Voters' Right Act, by dark money being poured into our elections, maybe even by other countries influencing our elections, and by districting, gerrymandering the voters so as to negate their vote.

Many voters have seen the return of restrictive laws that make it more difficult for them to vote. Shouldn't a democracy make it easier for all to vote? All voices have a right to be heard. That is also our responsibility in a democracy - to cast our vote. But laws are being enacted that make unfair demands on some voters, make registration more difficult rather than easier, lessening voting hours and days and closing polls in certain areas, making voting an obstacle course. These obstacles particularly exclude certain types of voters and in so doing assure that other ideologues are elected. That process goes against one person, one vote and against the ideals of democracy.

In a democracy, it becomes our duty to defend our government. When our own government seems to get things wrong, we the people must stand up. It is in our constitution.

Let me quote: "We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility...promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity..." When we are not doing this in our country, we must stand up and ensure that justice is really for all within our country!

Please contact all your members of congress, national and state, and let them know how you feel. Even contact members of congress from other States. They, too, need to know how you feel. Remind them that you are watching and that you do cast your votes. It is our duty!

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatemi@gmail.com

Social Justice workshop

At the Social Justice Workshop in March we identified two issues, Inclusion and Redistricting, that the committee, and hopefully the UUCGT as a whole, would like to devote our time, energy and talents to addressing.

Inclusion

Saturday, April 29, 9:30 - 11:30 am

As inclusion is a very broad topic, we plan to meet again in the UUCGT Sanctuary on Saturday, April 29, for a workshop similar to the one held in March to distill what areas of inclusion we wish to dedicate our energies to fulfilling. Snacks are provided and a small donation is welcome. Please inform Paula Jo Kemler pjkebler@me.com if you plan to attend.

Redistricting

Sunday, April 30, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm, UUCGT classroom. We will have a general meeting on UUCGT Social Justice and a discussion of *The Third Reconstruction* by Rev. William Barber detailing the history and contemporary realities of the marginalization of voters and the lessons we can learn about power entrenching itself. Please read the book before the meeting if you are able. If you need a copy or have one to share, please let me know.
pjkebler@me.com

The Activist Hub

If you are not yet conversant on The Activist Hub, please contact Lynnette Rhodes, lynnetterhodes@gmail.com for training. This is an excellent vehicle for us to share information about local activities and other information focused on Redistricting and Inclusion, as well as other Social Justice topics.

Paula Jo Kemler
pjkebler@me.com

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

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the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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April, 2017

Calendar

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

April 2017

02 Sun Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM
02 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
02 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
03 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
03 Mon Staff Resources Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM
03 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
04 Tue Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
04 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
05 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
05 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
05 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
06 Thu Congregational Care Pat Light/Joanie Jackson 1:00-3:00 PM
06 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
06 Thu Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 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
07 Fri Family Potluck & Movie Night 5:30 PM 9:00 PM
08 Sat InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM 1:00 PM

09 Sun Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM
09 Sun UU Book Club Barb McClellan 2:00 PM 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 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
11 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
11 Tue Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
12 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
12 Wed Board Agenda Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM
12 Wed Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
12 Wed Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30-7 PM
12 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
13 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
13 Thu Policy Committee Gretchen Kronk 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
13 Thu Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
13 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
14 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 PM 9:00PM

16 Sun Sunday Service - All Congregation 10:30 AM
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 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
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 Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12 M -1 PM
19 Wed Membership Committee Chris Walter 4:00 PM 5:30 PM
19 Wed Sunday Services Hal Gurian 4:00 PM 5:30 PM
19 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
19 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
20 Thu Little Spiritual Book Group Rabbi Chava 12:00 PM 1:00 PM
20 Thu Congregational Care Pat Light/Joanie Jackson 1:00-3:00 PM
20 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
20 Thu Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
20 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
21 Fri Community Needs Liz Bruning 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
21 Fri CCL Student Concert Fundraiser Mary VanValin 7-9 PM
22 Sat New Moon Women's Circle Carolyn Kelly 3:00 PM 5:00 PM

23 Sun Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM
23 Sun Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM
23 Sun Prospective Member Orientation Chris Walter 12:00-1:15 PM
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
24 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
25 Tue Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
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26 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
26 Wed CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards Blue Tractor 12:30-1:30PM
26 Wed Wednesday Supper-\$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 7PM
26 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
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27 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

30 Sun Sunday Service - Lay-led 10:30 AM
31 Sun Social Justice Committee 11:45-1:00PM classroom
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

Continued on page 10