



**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802  
231-947-3117  
[office@uucgt.org](mailto:office@uucgt.org)  
Fax: 231-947-0726  
[www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org)

---

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

---

**Spiritual Leader**  
Rabbi Chava Bahle  
[rabbicuucgt.org](mailto:rabbicuucgt.org)

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

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

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

**Office Administrator**  
Susan Sherman  
[office@uucgt.org](mailto: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, June 19 @ 5:30 pm**  
**All are welcome!**

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

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

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

**JUNE**  
**Sunday Services**  
**Honoring the Earth and the Interdependent Web of Life**

**Sunday, June 4 - Rabbi Chava Bahle**

**10:30 AM Service: "What Will You Bring to the Feast? A Water Communion"**  
**— Based on a Service by Rev. Erika Hewitt**

Join us for a joyous, creative (and brief) worship service prior to the Annual Meeting!

*How does our garden grow, this community of love?  
We each plant seeds that blossom forth, and harvest the fruits thereof.  
How does our garden grow? With stewardship and care:  
Our hearts and spirits take their strength from our gifts freely shared.*

**Sunday, June 11 - Lay-led Service with Betsy Emdin**

**10:30 AM Service: "Poetry of the Earth: A Service in Song and Word"**

Through poetry, story and song we celebrate the coming of Summer. We will honor the beloved tradition of the Flower Communion. Please bring a flower to share at the service and we will each have an opportunity to choose a different flower that speaks to us to take home.

**Sunday, June 18 - Rabbi Chava Bahle and Margaret Wozniak**

**10:30 AM Service: "Grandfather Sky"**

Today is First Nations Day in Canada, and also Father's Day. Let's gather and honor the spirit of our Native neighbors and fathers.

*The Great Spirit is in all things, he is in the air we breathe.  
The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother.  
She nourishes us, that which we put into the ground she returns to us.  
- Big Thunder (Bedagi) - Wabanaki Algonquin*

**Sunday, June 25 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Hal Gurian and Kathy Booker-Graham**

**10:30 AM Service: "The Loving Heart"**

How do we cultivate an open, loving heart? It is risky to live vulnerably, but as UUs we are encouraged to live boldly and bravely...this means the risk of an open heart.  
In the well known words of Jay Abernathy, Jr.:

*We affirm that love is our greatest purpose.  
Accepting one another is the truest form of faithful living.  
The search for truth is our constant star.*

*We pledge our hearts, minds, and hands:  
To challenge injustice with courage;  
To find hope in times of fear;  
And to live out our Unitarian Universalist values every day as a beloved community.  
Thus do we covenant with each other and with all that is sacred in life.*

**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)**

**JULY**  
**Sunday Services**

**WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT**

**Sunday, July 2 - Celebrating 4th of July Holiday - No Sunday Service**

**Sunday, July 9 - Lay-led Service with Karen Mars**

**10:30 AM Service: "The Should'a, Would'a, Ought'a's of our Lives"**

Wayne Dyer says, "Our lives are a sum total of the choices we have made." Are our lives so filled with doing those things that we are sure we MUST do that we can find no time for the small joys that can truly color our lives beautiful such as a walk on the beach, a concert in the park, the creation of something of beauty, a gathering of friends? How can we decide what is really important for the days, weeks, or years we have left in our lives?

**Sunday, July 16 - Lay-led Service**

**10:30 AM Service: TBA**

**Sunday, July 23 - Lay-led Service**

**10:30 AM Service: TBA**

**Sunday, July 30 - Lay-led Service**

**10:30 AM Service: TBA**

---

---

**Poets & Writers Wanted!**

**June 11** will be a lay-led service with the theme, "Poetry of the Earth & Celebrating the Coming of Summer".

If you have a poem or short prose piece that you would like to share at the service, contact Betsy Emdin,

[betsyemdin@gmail.com](mailto:betsyemdin@gmail.com) or [231-492-3260](tel:231-492-3260).

This can be something you wrote or a favorite poem by another. If you are uncomfortable reading in front of the congregation, we can find someone to read for you.

---

---

**Benzie County Unitarian Universalists**

The Benzie County Unitarian Universalists suspend formal services during the summer because of the outside commitments of our congregation. Instead, the group meets monthly for a potluck and brief service at one of our members' homes. Dates for the summer potlucks are as follows:

- June 14: Cliff VanDyke, 6756 Traverse Avenue, Benzonia, contact [ccv901@gmail.com](mailto:ccv901@gmail.com) or 231-651-0208
- July 12: Laurie Mason, 3701 Glovers Lake Road, Arcadia, contact [laurele52@charter.net](mailto:laurele52@charter.net) or 231-889-4718
- August 9: Mary & Bob Scholl, 6885 Deadstream Road, Honor, contact [mascholl@charter.net](mailto:mascholl@charter.net) or 231-342-3364

**Marty Litherland**

**231-633-7241**

[litherlm@gvsu.edu](mailto:litherlm@gvsu.edu)



# Rabbi's Reflection

## Faith in Action

"We bless this space and each other  
with our intention for love and service.  
May this truly be a sanctuary  
that inspires us to live out our faith  
by serving the cause of love and justice in the world.  
May our hearts be made kind and our spirits emboldened to act.  
May the fire of our commitment burn boldly  
because we know that all beings long as we do for laughter,  
nurture, sustenance, rest and care.  
We bless this sanctuary as a place of love and peace."

-- Sandra Frees, UUA Worship Web

Beloveds, we have come to June, the time we welcome summer and take time to reflect on who we, as a beloved community, are and where we are going.

An Annual Meeting is also a religious event, that is, one that is meant to take us deeper through the business we conduct that day. It is a time to self-reflect and to assess on how well we are living up to our core values with one another.

I have come to think of the Annual Meeting as a kind of Yom Kippur, a day of putting aside distractions and looking deeply into the heart. We pause to reflect, consider and renew. Who have we been? Where are there amends to be made? What achievements do we celebrate? Where do we wish to go in the year ahead?

Summer is busy, but it is a great time to take in some quiet, to enjoy the beauty of where we live and to look deeply within and ahead, and ask deeper questions.

Parker Palmer's website offers these insights:

In her new book, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*, Krista Tippett shares how she uses questions to connect people in ways that draw forth amazing insights:

"Questions elicit answers in their likeness ... We all have it in us to formulate questions that invite honesty, dignity, and revelation. There is something redemptive and life-giving about asking better questions."

One key practice in Circles of Trust is this Touchstone:

Learn to respond to others with honest, open questions. Do not respond with counsel or corrections. Using honest, open questions helps us "hear each other into deeper speech."

Question-mark-listening: It takes practice to ask an open, honest question. Look for a question without an agenda, without a right/wrong answer, and where you couldn't possibly predict answers.

It also takes a willingness to listen with a different ear. Ask an honest, open question and truly wait for the answer. Let silence fill the space while you wait. Resist the urge to come up with a witty response or a corrective comeback. Give your genuine presence.

Join us friends throughout this month with your genuine presence.

Biv'rachot/In Blessing  
Rabbi Chava

### Rabbi Chava Office Hours Appointments and Scheduling

Rabbi Chava is generally available for appointments in the office Monday through Thursday. If you would like to set an appointment, the best way to do this is to **call or email Susan** in the office. It is helpful to know the purpose of the meeting and length of time you would like to schedule.

Please keep in mind that Rabbi Chava's schedule is also set by the following weekly, bi-weekly or monthly meetings: Operations/Staff, Congregational Care, Board of Trustees, weekly President of UUCGT meeting, Safe Congregation Response Team, Sunday Service Coordinators, Staff Resources Committee, Program Council, Sunday Services Committee & Co-Chairs, Committee on Ministry, Area Council on Religious Diversity, Grand Traverse Clergy group, and UUMA Jewish Clergy.

Starting this month and going forward, Rabbi Chava will be in the office and available for open, walk-in (or call) office hours each week (no appointment necessary):

June 5:	2:00 to 3:30 PM
June 15:	3:00 to 4:30 PM
June 20:	10:00 to 11:30 AM
June 27:	4:00 to 5:30 PM

Stop in to say hello!

~~~~~

### Please save the date - Sunday, July 16 Celebration of the Life of Mercedes Kimling - 12:30 PM

Mercedes will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother, for her delight in the sight and sounds of beaches, of music and books.

The answer to the question, "Where's the library?" was a compass point of her life. She agreed with Jose Borges' opinion that "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library".

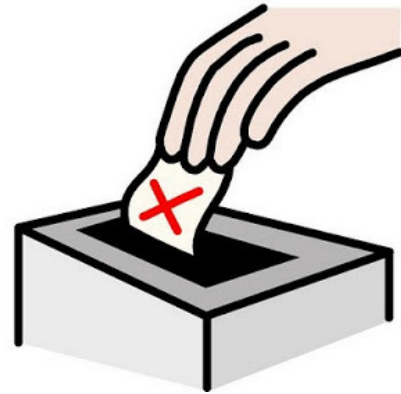
# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse

## Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 4, 2017

### Agenda:

1. Quorum verification
2. Minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Endowment Committee Report
5. President's Report
6. Director of Lifespan Experience Report
7. Rabbi's Report
8. Introduction of Candidates
9. Proposed Budget
10. Vote



Absentee ballots will be available in the UUCGT office on Sunday, June 4 - **before the 10:30 service**

**ALL Absentee ballots must be returned before the commencement of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 4, 2017.**

If you have questions regarding absentee ballots, please email Phyllis Jessup at [phyllisjessup11@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisjessup11@gmail.com).

Additional information on the UUCGT website ([www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org)) include:

Slate of Candidates  
Letter from UUCGT Board President  
Proposed Budget Detail  
Proposed Budget Summary  
Rabbi's Report  
Director of Lifespan Experience Report  
2016-17 Committee Annual Reports

## ***All About Us - Congregational Care Team***

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

The family and friends of Bill Wells who died at home last week after a long illness. Bill and his deceased wife, Helen, were long time members of our Congregation and the Vocal Ensemble.

Izzy Semrau, Marge Rundell and Penny Ort who still grieve the recent losses of their spouses.

### **We are also mindful of:**

MaryAnn Force, Sue Pyne and Gary Harris

### **We continue to remember those in care:**

Nancy Landfair, Carol Still and John Shields who all enjoy visitors! John has recently moved to Evergreen Cottage.

Submitted by Judith Briggs  
(who is embarking on a summer long camping trip to all the western National parks - A Joy, we hope!)

Judith Briggs  
[jbriggs002@centurytel.net](mailto:jbriggs002@centurytel.net)

# Announcements

## NEW MOON WOMEN'S GROUP

with Carolyn Kelly & Rabbi Chava Bahle

**New Moon Soul to Soul Group (meets monthly)**  
**Next Meeting: June 24, 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:      July 22      August 19

**Carolyn Kelly**  
[carolynk113@gmail.com](mailto:carolynk113@gmail.com)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## LITTLE SPIRITUAL BOOK GROUP

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

**Thursday, June 8**

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

- **12 noon in the Sanctuary -**

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

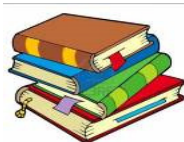
\*\*\*\*\*

## UU BOOK CLUB

Our book club decided that we would take both July and August off this year as most of us get too involved with guests and busyness. Therefore, our June 11th meeting will be the last one before our summer break.

The book for June is "All That Man Is" by David Szalay. Our hosts will be H.G. and Autumn Smith, and H.G. will lead the discussion. Their home is located at 719 Eastgate Place. Be sure to let them know you are able to attend at 943-1207 or [hgsmith74@gmail.com](mailto:hgsmith74@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about our intellectual eclectic group, call Mark Gustafson at 929-9608. If you would like a copy of the book club schedule/reading list, contact Karen Mars. Happy reading!



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

\*\*\*\*\*

## COFFEE TIME !

**Please note that coffee orders are due the last Sunday of each month** and FYI...we get a discounted price from Higher Grounds and add 20 cents to each bag of coffee. This money goes to the Social Action fund, and if not needed or used it then goes to the Local Community Needs fund.

Thank you for ordering with us! Any questions? Contact Paula Hartmann.

**Paula Hartmann**  
**922-1625, [phartmann1625@gmail.com](mailto:phartmann1625@gmail.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

UUCGT member, Misty Sheehan, just had an article published in the new Skinner House Press, titled Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism, edited by Jerrie Hildebrand and Shirley Ranck. The article is "Paths and Patterns" and tells her history as a pagan UU.

June Calendar continued from back page

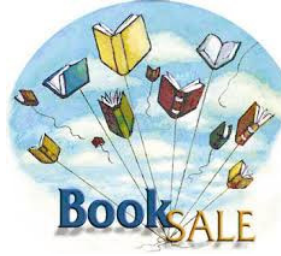
27 **Tue** Rabbi Chava's Open Office Hours 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
 27 **Tue** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 6:00 PM 7:30 PM  
 28 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
 28 **Wed** Dinner Out John Hoffmann The Filling Station 5:00 7:30 PM

28 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
 29 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM 11:00 AM  
 29 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
 29 **Thu** No Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon  
 29 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM



# **UUCGT BOOK SALE**

## **Coming in AUGUST!**



### **UUCGT will once again host a 3-day Book Sale!**

Thursday, Friday & Saturday – **August 24, 25 and 26** – we'll be selling books on the premises, with profits going to our General Fund.

### **What's needed...**



Please start putting adult & children's books you wish to donate aside.  
*No technical books, magazines or encyclopedias, okay?*  
We'll let you know when you can start dropping them off.



Please consider helping us staff a table or cash point these days. The hours will be 9 am – 5 pm.



***And don't forget to come!***

and to tell family, friends & neighbors about lots of good reading and unusual finds!

**For more information, or to sign on, kindly contact Susan Sherman in the UUCGT office: Phone: [\(231\) 947-3117](tel:(231)947-3117)**

**Or the friendly organizers**

**Joann Rosi: Phone: [\(231\) 633-1232](tel:(231)633-1232) & Cynthia Brzak: Phone: [\(231\) 421-5295](tel:(231)421-5295)**



# Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends,

## Sundays in June

I'm so pleased to share that we are launching into our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Specialty Class Summer – our summer program for children preK - 5<sup>th</sup> grade on Sunday mornings which runs June 1<sup>st</sup> - Resumption Sunday in September. This consists of fun & informative lessons led by congregants and special guests. Anyone from the congregation interested in sharing a hobby, craft, skill, or lesson is encouraged to contact me to schedule a Sunday to work with the children.

Youth are invited to remain in the sanctuary throughout the summer months.

Suggested readings for families/parents this month include:

*Henry Builds a Cabin* – by DB Johnson

*Henry Climbs a Mountain* – by DB Johnson

Friday Night Out – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-9pm – spots are going quickly! Contact me ASAP to reserve a spot!

Join Us for a Kick-Off to Summer  
Adventure to the

GT Butterfly House &  
Bug Zoo!



When: Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am

Fee: \$3/person 3 yrs. and up  
(Free under 3 yrs.)

Please Register with Sarah by: **6/12**

*Pack a sack lunch – weather permitting  
we will have lunch together afterwards*

Brewing Community...  
has switched to its summer format!

This gathering moves to the last Wednesday of the month May - August, and will include dinner out as it joins forces with the Wednesday Supper program. We will gather on WEDNESDAY, June 28<sup>th</sup> at The Filling Station. This is a great way to meet people, laugh with friends, and is family friendly! RSVP to John Hoffmann if you plan to join us for dinner so we can get a general count.

## Wednesday Supper Schedule!

Make sure to read your FLASH carefully each week, and check the congregational calendar for the location of our summer potlucks. Remember, these gatherings are in people's homes, and we ask that you BYOB. Such a fun way to spend summer evenings!!



## Summer Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Grand Traverse

Join us for a simple, family friendly ritual  
followed by a potluck supper.

Bring a dish to share, place settings, & BYOB

Please dress for the weather – we will be outside  
weather permitting, otherwise we will have our ritual  
indoors.

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)

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of April 30, 2017  
(83.3% of fiscal year)

|                                     | <u>Current Year</u> |              | <u>Prior Year</u> |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Budgeted Income Received YTD</b> | <b>\$235,473</b>    | <b>86.1%</b> | <b>\$251,274</b>  | <b>78.4%</b> |
| <b>Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD</b>   | <b>\$215,097</b>    | <b>79.4%</b> | <b>\$242,873</b>  | <b>75.7%</b> |
| <b>“For Those in Need” YTD</b>      | <b>\$ 13,540</b>    |              | <b>\$ 15,636</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.

## Green Sanctuary



Green Sanctuary Committee encourages you to support our lobbyists for climate change going to Washington, D.C. in June by calling our Representative and Senators on Friday, June 9th.

More than a dozen students from Traverse City Central High School are traveling on June 9th to attend a Citizen's Climate Lobby Annual Conference and then

they will lobby with our legislators, along with other friends and members of UUCGT. We were one of the groups that helped raise almost \$8,000 for the students to take this trip! We can support their work by calling Senators Peters and Stabenow, and Representative Jack Bergman. The link that gives you the contact information and suggestions on message is: [cclusa.org/callcongress](http://cclusa.org/callcongress).

CCL is a nonpartisan, very respectful nonprofit group working to create the political will for a livable future. When our regional lobbyists go into the legislative offices after hundreds of us have called in to support action on climate change, they have more credibility and clout. In ten minutes or less, you can give these lobbyists the support that makes their job easier and moves us closer to action on climate change.

Thanks for leaning green.

If you have questions, contact Mary Van Valin

**Mary Van Valin**  
**[mgvv77@yahoo.com](mailto:mgvv77@yahoo.com)**





## Membership News

### JUNE - WOOHOO! Summer will be in Full Swing before long!

**Greetings from the entire FUN and FRIENDLY 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.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP TEAM** is ready to mellow out and relax for the Summer. But don't worry - we will still be our Friendly, Welcoming selves, Greeting you at the doors and at the Welcome Table!

**HOWEVER** - If you have been thinking of Membership at UUCGT or know of attendees who may be interested, please let one of us or the Office know. Orientation Sessions for Prospective Members and subsequent New Member Welcome Services will be scheduled in the Fall.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM**

- But not be required to attend Committee Meetings??  
**Do we have a Deal for You!** Sign up to be on the Greeter List OR to Staff the Welcome Table beginning in August.  
Job Descriptions are available for both positions and Job Shadowing is provided! Put your Friendly Welcoming self forward and get a chance to meet great people!

**GREETER OPPORTUNITIES** - 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.

Job description is posted on the bulletin board, but really involves:

- 1) **Smiling**
- 2) **Saying** "Welcome", "Glad you're here", "How are you?"
- 3) **Handing out** Order of Service, and
- 4) **Helping** with offering

### **WELCOME TABLE** - Nothing to it, simply:

- 1) **Arrive** 10:00 AM before service, 2) **Welcome** Visitors who come to the Welcome Table, 3) **Invite** them to make a Name Tag, 4) **Answer** questions they may have, 5) **Encourage** signing the Welcome Registry (to receive Flash, Beacon, and receive Attendee Name Tag), 6) **Repeat** Steps 2, 4 and 5 After the service.

### **Do You Want to Meet More People at UUCGT?**

#### **Do you Want to feel More Connected?**

There are numerous Committees or regularly occurring activities at UUCGT or in the Traverse City community. Several Committees do not meet every month (or week). Check out the Lists at the Welcome Table which include things like **Book Club, Brewing Community, International Folk Dancers, Outdoorsy Recreation Group** (occasional gatherings), **3 Meditation opportunities, and Vocal Ensemble**. **Don't see anything that tickles your fancy? Propose a new activity or group** - possibly a **Hike and Explore Group** - meet Once a month after Sunday Service to travel to an area Nature Preserve, hike and share a meal together afterwards.

*See you at UUCGT!*

**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

## Community Needs

The Local Community Needs Committee met to distribute the money you generously give to the "those in need side of the basket". Babies were our theme this quarter and we donated \$1000 to area baby pantries:

|                                                         |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Grand Traverse Baby Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church | \$125. |
| West Bay Baby Pantry at West Bay Covenant Church        | \$125. |
| Leelanau Baby Pantry via Leelanau Christian Neighbors   | \$250. |
| Antrim Baby Pantry in Mancelona                         | \$250. |
| Kalkaska Baby Pantry                                    | \$250. |

Most of the baby pantries are staffed completely by volunteers and offer formula, diapers, and wipes; all items are donated and are provided free to clients. Some pantries also offer clothing, small toys and books.

Also, \$500 was given to Food Rescue. They had a matching grant for the month of May so our \$500 gift became \$1000!

We have set aside \$500 for an agency providing services to migrant workers and are still searching to find the right charity.

If you have ideas, please contact any member: Jane Fochtman, Shari Cope, Joan Sheard, Liz Bruning and Chris Walter.

Thanks for your donations!

**Liz Bruning**  
[bruiningpl@charter.net](mailto:bruiningpl@charter.net)  
**Chair, Local Community Needs**

# Social Justice and Action

## Social Justice Committee

Thank you to the Social Justice Committee members who have helped to determine what issues we will address. Through a series of discussions and workshops we have narrowed our focus to two main issues, Redistricting and Mental Health, and two side issues, Migrants and Healthcare. All of these are big subjects, and we have begun to plan activities to address various aspects of each, limited this summer and with more to come in the fall.

**Redistricting.** Hal Gurian has recently undergone training in Lansing to educate people on the need for a non-partisan commission to redraw voting district lines to replace the gerrymandered system currently in place. He will lead a program detailing this information sometime this summer.

**Mental Health.** We have determined that it is best to understand mental healthfulness within ourselves before addressing concerns in our community. We will be hosting a series of activities to personally check in and encourage discussions starting over the next few months.

**Migrants.** We will be talking with the Justice and Peace Advocacy Center (JPAC), a local organization dedicated to this concern, on how the UUCGT can support their efforts.

**Healthcare.** Recognized at a workshop was that there are a number of congregants with professional and personal experiences in healthcare. We plan to create a system where UUCGT members with healthcare expertise can offer solace and advice to congregants in need of guidance.

## Social Justice Committee meetings September, 2017 – May, 2018

All are scheduled for Sundays following the church service (c.11:45 pm) with a light lunch.

| 2017         | 2018        |
|--------------|-------------|
| September 17 | January 21  |
| October 15   | February 18 |
| November 12  | March 18    |
| December 10  | April 15    |
| May 20       |             |

The SJ Committee is still determining the best method of communication. SJ Co-chair, Lynnette Rhodes, generously gave much time and effort to developing a way for us to communicate through the platform, The Activist Hub. Look also for SJ activities on the UUCGT Facebook page.

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

There used to be certain things we teach our children and that we ourselves were expected to follow. The behavior, back then, was considered polite and just plain considerate, whether you liked someone or not. We were taught that punching, shoving was not acceptable, and lying was also bad. I know I learned those then common rules. Did you? I taught them to my kids and grand-kids, school kids and others whom I knew as we all grew up together. Didn't you? Or did you?

It seems like the rules are changing. We used to have a politician who referred to "trickle down economy." That is, when the rich got richer, the poorer would get some of that and get richer, too. Now, we seem to have trickle down hate. But it seems to be flowing down like a waterfall that is gushing over a broken dam. What has happened? Hate seems to be spewing all around us.

When our leaders do something, we all want to follow, especially if we like that leader. I wonder how many Barack's were born in the last 8 years? How many young men now are letting their blond hair grow thick and floppy?

Mannerisms are also copied. For example, lying seems to have become widespread, on security forms, responses to Congressional questioning even under oath, etc. I wonder if also on IRS forms? Calling people names, shoving others out of your way so you can be first, even knocking someone down. All these and more seem to become common acceptable behavior. Really?

I volunteer in an Elementary School where, yes, it is obvious that children respond by the way they are being raised and treated. I can see it in all the kids. Some are polite, talk, and ask questions with the hope of doing the correct thing. Others grab, shove, push, knock down and seem to care little about the other child. But then they burst like sad balloons as the pain from their own treatment comes flowing forth in waterfalls of salty water.

Attention, holding, talking, returning the loved but mislaid teddy, many things can help the child. A loving school gives reprise to many a struggling kid along with good food that nourishes them. We can help and calm many behaviors. Can we do that to some of the adult behaviors we see today?

Many of us were brought up with at least some kindness and love. How come those teachings and ways of living seem to be eroding so quickly into angry chaos now? Have we been trained to follow the leader without a thought? I hope not! This is not 1984, yet. This is not *The Handmaid's Tale*, yet. Let us all think, feel, reach out kindly.

By the way, if you want to come volunteer with me at this wonderful school, they will love you for it, and so will I!

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## *the* BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 54, Issue 6  
June, 2017

### UUCGT Calendar

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

#### JUNE 2017

01 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM 11:00 AM  
01 **Thu** Congregation Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM  
01 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
01 **Thu** Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM  
01 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
02 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM

04 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**  
04 **Sun** **UUCGT Annual Meeting 11:30 AM**  
04 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM  
04 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM  
05 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
05 **Mon** Rabbi Chava's Open Office Hours 2:00 PM 4:30 PM  
05 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM  
05 **Mon** Safe Harbor Meeting Mike McDonald 6:00 PM 7:30 PM  
06 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
06 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
07 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
07 **Wed** John & Pinkie Hoffmann's Wednesday Potluck 5:30 PM  
07 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
08 **Thu** Little Spiritual Book Group Rabbi Chava Bahle 12:00 - 1 PM  
08 **Thu** Congregational Care Team 1:00 PM 3:00 PM  
08 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
08 **Thu** Policy Committee 5:00 PM 6:00 PM  
08 **Thu** Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM  
08 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
09 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 9:00 PM  
10 **Sat** InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM 1:00 PM

11 **Sun** Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM  
11 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Lay-led 10:30 AM**  
11 **Sun** UU Book Club HG & Autumn Smith's 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
11 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM  
11 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM  
12 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
12 **Mon** Staff Resources Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM  
12 **Mon** Outside Group POMHOA 6:00 PM 9:00 PM  
13 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak

13 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
13 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM  
13 **Tue** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 6:00 PM 7:30 PM  
14 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
14 **Wed** Board Agenda Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM  
14 **Wed** Mike & Sandra McDonald's Wednesday Potluck 5:30 7:00 PM  
14 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
15 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM 11:00 AM  
15 **Thu** Rabbi Chava's Open Office Hours 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
15 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
15 **Thu** Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM  
15 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

18 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**  
18 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM  
18 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM  
19 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM  
19 **Mon** Rabbi Chava's Open Office Hours 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
19 **Mon** UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM  
20 **Tue** Rabbi Chava's Open Office Hours 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
20 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
20 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM  
20 **Tue** Committee on Ministry Chris Innes 5:00 PM  
21 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
21 **Wed** Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12-1 PM  
21 **Wed** Sunday Services Hal Gurian 4:00 PM 5:30 PM  
21 **Wed** Leadership Development 4:30 PM 6:30 PM  
21 **Wed** Wednesday Solstice Potluck @ UUCGT 5:30-7:00 PM  
21 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM  
22 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM  
22 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM  
22 **Thu** Introductory Meditation Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM 6:30 PM  
22 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM  
23 **Fri** Coming of Age Rabbi Chava 11:00 AM 12:30 PM  
24 **Sat** New Moon Women's Group Carolyn Kelly 3:00 PM 5:00 PM

25 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**  
25 **Sun** TC Sings Concert @ UUCGT 4:00 PM 6:30 PM  
25 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM  
25 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM  
26 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Barb Gibson 10:30 AM  
26 **Mon** Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 2:30 PM 4:30 PM  
27 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
27 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM

(Calendar continues on page 5)