



Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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

Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Chava Bahle
rabbi@uucgt.org

Director of Lifespan Experience

Sarah Montgomery-Richards
dle@uucgt.org

Director of Music

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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, February 20 @ 5:30 pm

All are welcome!

**FEBRUARY
Sunday Services
Justice and Just Community**

*There is too much hardship in this world to not find joy, every day.
There is too much injustice in this world to not right the balance, every day.
There is too much pain in this world to not heal, every day.*

*Each of us ministers to a weary world.
Let us go forth now and do that which calls us to make this world more loving,
more compassionate and more filled with the grace of divine presence, every day.*

- UU Minister Rev. Darcy Roake

Sunday, February 5 – Sarah Montgomery-Richards and Lay Leaders

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: “Imbolc”

Imbolc is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature and there is evidence it has been an important date since ancient times. It is believed that it was originally a pagan festival associated with the goddess Brigid, and that it was Christianized as a festival of Saint Brigid, who is thought to be a Christianization of the goddess.

Sunday, February 12 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: “Shinto Holiday: Setsubun-Sai”

“Fuku-wa-uchi” (Come in Happiness!) Shinto celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of “Devils out, Good Fortune in”. In the Japanese Shinto tradition, this day reminds us that Spring is coming and we can welcome joy, joy, joy! What clears the way for happiness for you? Come, let’s celebrate. Happy people make the best peace makers.

Please note this Sunday (February 12) at 12 Noon we will gather to discuss “The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement” by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016), in conjunction with the UUA program, A Common Read. An organized Potluck Brunch will follow the Sunday service. Please RSVP to the office no later than February 5.

Sunday, February 19 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “Dialoguing with the “Other Side” - Should We, and How?”

10:30 AM Service: “Dialogue and Justice: National Council of Churches Race Relations Day”

This day came into being in the year 1922 when the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America declared the second Sunday of February to initiate inter-racial dialogue and human rights for all races. The NCC relentlessly pursued this goal and in 1950, NCC distributed pamphlets that contained a ‘Call to Action’ to promote individual and political steps to ensure dialogue between races in USA.

The NCC did not stop here: When Montgomery Bus boycott issues surfaced, NCC stood up to support Montgomery ministers and called segregation ‘a violation of the Gospel of love and human brotherhood.’

(continued on page 2)

BEACON Article Deadline:

No later than the 25th of the month

preceding the issue date

Stan Cain, Editor

**(231) 938-1506
Send submissions to
beacon@uucgt.org**

It also supported Martin Luther King Jr.'s attempts to bring about equality irrespective of color of one's skin, and opposed the Vietnam War. But its most important contribution is the support that it provided for the historic 'Civil Rights Act of 1964' which dealt a death blow to hatred towards Blacks.

Sunday, February 26 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: “United States v. Susan B. Anthony” and Welcoming New Members

United States v. Susan B. Anthony was a criminal trial in the federal courts. In the federal election in November 1872, Anthony, the best-known advocate of woman suffrage, registered to vote and then voted. The government charged her with the crime of voting without “the legal right to vote in said election district.” She, in the words of the indictment, “being then and there a person of the female sex.” We are seeking readers for this re-enactment! Please join us this Sunday and meet our awesome group of new UUCGT members.

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

Please note: 9 AM programs will resume in April

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."

Sunday, March 12 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: “Purim”

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”

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.

Sunday, March 26 - Rabbi Chava Bahle and UU Music Director, John Bailey

10:30 AM Service: “All Bach Service”

Details forthcoming ... There's no going Bach ...



Rabbi's Reflection

To be a Senior Spiritual Leader in such trying times is not easy. I often feel pulled by the dual poles of protest/march/fight and the need to turn inward to care for weary souls. I see this reflected in many of your journeys as well: march, act, show up, and also a call for rest and renewal.

What's a spiritual activist to do?

Spiritual activism requires attention to what my teacher called the four worlds: the physical (and the world of action and doing, as well as the physical body); emotional; intellectual/ideational; and the spiritual or heart-based. The skill is in attending to which world is giving forth voice and gentle attunement to the self. If we leave no time for centering, quiet, calm, joy, and self-care, there is not much left over the public self, nor do we replenish the energy it takes to walk, march, call and show up.

There's an old saying that a minister's job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable: congregational life, especially Sunday services, are meant to motivate us and also comfort us, to engage us and to soothe hearts weary from the world.

Here at UUCGT we, the Sunday Service Committee and I, work many hours behind the scenes to create gatherings that meet a range of needs – both theologically and in the four worlds. Some days we need to stir the pot, others we need to be nourished by peace. It is a delicate balance.

In the end however, it is not only a rabbi's job to create the container – it is up to all of us. Each of us is a minister to the other. We are just, as Ram Dass says, walking each other home. HOW we walk with each other is what living in covenant is about. Not just showing up, but how we show up.

There's an old tale (told in many cultures, here from the UUA web site):

Long ago there lived an old woman who had a wish. She wished more than anything to see for her-

self the difference between heaven and hell. The monks in the temple agreed to grant her request.

They put a blindfold around her eyes, and said, "First you shall see hell." When the blindfold was removed, the old woman was standing at the entrance to a great dining hall. The hall was full of round tables, each piled high with the most delicious foods — meats, vegetables, fruits, breads, and desserts of all kinds! The smells that reached her nose were wonderful.

The old woman noticed that, in hell, there were people seated around those round tables. She saw that their bodies were thin, and their faces were gaunt, and creased with frustration. Each person held a spoon. The spoons must have been three feet long! They were so long that the people in hell could reach the food on those platters, but they could not get the food back to their mouths. As the old woman watched, she heard their hungry desperate cries. "I've seen enough," she cried. "Please let me see heaven."

And so again, the blindfold was put around her eyes, and the old woman heard, "Now you shall see heaven." When the blindfold was removed, the old woman was confused. For there she stood again, at the entrance to a great dining hall, filled with round tables piled high with the same lavish feast. And again, she saw that there were people sitting just out of arm's reach of the food with those three-foot long spoons. But as the old woman looked closer, she noticed that the people in heaven were plump and had rosy, happy faces. As she watched, a joyous sound of laughter filled the air. And soon the old woman was laughing too, for now she understood the difference between heaven and hell for herself. The people in heaven were using those long spoons to feed each other.

It is not only feeding each other – it is what and how we feed each other. Let's do it with grace and begin again in love.

Love,
Rabbi Chava

UUCGT Little Spiritual Book Group

Almost Monthly at 12 Noon

The Little Spiritual Book Group meets in our sanctuary just about monthly at 12 Noon to talk about books that help us on the journey.

Here's what we have coming up!

Sunday, February 12 @ 12 Noon

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016).

This will be a special program in conjunction with the UUA's 2016-17 book selection for **A Common Read**. An organized Potluck Brunch will follow the Sunday service.

Here's what the UUA writes about *The Third Reconstruction*: "*The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work

in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized."

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

UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

Hybrid Adult Faith Development Renaissance Module

by Nancy Combs-Morgan
Congregational Life Consultant

Yes, this sounds like a new plant, but in reality, we will be offering an adaptive model of the Adult Faith Development Renaissance Module. Rev. Phil Lund and I will be co-facilitating this virtual and face-to-face learning opportunity for religious educators, ministers, seminarians, and leaders who are active in providing adult religious education. We are offering this module because vibrant, growing congregations acknowledge that spiritual journeys last a lifetime, so they offer intentional, structured opportunities for adults of all ages and in all life stages to grow in faith.

This module explores faith development and programming for adult Unitarian Universalists. Participants will have ample opportunity to engage with theoretical information, to learn practice skills, and to explore issues, questions, and models for developing and managing programs in UU congregations and groups. There will also be a chance to consider the changing cultural context, including non-traditional delivery formats, and to learn how to best use Tapestry of Faith and other adult programs.

The virtual sessions will be on these Thursday afternoons: March 2, March 16, March 30, and April 13. Our last session will be face to face on Thursday, April 27 at the DuPage UU Church in Naperville, Illinois, before the MidAmerica Regional Assembly.

The cost will be \$200. Registration available on the MidAmerica website. If you have any questions, please contact: Nancy Combs-Morgan, ncombsmorgan@uua.org.

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee for the MidAmerica Region of the UUA is charged with identifying potential candidates and presenting nominations for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting of the Region for these positions:

Regional Board of Trustees
Regional Nominating Committee Midwest UU Conference (MUUC)

Potential vacancies on the MidAmerica Board this year include the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large. The nominating committee seeks to identify the most diverse pool of candidates possible, with a particular emphasis at this time on expanding our diversity in the areas of race, gender, sexual orientation and age.

The committee needs to receive inquiries and/or recommendations as soon as possible to allow for appropriate follow-up and completion of the slate. Please feel free to contact the members of the committee via e-mail at nomcom@midamericauua.org.

**UUA Regional Assembly 2017
April 28-30 -- 4:00 PM
Oak Brook, IL (near Chicago)**

***CALLING ALL FRIENDS
OF FAITH and CONSCIENCE -
INVITATION FROM UUA PRESIDENT
and UUSC PRESIDENT, CEO***

Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,

We're writing with what we expect is the same urgent sense of concern you're feeling about the results of the presidential election and what will follow. Based on the many conversations we've had with each other, people of our communities, our partners, and those most likely to face looming threats, we've concluded that in these extraordinary times we must be united in purpose to protect the values of our democracy and those vulnerable populations among us.

To that end, we have undertaken an unprecedented degree of coordination between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. There is a sense of urgency, and a need for vigilance. And there is clarity that we must act, not alone, but together. We need everyone - including you, your congregation, your friends, and your colleagues.

As a first step, we have prepared a Declaration of Conscience stating in the strongest possible terms our commitment in these troubling times. By signing the declaration, individuals and congregations will be affirming our core values and declaring our willingness to put them into action. Please read it and, with your signature, join us in standing on the side of love, protecting the most vulnerable among us, and defending core values that are under attack.

We will be vigilant of administration actions, policies and verbal assaults that undermine the principles of our declaration or disparage, threaten or attack innocent people. We will respond by speaking truth to power and mobilizing support for those who are under siege. To be successful, your support and that of your congregants will be critical.

This is not about partisan politics. It is a principled response to the potential targeting of people not for what they have done, but for who they are. It is a commitment to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. We will keep you informed of the progress of this effort and of further opportunities to advance our cause together in the coming weeks and months.

We cannot predict what the future will bring, and we do not pretend to have all the answers, but we can and will be ready for the struggle ahead of us. If you feel the same,

please join us. Join us in transforming faith into action, sign the Declaration of Conscience today, share it with your own networks and please encourage others to sign as well. Thank you for your concern, vigilance, and willingness to act.

In Faith and Solidarity,

The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian
Universalist Association
Hon. Thomas Andrews, President and CEO of the
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

P.S. We strongly encourage you to read the Declaration of Conscience and consider signing it.

DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.

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

**Senior Spiritual Leader/Rabbi
Rabbi Chava Bahle SKYPE: chava.bahle
www.uucgt.org - (231) 357-7152 - rebchava.com**

Announcements

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

Women gathering to celebrate the New Moon is an ancient custom, a time when we rest in the potential of the dark quiet of the new moon and consider the time ahead.

This group is newly in formation and awaits your participation and input. We will be using the book *Soul to Soul: Fourteen Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins, which can be purchased on Kindle, or used from Amazon, or please let Rabbi Chava know ASAP and we will order them directly from Skinner House for \$12 each.

Since the group will meet on the Saturday nearest the new moon, dates are as follows (all meetings at 3 PM)

Possible gathering dates are:

February 25

March 25

April 22

May 27 (Memorial Day weekend - possible date change)

June 24

To express your interest, please contact Carolyn Kelly at carolynk113@gmail.com

Safe Harbor Thank You

A card was received this week from "The Homeless of T.C." It was a Thank You card addressed to the Unitarian Universalist Shelter Volunteers that stated:

"Thank you for opening your doors on cold winter nights and for the food! Stupendous!"

Thanks again to all who volunteered or donated to support our effort the last week of November. It was obviously appreciated.

Mike and Sandra McDonald

Benzie County Unitarian Universalists

On Wednesday, February 1st, the Chairperson of the Advocates for Benzie County, Rick Robb, will lead a discussion on the works of a new Benzie action group which is striving to reduce the causes of poverty by focusing on housing, employment, education and health care needs.

The Advocates for Benzie County (ABC) is a non-profit, non-political, ground level, community advocacy group. Their mission is to "Promote a better quality of life for all the residents of Benzie County". They have sponsored nine public forums designed to identify serious problems affecting our citizens and finding local solutions. Additionally, ABC serves as facilitators by bringing together Benzie residents with governmental, business, religious, educational, community and non-profit organizations to solve these important problems facing our county.

On Wednesday, February 15th, the BCUU group will participate in a discussion, "How to Survive and Thrive in These Turbulent Times". The discussion facilitator has not been assigned.

Potluck at 6:30 pm, program at 7:15 pm
Michigan Shores, Frankfort

Marty Litherland
litherlm@gvsu.edu

UU Book Club

I am hoping that everyone had a far better holiday season than I did. 23 days at Cleveland Clinic (including 2 weeks in ICU on a ventilator) did not create a happy holiday for either my husband or me. Recovery is very slow, but I am making progress.

Our February gathering will be at the home of Solveig and Mark Gustafson. They live at 1111 Lake Ridge Drive.

As always, discussion starts at 2:00 pm. We will be discussing our choice of classic book for this year's schedule: *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis. Mark will lead the discussion.



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

Happy reading!

Karen Mars
karen.mars.tc@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEEDS NEWS

The Local Community Needs Committee met to distribute \$2500 collected over the past 3 months to those in need in our five county area.

We made a donation of \$1000 to Justice For Our Neighbors. This is the first time we have contributed to this agency, which was started by the Methodist Church and is housed locally at Central United Methodist. JFON helps immigrants navigate the very complicated and complex immigration rules by providing free legal services, education and advocacy. Given our new political reality, it seems especially important now to assist our local immigrants and their families.

I encourage you to check out their website:

www.jfonwestmichigan.org.

Planned Parenthood, Jubilee House and the Northwest Michigan Community Action - Financial Management Services Program each received \$500. The latter program through

NW Michigan Community Action provides budget and housing coaches who assist families on the brink of foreclosure to remain in their homes and avoid homelessness.

Our committee continues to work hard to learn about agencies and charities doing good work in our area so that we can best distribute the money you so generously donate each week to the "Those in Need" side of the offering basket. Please contact us if you have an agency for us to consider ([Community Needs donation form](#)).

Karl Kristen has resigned; we are grateful for his kind service to our committee. We are happy that Jane Fochtman has agreed to join us.

Liz Bruning
Chair, Local Community Needs

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of December 31, 2016
(50% of fiscal year)

	<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Prior Year</u>	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$162,677	59.5%	\$166,073	51.8%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$126,430	46.7%	\$148,523	46.3%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 8,002		\$ 10,173	

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.

INTERPLAY

Transform Through Drama, Movement and Connection

InterPlay is a form of 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, February 11, 10:00am-1:00pm, UUCGT](#). Open to individuals 18 years and older. Please email to indicate your interest and get more details: leeriver@umich.edu or phone: (231)421-3120.



Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends,

I'm back! I return to you (ever so sleep deprived) following the birth of our daughter in December. Eileen Éilís Kaye Richards was born on 12/11/2016 – healthy and two weeks early! We are very grateful for all of the support, gifts of time and treasure, meals and much more as we have welcomed this blessing in our family. I'm jumping right into things here at UUCGT, and it's going to be a great month!

Many thanks to Marco Cabrera and the Lifespan Experience Committee for all of their work to support programming while I was away!

Sundays in February

In our Sunday classes for children we will be considering the themes of inclusion, diversity and justice for all through lessons tied to the book, "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt. Every voice is important, and EVERY CRAYON COUNTS!

Suggested readings for families/parents this month include:

"The Journey That Saved Curious George: *The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey*" by Louise Bordon

Child/Youth of the Month

Our Child of the Month is Davis Fowler! Make sure you take a moment to greet Davis 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!

Friday Night Out – February 10th – 5:30-9pm
RESERVATIONS DUE TO SARAH BY 2/6/17

Have an idea for an Adult Program?
Looking to connect with UUs in a small group setting?
Let's talk! The possibilities are endless!

Brewing Community ~ 5 - 7 pm on Thursday, 2/16/17
Watch your FLASH for the location! 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**](mailto:dle@uucgt.org)

ALL ABOUT US

We hold in our hearts ~

Memories of the friends we have lost in recent days. We grieve with the families and friends of long time members:

Ron Yatich
John Ort
Mercedes Kimling
Gene Rundell

"We remember them."

We continue to remember those in care ~

Bill Wells, Nancy Landfair, and Carol Still

We are also mindful of ~

Karen Mars is home after surgery at Cleveland Clinic
Karl & Lauren Keinath
Jerry Beasley
Lou Platteborze
Becky Somsel
Andi Kramer

We celebrate with Joy ~

The birth of Eileen to Sarah Montgomery-Richards and Denny Richards!



Membership News

and help integrate our newest members. Contact the Office at office@uucgt.org or Chris Walter at chris9709@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

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.

FEBRUARY

Hopefully more snow is predicted and we can get out and enjoy, but be safe as well!

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.

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 is now available at the Welcome Table, and soon there will be updated Membership Information on the UUCGT Website. Thank you Susan and Marco Cabrera!

JUST A FEW QUICK NOTES THIS MONTH...

As many of us are busy being active Citizens and have lots to do...

FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS - We NEED You Please Volunteer

We are getting ready to **Welcome New Members on February 26th**. Join the growing number of members who volunteer as **Fellowship Friends** to answer questions, invite to UUCGT events, guide,

Chris and Rick Walter
Co-Chairs, Membership Team
chris9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-4776
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 January 15th, fourteen of us gathered in the classroom at 9:00AM. All represented committees summarized their recent activities and upcoming events.

A major new topic was the UU Board's decision to expand the Social Justice focus of the UUCGT:

The existing Social Justice Action Committee led by Emmy Lou Cholak will continue its focus on immediate social justice action needs as a part of a larger committee chaired by

Paula Jo Kemler that will be working on developing ideas for engaging the congregation in social justice work in areas of longer term needs relative to UUA's Social Justice focus.

Additionally, there is need for additional individuals or committees to volunteer for preparation of coffee on Sunday mornings. If you can take a specific Sunday or would be available as a substitute, please sign up on list posted on the inside of the coffee mug cabinet in the kitchen.

The Program Council will have its next meeting on February 19th at 9:00 AM in the classroom.

Richard Walter
Program Council Coordinator
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

Social Justice and Action

Declaration of Conscience

The UUA and UUSC has declared itself an organization reaching out and welcoming all into our communities and continuing to support our core beliefs of justice, equality and human rights.

Dr. Morales of the UUA and Hon. Andrews of the UUSC, state our goals well when they say; "...We must also focus, even more sharply than before, on our commitment to the deeply held principles and values that are now so relentlessly under siege - justice, equality, and human rights."

We continue to stand by these principles as we stand with those who are gripped with fear over what the election results could mean for them and their families. We must show them that they are not alone.

This needs to be our guiding principle as we join the fight for our values of respect and honor for all people and the values of justice, equality, and human rights. The UUUA has written a *Declaration of Conscience* which is available online and on Page 5.

<http://connect.uusc.org/l/103112/2017-01-17/gpgn2>

Please go to that webpage and I hope you will join the rest of us in signing it. When the Annual Meeting comes, wouldn't it be unifying to have us vote on acceptance of this *Declaration* so that all who enter here will know they are welcomed and respected?

The Board has decided to expand the Social Justice Action Committee hoping to encourage more people to be active. There is much work that needs to be done. With that in mind, there will be a Social Justice meeting after services on **Sunday Feb. 5, at 12 noon**, in the classroom. Please attend promptly. Part of this meeting will focus on action steps we can take now. Let us talk about what you want to do, how to do it and let's get started now!

There will also be a Social Justice workshop meeting on **Saturday, March 4, from 9:00 to 2:00**, lunch included. The goal will be to

determine what particular social justice project or projects the congregation as a whole would like to pursue.

Please contact me or Paula Jo Kemler with any questions or comments.

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

Here is the essence of the *Declaration of Conscience*



(Continued from back page)

March 2017

- 01 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 01 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
- 01 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
- 02 **Thu** Congregational Care Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
- 02 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- 02 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 03 **Fri** Death Cafe Donna Stein Harris 10:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 03 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM
- 04 **Sat** Social Justice Action Workshop 9:00 AM 2:00 PM
- 05 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
- 05 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
- 05 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
- 06 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 06 **Mon** Little Spiritual Book Group Rabbi Chava Bahle 12 1:30 PM
- 06 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
- 07 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church 5th & Oak
- 07 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 08 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 08 **Wed** Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 7PM
- 08 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
- 09 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM

- 09 **Thu** Policy Committee Gretchen Kronk 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
- 09 **Thu** Music Committee Bob Hicks 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 09 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- 10 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 9 PM
- 11 **Sat** InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM 1:00 PM
- 12 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Lay Service**
- 12 **Sun** UU Book Club Marcia Bellinger 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
- 12 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
- 12 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- 13 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 13 **Mon** Staff Resources Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM
- 14 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church 5th & Oak
- 14 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
- 14 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
- 15 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 15 **Wed** Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12M 1 PM
- 15 **Wed** Board Agenda Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM
- 15 **Wed** Sunday Services Hal Gurian 4:00 PM 5:30 PM
- 15 **Wed** Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
- 15 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
- 15 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 54, Issue 2
February, 2017

Calendar

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

February 2017

01 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 01 **Wed** CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards Blue Tractor 12-1 PM
 01 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 01 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 02 **Thu** Congregational Care Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
 02 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 02 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 03 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM

05 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Lay Service**
 05 **Sun** Social Justice Action Emmy Lou Cholak 12:00 PM Classroom
 05 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
 05 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 06 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 06 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
 07 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church 5th & Oak
 07 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 08 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 08 **Wed** Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
 08 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 09 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 09 **Thu** Policy Committee Gretchen Kronk 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 09 **Thu** Music Committee Bob Hicks 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
 09 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 10 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 9:00 PM
 11 **Sat** InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM 1:00 PM

12 **Sun** 15 Minutes with Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:00 10:15 AM
 12 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
 12 **Sun** Common Read & Potluck Brunch Rabbi Chava 11:30AM 1PM
 12 **Sun** UU Book Club Mark Gustafson 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
 12 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 12 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
 13 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 13 **Mon** Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM
 14 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church 5th & Oak
 14 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 14 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 15 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 15 **Wed** Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12:00 PM

15 **Wed** Board Agenda Meeting Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM 2:30 PM
 15 **Wed** Sunday Services Hal Gurian 4:00 PM 5:30 PM
 15 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 15 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 16 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 16 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 16 **Thu** Brewing Community 5:00 PM 7:00 PM TBA John Hoffmann
 19 **Sun** Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM

19 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
 19 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 19 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
 20 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 20 **Mon** UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
 21 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church 5th & Oak
 21 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 21 **Tue** Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 22 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 22 **Wed** CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards Blue Tractor 12:30 PM
 22 **Wed** Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
 22 **Wed** Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
 22 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 23 **Thu** Pledge Drive Team Mike McDonald 10:30 AM 11:30 AM
 23 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 23 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 25 **Sat** New Moon Women's Group Carolyn Kelly 3:00 PM 5:00 PM

26 **Sun** Program: Learning Skills of Dialogue Rabbi Chava 9-10 AM
 26 **Sun** **Sunday Service/New Members Rabbi Chava 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
 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 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
 28 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM

Continued on page 10