



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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Board of Trustees

Loraine Anderson
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Phyllis Jessup
Gretchen Kronk
Karl Love
Don Pyne
Kay Sturgeon

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

JULY Sunday Services

Sunday, July 3 – Rabbi Chava

10:30 AM Service: “Dependent, Independent and Interdependent: A report from the General Assembly”

General Assembly 2016 invited us to explore how to be in authentic and fruitful interfaith partnerships, both within and beyond the congregation. Leaders and communities of many faiths assembled to worship together and learn from one another. Rabbi Chava will bring back insights and stories from her first GA experience and we will move toward a new interdependent vision of faith that responds to the needs of our own time and points us toward the future.

Sunday, July 10 – Rabbi Chava

**10:30 AM Service: “Enter, Come In and Rejoice ~
a Chant and Meditation Service”**

According to Ancient Huna, the theory of chanting says that the sounds being chanted, the tonal patterns and the frequency of the vibration of the sounds, invoke in the neurology of the listener and also the chanter, the deepest spiritual essence of what is being spoken of in the chant. Join us for an hour of true heart-centered calm, joy and peace this Sunday morning!

Sunday, July 17 – Lay Led Service

10:30 AM Service: “A Celebration of Gardens and Gardeners”

Let's share our enthusiasm, awe and gratitude for the summer garden in this UU tribute to all things green and growing. Please contact Margaret Wozniak or Nancy Cotcamp if you have favorite poems, art work or readings on this nurturing subject to share.

Sunday, July 24 – Rabbi Chava

10:30 AM Service: “Around the Campfire”

“A few of us always compared anything good to: 'Isn't it just like camp?' When we first got married, we asked each other, 'Was your honeymoon good?' 'Yeah. It was just like camp.'”
- Laurie Kahn

Ah, summer camp! Camp fires, marshmallow roasts and songs, songs, songs! Join us for this fun filled service of great stories and songs from Summer camp. Weather permitting, we'll gather outdoors and enjoy some Summer.

Sunday, July 31 – Rabbi Chava

10:30 AM Service: “As You Wish”

Inigo Montoya, Prince Humperdinck, Wesley/the Man in Black, Princess Buttercup and ... the Impressive Clergyman – these characters make up the lovable band of loonies who populate the beloved film “The Princess Bride”. Join us for our second annual end of TC Film Festival “Movie as Metaphor Service.” This year, we'll celebrate UU values of true love, cleverness and the importance of hope.

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

AUGUST Sunday Services

Sunday, August 7 – Mark Gustafson, UU Member

10:30 AM Service: “Reflections on TCFF Films”

Traverse City Film Festival is just around the corner. Join Mark Gustafson for a close-up look at the five TCFF films listed below. If you are able to see any or all of them, so much the better! We will celebrate the fact that all five had female directors at the helm and examine each through the lens of our UU principles. See you at the movies!

Suffragette * Sand Storm * Kings of Kallstadt * Death by Design * The Last Reel

Sunday, August 14 – Rabbi Chava

10:30 AM Service: “Name that Sermon! Why Preaching/Teaching Matters”

This service will be a playful chance for members to suggest sermon topics. Please place suggestions for sermons in the suggestion box in the lobby by no later than July 24!

Sunday, August 21 – Rabbi Chava

10:30 AM Service: “Good G-d! ... or Not So Much? How We Can Create Real Dialogue and Why We Should”

“Our congregation, like all congregations, is home to a range of a/theologies. In this service we will explore the range of theologies we live and reflect on how we can live together in peace and mutual respect. We will share a technique for conversation Rabbi Chava learned at General Assembly as presented by John Sarrouf of the Public Conversations Project, which fosters constructive dialogue in difficult debates. Rabbi Chava seeks four volunteers to model the technique in this service.

Sunday, August 28 – Lay Led Service

10:30 AM Service: “Collective Kindness”

UUCGT has always reached out in kindness to our wider community. Green Sanctuary, Safe Harbor, Quilts for Habitat For Humanity, Community Lunch and our financial donations are some of our collective acts of kindness. How do these actions nourish the essence of who we are?

10:30 AM Services ~ Beginning in September

Last year, the Sunday Services Committee chose to follow the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism over the course of the year. Each month we had a powerful theme that we “unpacked” in a variety of creative ways.

Beginning this Fall, we turn our attention to the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism: Where have we come from and where do these shared values teach us to go? Our sources are where we celebrate diversity and can connect with the broader community.

ALL ABOUT US

We hold in our hearts...

We are happy to have Ann Hughes and Barbara Berry back at Sunday services, and we are mindful they may need further treatment.

Mary Cheney, whose mother recently passed away.

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

Bill Wells, Nancy Landfair, Gene Rundell, Ron Yatich and Carol Still.

We celebrate our joys with...

Chloe Love for achieving a 4.0 at Kalamazoo College this semester.

Rabbi Chava and Karl Bahle as they celebrate their 15 year wedding anniversary.

Judith Briggs

jbriggs002@centurytel.net



Rabbi Chava's Column

Reflection... “A New Year Begins: Becoming a Community of Learners”

Beloved friends, I am too newly back from General Assembly, the UU Association's annual gathering, to offer big insights. I hope they will appear by Sunday. It was a busy, full, exciting and challenging week to say the least.

But I do feel ready to say this: living in beloved community is not easy and to do so, we must be able to speak honestly with one another, and to STRIVE together to live our ideals and values. Most of the time at GA this happened; some of the time it did not. There is always much emotion at such a gathering, and this year, coming so soon on the heels of the Orlando massacre, our hearts began in a place of being broken open. Further, with the many incidents of black lives not mattering across the country, the divestment from Israel proposal, all against the backdrop of the national presidential campaign and Brexit, feelings were raw and emotions ran high at GA.

Above all, I returned with a renewed commitment to take a long view of our congregation's development: spiritual, ethical and financial. Over and over and over we heard – based on rational, scientific evidence and longitudinal studies, not emotion, that “inward looking congregations tend to decline. Congregations that look beyond their walls and their immediate members tend to grow. They grow because they feed a deep need human Spirit. We must be relentlessly useful. Congregations that see themselves as a tight-knit family do not succeed, but those who see themselves as a beacon in a broader community do.”

We must attend to our internal wellbeing of course, but if we do not lift our eyes past ourselves, our own walls, our own concerns, this congregation simply will not survive.

So friends, as we launch this new year, I invite you into a time of new balance: taking care of inner wellbeing and returning to being a beacon in the broader community in wholly new ways.

Here are some ideas I would like to share from my GA experience – to be rolled out over the next 2 to 3 years:

1. Encourage your friends to participate with the Healthy Congregation Task Force (formerly the Health and Reconciliation Task Force).

2. Let's work to consider every UUCGT member a part of the Congregational Care Team. No, you don't have to come to meetings :) , but do please be ready to heed the call if the CCT asks for your loving help.

3. Let's become a congregation a learners. I would ask the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry and Safe Congregation Response Team to read the classic book, *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What* by Peter Steinke.

4. I would ask the community as a whole to think about resources like Marshall Rosenberg's *Nonviolent Communication* (which we **will be** reading for our August Little Spiritual Book Group).

5. Please, please donate of your time to Safe Harbor this Fall. For the first time, in partnership with other congregations, we are hosting our neighbors experiencing homelessness **HERE IN OUR BUILDING** for a week this November. Let's lift up our eyes past the internal to the community.

6. Come to our 9:00 AM programs this Fall. We're going to engage with the Virtues Project™. The Virtues Project™ comes from the Bahai tradition; you can read more here: <http://www.virtuesproject.com>

This goes beyond learning into action: The Five Strategies of The Virtues Project™ are practices that bring virtues to life in every relationship. They help us to live authentic, purposeful lives, to raise children of compassion and idealism, and to create a culture of character in our schools and communities. Focus areas are:

- a. Speak the Language of the Virtues
- b. Recognize Teachable Moments
- c. Set Clear Boundaries
- d. Honor the Spirit
- e. Offer Companionship

We have great possibilities inside and out, beloveds.

I am eager to walk with you, in love and in blessing,

– Rabbi Chava

UUA News from Rabbi Chava

There is so much to assimilate from the General Assembly experience that I can hardly fit it all here, but here are a few highlights:

1. The UU Ministers Association changed its bylaw language to reflect the presence of its first non-minister (your Rabbi!), so that our documents now read “ordained clergy” rather than the more exclusionary “minister”.
2. **I URGE the congregation to get delegates to future GAs.** Next year’s GA is in New Orleans, June 21-25, 2017, just to tempt beignet lovers ...
3. In a time of growing isolation, **spiritual innovation is our future.** Read more of how Rabbi Chava will be asking UUCGT to consider these ideas here: <http://howwegather.org/>
4. Berry Street lecture took on **clergy sexual misconduct among UU ministers.** “Secrecy harms victims and congregations, honesty fosters healing,” the Rev. Gail Seavey urges fellow ministers.
5. In a new model for difficult GA topics, panelists discuss divestment. Four individuals share personal stories, discuss difficulty of the topic. **This process will be vital to our congregation in months and years to come.** <http://www.publicconversations.org/>
6. A business resolution focused on UUA investment practices regarding corporations involved in occupation of Palestine did not pass, but the process brought up serious and painful issues for many Jewish UUs.

Please join me Sunday, July 3, for deeper reflection on the many issues and opportunities presented at GA, and please consider attending next year. It is vital that we be represented.

Announcements

9:00 AM Beginning This Fall

Deepening the Virtues Unpacking How We Live in Covenantal Community

Friends, as you saw in my article, will hear in my reflections about General Assembly, and will be feeling through our congregational life in the next 2 to 3 years, I am eager to lead our congregation in an organic, lay and clergy led Virtues Project™ which is a global grassroots initiative to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life, sparking a global revolution of kindness, justice, and integrity. I am deeply grateful to be a member of the Area Council on Religious Diversity (ACORD), where our multi-year conversation brought this project to light.

To accomplish this, we will use *our congregation’s own covenant as the core text* – the words and ideas that have come from you, our members – as the launching point to explore our values and become a beacon for members of the broader community who long to plug into a community whose values resonate with their own. We’ll use a range of secular and UU-source based literature to delve deeply into topics like: “good intentions” | “listening” | “promoting good in the world” | “forgiving easily”, etc.

For example, the very first word of covenant is “mindful”. We’ll spend a couple of our sessions (or as many or few as we want) exploring what “mindful” means to use in text, song and most importantly discussion with each other. We’ll use the same model our successful 9:00 AM gatherings have used where some material is prepared and presented and then we move into hearing from and reflecting with each other.

Eventually we will collect participants own comments and reflections into a small book on our covenant, a tiny Talmud if you will, of consideration, opinion and observation on how to live as UUCGTers, together.

UU Crew @ Brew...

will take a break for July, but will return with gusto and caffeine in August. Watch your Beacon for details!

Little Spiritual Book Club ~ July and August

As you know a small group of readers has been gathering for many months to read manageable-sized books of interest in unpacking UU values and ideals – and some that challenge us! We’ll have two gatherings over the Summer and all are welcome!

Tuesday, July 19, 12 to 1 PM: *The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness*, by Rami Shapiro

Tuesday, August 23, 12 to 1 PM: *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life, Life-Changing Tools for Healthy Relationships*, by Marshall Rosenberg

Beginning in September, it is likely I will have to move our meeting day until January. I will keep you up to date!

Leelanau County UUCGT Friends & Members Gathering at the Home of Karl and Rabbi Chava Bahle * Saturday July 19, 7 to 9 PM

Please join us for a casual evening of appetizers and get to know your fellow UUCGTers from Leelanau County! Dress comfortably and feel free to bring a friend. Just RSVP by July 7 with how many folks you’ll bring. A great chance to meet each other and just have some fun! RSVP to the office (231)947-3117. (Please note that we have a cat and that there are two steps up into the house.) Weather permitting we will hang out outside.

– Rabbi Chava Bahle

From the President

President's Report end of 2016 Fiscal Year

I have served in my role as President these last months and have come to enjoy the confidence and support of many. I have reached a decision that is not based on my personal needs and desires as much as congregational needs. It is my belief that what we most need to anchor in our community is sound collaborative leadership. We need a Board and succeeding Boards that have 3 to 5 potential Presidents in their midst. We need broad-based engaged leadership that exists throughout our community. I think I can best facilitate that as a Trustee. You will need to appoint a President and that may be sudden given the circumstances of this Board. I can help that person get up to speed in whatever way is necessary. Some might need surprisingly little while others could benefit from organizational support or process planning. I am willing to provide whatever support is needed.

I believe we need to create an institutional memory of what this Board has accomplished for the new Board and the Boards beyond that.

- We make best use of our time together.
- We consider all documents available prior to meeting.
- We are open and transparent with rare and defined exceptions.
- We make sure everyone is heard.
- We listen.
- We consider evidence and we gather information and study complex issues.
- We agree to disagree, respectfully.
- We will mentor and nurture each other to make us the best collaborative Board we can be. New Board members will be assigned mentors who are experienced Board members to encourage them to reach their potential quickly and make their work more satisfying.
- We hold ourselves accountable to each other and to the congregation.

We have considerable work before us:

- Redefining the staff within our leaner budget.
- Healthy Reconciliation. Making this a safe, open and healthy community.
- Supporting our staff and actively improving morale / seeking to be a well-regarded employer.
- Alternative Stewardship / Financial modeling. Finding a future balance that will create financial stability.
- Young Family Focused Congregation. Revitalizing our community for the future and moving away from the slow suffocation of attrition.
- Establishment of Ethics within the congregation / further defining Safe Congregation Task Force and reinforcing Right Relations.
- Refining the needs of Confidentiality. Strengthening the intent of transparency while respecting the exceptional need for privacy.
- Restarting policy work with the defining of the overall structure of what our policies should look like, what they should include and the separating of processes.
- Managing the congregational calendar so that our community works together as our work becomes more detailed and synergistic.
- Supporting Leadership Development in refining the process of succession planning. Leadership Development can no longer be asking members to be candidates in March and hoping they say 'yes'. Rooting volunteerism in the needs of the member first to maximize the fulfillment of our shared work.

Does anyone still think that the Board of Trustees is a 2-hour a month commitment? I promised more fun and here it is! My thanks for being my colleagues and friends these past months. I look forward to our new collegial friendship in the new 2016-17 Board year.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl D. Love

More Announcements

UU Book Club

If you would like a suggestion of a very important and fabulous book to read during July, you might want to try "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande. This book is about end of life decisions and the ways that the medical profession sometimes works against us in this matter. It really is a book each one of us should read. Our "Death Cafe" group read it and this led to some wonderful

and important discussions. It is definitely a subject that we can ignore only so long!

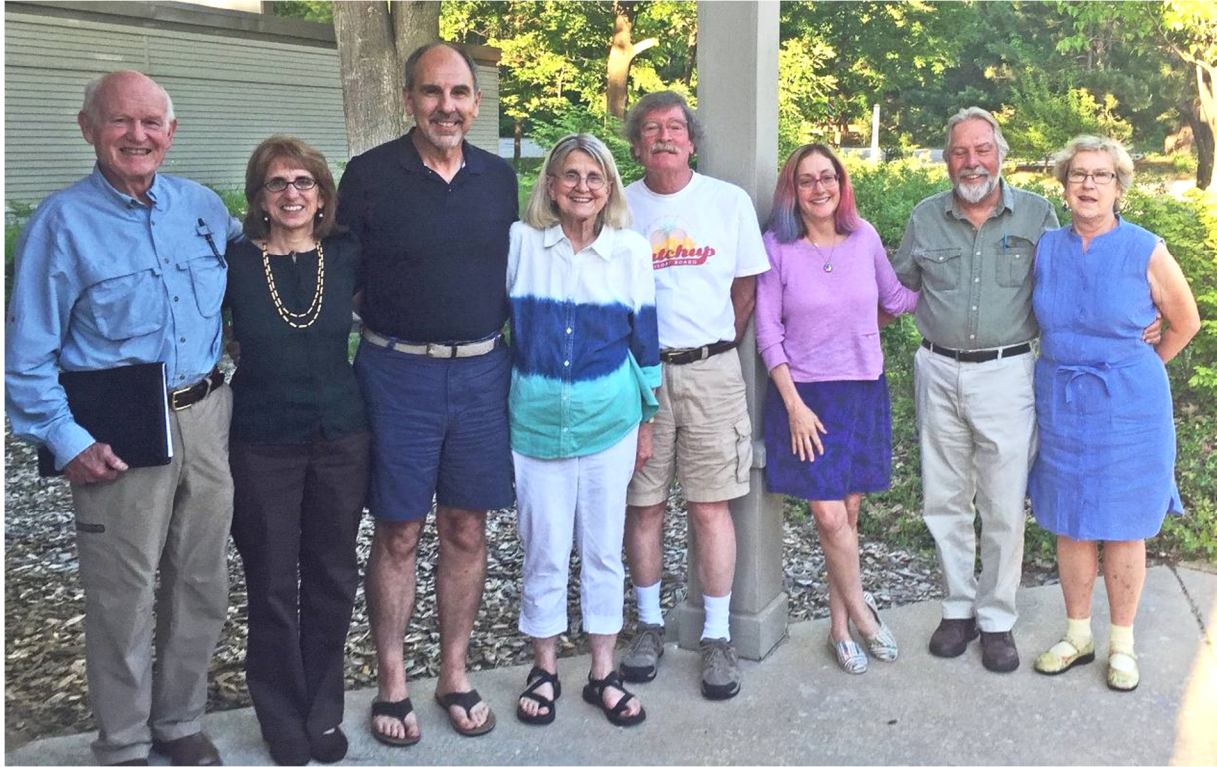
Hope everyone is having a great summer!

Karen Mars
karen.mars@tcgmail.com



Out With the Old Board !

(L to R) Price Watts (Vice President), Phyllis Jessup (Treasurer), Karl Love (President), Loraine Anderson (Trustee), Richard Miller (Trustee), Rabbi Chava Bahle (member ex officio), John Hoffman (Trustee), Mary Grover (Secretary)



In With the New Board !

(L to R) Linda Fletcher, Gretchen Kronk, Phyllis Jessup, Karl Love, Loraine Anderson, Don Pyne, Kay Sturgeon, Rabbi Chava Bahle (member ex officio)



July Program Council News

The UUCGT Program Council is comprised of committee chairs or co-chairs, or their designees. All are welcome to attend.

The Program Council met on May 22nd and June 12th after the Sunday services. During the May 22 meeting, Mike McDonald made a presentation about the potential of UUCGT to participate in the winter Safe Harbor Program. The attendees unanimously supported the proposal which was then scheduled to be presented at the June 20th Board meeting.

During the June 12th meeting we initiated discussion of what the Program Council at UUCGT would look like and how it would operate. Tom Darnton summarized his research on formative language for program councils. Rick Walter provided information from Rabbi Chava Bahle, Karl Love and the UUA website. These discussions will continue in our future meetings.

We decided to try to meet prior to Sunday Services and have currently scheduled the following upcoming meeting dates: July 17th and August 14th, 9:00 - 10:00 AM in UUCGT classroom. All are welcome to attend.

Part of the monthly Program Council agenda will be for all committees to report on what they are currently doing or important matters that need our coordinated attention.

Minutes of the meetings will be kept and after being approved will be put on the UUCGT website — probably in the section of monthly reports to the Board. Brief summaries will be posted in the Beacon monthly to keep UUCGT members and friends informed of the Program Council's business.

Rick Walter
Program Council Coordinator
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

HEALTHY RECONCILIATIONS ~ THE NEXT STEP

After a bumpy several months, springtime has brought a resurgence of that palpable loving feeling to our congregation. In an effort to encourage that healing so it will flower and grow this summer and become a perennial bloomer in our garden, the Board has directed the Healthy Reconciliation Task Force to take steps to insure the nurturing of that early growth.

Based on reconciliation theory and practice demonstrated by Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela and others, it was determined that perhaps the best way to resolve our issues may be to begin by individuals listening to all who wish to have their concerns clearly heard. Toward that end, an active listening program - not to be confused with a therapy or counseling model - is being rolled out.

The following 3 questions will be targeted for listening:

- 1) Are there issues or concerns that caused you discomfort?
- 2) What emotion(s) was/were provoked in you?
- 3) How can it be resolved/made right?

Anonymity and confidentiality of those responding is guaranteed.

If you wish to be heard, please contact the listener of your choice to schedule a time and place to meet.

Joan Sheard, joansheard@aol.com; Jane Watts, jswatts@gmail.com; or Linda Fletcher, linlfletch@gmail.com. Although we have no firmly established end date, we ask that you arrange for your appointments as soon as is convenient. We would like to complete the process in a timely manner to allow for our report to be submitted to the UUCGT Board in September.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- 1) In an effort to gain the widest perspective possible, the invitation to be heard is extended to all congregants and friends as well as to those who have separated and wish to speak.
- 2) The written record of the listening session will be reviewed and agreed upon by both the respondent and the listener to insure the intended communication is accurately reflected.
- 3) The confidential and anonymous listening data will be available to all members of the congregation on an individual basis by request.

All response data will be collected by the Task Force and presented to the Board with possible recommendations for further action.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Linda Fletcher, Chair
Healthy Reconciliation Task Force



Membership News

JULY - We've welcomed the Sumer Solstice and Summer activities and visits from family and friends are in full swing!

SUMMER GREETINGS from.....

The entire Membership Team — Cathy Annelin, Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, Sue Pyne, Charlotte Shea, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts, and a *Very Warm Welcome* to our newest members, **Penni and Bryan Newlun** — who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members. Penni and Bryan jumped right into service on the Membership Team after joining UUCGT March 6, 2016.

We warmly welcomed into Membership Paula Jo and Jamie Kemler, and Carol and Alan Ritter at service on June 12.

The “Summer Heat” is on for All UUCGT Members to take time to introduce yourselves to New Members and Visitors and get to know them as we welcome them into our community! And how about inviting friends and neighbors to our Sunday services and other events? Who knows, UUCGT may be just the place they are looking for!

The Fellowship Friends Program was introduced at the New Member Welcome Service June 12. Current members volunteer to “adopt” new members, to be their friends, mentor them and ensure new members become integrated into our congregation. Questions, or to volunteer to be a future Fellowship Friend, please contact anyone on the Membership Team.

GREETER OPPORTUNITIES - All NEW Members and Current Members are encouraged to sign up to be a Greeter some Sunday for the 10:30 am service. This is an excellent way to meet other members of the congregation and for them to meet you. No committee meetings, could be a one-time commitment for super busy people - but more time is preferable. Just **sign up on the bulletin board near the office, or call Charlotte Shea, 883-9357.**

SPOTLIGHT on New-ish Members - new since 2015

Lisa Perrine Brown joined UUCGT June 7, 2015 after attending off and on for the past 5 years because UUism is close to her

current beliefs. Her past religious affiliations have been in Catholic churches and Hindu temples. Lisa's daughter Alexandra Lily Brown is 6 1/2, attends Glen Loomis Elementary School and is interested in art, dance and theatre. Lisa is an artist, a designer, lecturer and has been a tour guide to India. She would be happy to give a Colloquium lecture on India, women's issues in India, and Hinduism. In the summer Lisa enjoys the beach, picnics, fishing, sailing, boating and art. During winter we can find Lisa making hot chocolate, snowshoeing, or traveling to India.

A recent documentary film enjoyed by Lisa was *The Ascent of Women*. She reads widely, most recently Miss India, India Dishonored, The Palace of Illusions, Two States, and The Elegance of the Hedgehog. Welcome Lisa, we look forward to hearing you speak about your Indian interests!

Donna Stein-Harris and Gary Harris joined our congregation April 19, 2015, primarily because of Rabbi Chava Bahle and the wonderful people they met. It did not take them long to become actively engaged in UUCGT activities. Donna facilitates the Death Cafe, and serves on Stewardship, Sunday Services, and Human Relations committees. Gary enjoys the Men's Group, being a warm, welcoming guy and joking around with Hal Gurian. Prior to retirement Donna was Senior Director, Safe Communities America with the National Safety Council. Gary worked as a quality engineer for the automobile industry.

Gary has four adult children. He enjoys gardening, and was a member of the East Lansing, MI UU congregation. He is interested in the community and friendship that UUCGT encourages. Donna's children are all adults. She enjoys gardening, art projects and reading. She was previously affiliated with a Reform Jewish Congregation in the Chicago area. Donna looks forward to continued spiritual expression, friendships and community development at UUCGT. Welcome Donna and Gary, and thank you for jumping right into our congregation in such meaningful ways!

The Membership Team is taking a Meetings Break for the Summer. We will resume meeting in September and any member of the congregation is welcome at our meetings. You will find us taking turns staffing the Welcome Table in July and August, and possibly serving as Greeters. See you at UUCGT!

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

Social Justice and Action

Hope springs eternal, and many of us are still hoping. That is we are hoping for stricter gun laws and fewer guns everywhere. Yes, agree, guns aren't at fault, but people are. The more guns available for people to use, the more deadly they become.

The aftermath of the shootings in Orlando left a hollow feeling of deep sorrow for most of us. How can we not restrict gun usage? Why does the Congress contain so many obstructionists rather than members wanting to make our country safer for all? Oh, maybe we need to vote our feelings, and not listen to false promises!

You can call those Congress members who receive unimaginable sums of money for their campaigns from the NRA. Here you can find that list. Call them up, tell them how you feel. <https://www.thenation.com/article/call-the-top-20-top-recipients-of-nra-cash-in-congress/>

If you would like to help the victims and their families, here are some good sites to

donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/PulseVictimsFund>, or the LGBT Community Center at here: <http://www.thecenterorlando.org>
The Nation Magazine recommends these sites.

Here are some statements of what gay bars mean to people who use them:

"Gay bars are therapy for people who can't afford therapy; temples for people who lost their religion, or whose religion lost them; vacations for people who can't go on vacation; homes for folk without families; sanctuaries against aggression. They take sound and fabric and flesh from the ordinary world, and under cover of darkness and the influence of alcohol or drugs, transform it all into something that scrapes up against utopia."

Or, as [Daniel Leon-Davis said](#), a "safe haven," the place "where I learned to love myself as a gay man," and the place "where I learned to love my community." Or, as President Obama put it, "a place of solidarity and empowerment."
That terrible night, that place was violated.

It has long been understood that people who belong to a minority group, have deep feelings about it. These feelings can range from pride and love to shame and hate. And so in the time of gun availability, we see acts of people showing their hate for themselves as played out in Orlando.

Watch this clip from the Rachel Maddow show to understand it better:

http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/reformed-islamic-extremist-looks-back-708013123527?cid=eml_mra_20160620

Give me feedback. Did you follow thru on any of these connections? And you thought, felt what? I hope you can be at peace with yourself.

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Summary

As of May 31, 2016
(91.7% of fiscal year)

	Current Year		Prior Year	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$271,324	84.6%	\$260,562	99.7%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$265,223	82.7%	\$238,860	91.4%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 17,668		\$ 18,822	

Budgeted income includes the total of all pledged, unpledged and loose offerings 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. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount of income or expense budgeted for the fiscal year.

With one month to go in the fiscal year, income still exceeds expenses. If you are still among those who are not up to date on your pledge, we ask that you try to catch up as you are able.

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



Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends

It's been a wonderful start to the summer as we ease our way into seasonal programmatic shifts. To make sure you are in the right place at the right time, and to ensure that you don't miss anything awesome, please be sure to consult your FLASH and the website calendar carefully and frequently.

Our Specialty Class Summer continues for children preK-5th grade! This is a great opportunity for children to learn, explore, and have fun in the summer. We are excited to announce that in addition to our regular specialty classes, we will have a special "Super Heroes Sunday" on July 24 during regular program time. Dress up as your favorite super hero and come ready for some fun!

We still have some Sundays open for specialty classes yet this summer – please let me know if you are interested in leading a Sunday by offering an activity, craft, game, etc. During the summer months, our youth will join the adults in the sanctuary for the duration of the service. Please contact me in advance to make arrangements if this is problematic for your family. This provides youth with the much needed opportunity to learn to be in community with the adults of the congregation, and to learn more about UU Sunday services. This is important as they begin to transition into connecting with their community as young adults.

As we consider programmatic changes relative to the needs of the congregation as well as the budgetary changes for the 2016/2017 year, the Lifespan Experience Committee has decided to offer surveys to assess where we are and where interests lie as part of the decision making process. We began with a short survey to parents who have **registered their children with LE programming** in the recent past. These surveys were sent out in June. If you have not completed yours yet, please do so as soon as possible. More surveys to different segments of the population will be sent out in the months to come. Your assistance in completing these surveys is appreciated.

This month I would like to close with a plug for our Wednesday Supper Program. So many of us are terribly busy throughout the week, and this is especially the case for families during the school year. I would encourage you to make room in your schedule to attend Wednesday Supper as a time to get to know truly wonderful people, build community, and share in a wonderful meal! Summer dinners are hosted in people's homes (with the exception of the last Wednesday of the month which is dinner out), and you need only bring a potluck dish to share, your place setting, and your own beverage of choice. Your dish needn't be fancy – it can be simple! Join in the fun, make some connections, and some really great memories. All ages are encouraged to attend! On a personal note, Wednesday Supper was the very first non-Sunday UUCGT program that Aidan and I attended upon moving here in 2008 – he was 2 ½ years old. I jumped at the opportunity to attend when I saw it in the order of service my first Sunday at UUCGT. I knew, from my experience at a large UU congregation in Kalamazoo, that the absolute best way to meet people and make connections was over food. This couldn't be truer, and our family has rarely missed suppers since 2008. We have made a commitment to not schedule other things like extracurriculars on Wednesdays in general because the Wednesday Supper community is important to us. Make space in your lives for this one folks – it is well worth it.

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

August 2016 (Continued from page 11)

07 Sun **Sunday Service 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
08 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
09 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
09 Tue Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 12:30 PM 1:30 PM
09 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
09 Tue Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
10 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
10 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
10 Wed Wednesday Potluck Cindy & Bob Clement's 5:30-7:30 PM
10 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
11 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
12 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30- 9:00 PM
13 Sat Singing Sisters Linda Hebert 10:00 AM 2:00 PM
14 Sun Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM
14 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**
14 Sun UU Book Club Karen Mars Bonnie Mathias' 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
14 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM

14 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
15 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
15 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
16 Tue Friendly Garden Club Board Meeting Dottie Cain 10-11:30 AM
16 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
16 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
16 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
17 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
17 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
17 Wed Leadership Development Ann Swaney 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
17 Wed Wednesday Potluck TBA 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
17 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
18 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
18 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
21 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM 11:30 AM**
21 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
21 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
22 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
22 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
23 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
23 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
24 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 53, Issue 7
July, 2016

Calendar

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

July 2016

03 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**
03 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
03 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
04 Mon **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**
05 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
05 Tue CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards That's a Pizza, 12-1 PM
05 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
06 Wed Inner Practice Rabbi Chava 9:30 AM 10:00 AM
06 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
06 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
06 Wed Sunday Services Committee Nancy Cotcamp/Hal Gurian 1-3P
06 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
07 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
07 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
08 Fri Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM
08 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9 PM

10 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**
10 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
10 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
11 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
11 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
12 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
12 Tue Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 12:30 PM 1:30 PM
12 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
12 Tue Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
13 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
13 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
13 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra & Mike McDonald's 5:30-7:30 PM
13 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
14 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
17 Sun Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM

17 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**
17 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
17 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
18 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
18 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
19 Tue Friendly Garden Club Board Meeting Dottie Cain 10-11:30 AM
19 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
19 Tue Little Spiritual Book Club Rabbi Chava 12:00 PM 1:00 PM
19 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM

19 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
20 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
20 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
20 Wed Leadership Development Ann Swaney 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
20 Wed Wednesday Potluck Mary Kiner & Cal Boulter's 5:30-7:30 PM
20 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
21 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
21 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM

24 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**
24 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
24 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
25 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
25 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
26 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
26 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
27 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
27 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
27 Wed Wednesday Supper & Brewing Community John Hoffmann Little Fleet 5:00-7:30 PM
27 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
28 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM

31 Sun **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**
31 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
31 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM

August 2016

01 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
01 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
01 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
02 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
02 Tue CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards That's a Pizza, 12:00-1P
02 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
03 Wed Inner Practice Rabbi Chava 9:30 AM 10:00 AM
03 Wed Meditation Rabbi Chava 10:00 AM 10:30 AM
03 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
03 Wed Sunday Services Nancy Cotcamp/Hal Gurian 1-3 PM
03 Wed Wednesday Potluck Connie & Chuck Grabel's 5:30 7:30 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
05 Fri Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM

(Calendar Continues on Page 10)